

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

## Keep us in your eye

### INTRODUCTION

On Thursday we remembered the day when Jesus returned to his heavenly Father after saying goodbye to his apostles. Before leaving them, he prayed to his father and asked him to always keep them in his care.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3: *The light of God.*

### SORRY

Listen to this reading written by a wise man called Micah (*cf Micah 6:8-9*):

God our Father has told us what we must do: Be fair and honest in all that we do and say, be loving and caring towards others. If we do these things, then our friendship with God will last forever.

Close your eyes and offer the words of this prayer to God:

Lord Jesus, often we make mistakes and forget the things you tell us.

We are sorry if we have been unkind or if we have not always been honest or fair.

We ask you to forgive us and help us to be good.

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2: *Light up our hearts.*

### GOSPEL (*cf John 17:11-19*)

Looking up to Heaven Jesus said: 'Father, now I must return to you and leave these friends behind. I have shared your Word with them and watched their faith in you grow, when many others chose to doubt. I have watched over them and kept them safe from danger and those who wish them harm. Now I am sending them out into the world, and I ask you to watch over them always and keep them in your care.'

### DISCUSSION

Have you ever had to say goodbye to a close friend or relative, knowing that you would never see them again?

Sometimes our friends move away to live in different parts of the country or even different parts of the world. Some people have relatives

who only see them once or twice in a lifetime.

Was it difficult to say goodbye? How did it make you feel?

Saying goodbye is often a time for sadness and tears. Sometimes we are lost for words, and yet have so much we would like to say, but don't know where to begin!

How do you think the apostles felt when they knew that Jesus was finally returning to his father? – They had grown to love him very much, so much that they were prepared to go out and be witnesses for Christ. They probably felt sad and somewhat afraid about what lay ahead of them.

Thinking back to Ascension Thursday, who was the 'helper' that Jesus promised to send? – The Holy Spirit would give the apostles the strength and courage they needed for their mission. They knew that they were not being left alone, but would be watched over always.

Before Jesus finally said farewell, what did he do? – He prayed to his heavenly Father and asked him to take care of his very dear friends, that they would never be alone.

At times when we are feeling worried or afraid, what should we do? – We can pray, just as Jesus did for his friends. We can ask Jesus to watch over and care for us, with complete confidence that he will hear us and answer our prayer because he loves us so much. With Jesus beside us, we have nothing to fear.

### ACTIVITY

Ask the children to colour these shapes of our world, sun, moon, stars and clouds. Then take two semicircles of paper, one blue and one black, and place them together to make a circle larger than the globe. Pin the globe to the centre of this background. Help the children to pin the sun, a rainbow, clouds etc. onto the blue side of the paper surround, and add the moon and some self adhesive stars to the black part of the surround. Add the caption 'Keep us in your care – day and night'.

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, I do not feel afraid

because you are always with me.

With you beside me there is nothing to fear.

I know that you will protect me from harm and keep me safe from danger.