

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Proclaim the Good News

INTRODUCTION

Jesus asked his heavenly Father to unite his disciples in love and to give them the courage to proclaim the Good News to the world.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candles Song.

SORRY

Let us ask God to pour his spirit into our hearts and to change them with his goodness as we sing Sorry Song 4

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go out to the world and proclaim the Good News. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (cf John 17:20-26)

Looking up to heaven Jesus prayed, 'Heavenly Father, take care of my disciples and everyone who comes to believe in you because of them. Unite them in love and make them one just as you and I are one. Through me they have come to know you, and will share what they know with the whole world. They have seen your glory on earth, let them share it with you forever at the end of time.'

DISCUSSION

What did the apostles do after Jesus had returned to his heavenly Father? – Filled with the Holy Spirit, they put the love of God and other people first in their lives, and began to tell everyone about Jesus and to cure people in his name. Soon their numbers grew as more and more people came to believe in Jesus.

What do we know about the early Church?

The early Christians loved one another and shared everything they had, taking care of each other's needs, just as Jesus had taught them to. They met together to pray and celebrate the breaking of bread, and to share with each other all the things which Jesus had said and done.

How did the teachings of Jesus spread outside Jerusalem? – Through the Holy Spirit the disciples were filled with the joy of Christ and with his life. Urged by the spirit, some of them set off on missionary journeys to bring their faith to

others. They shared the words and teachings of Jesus, and through them many came to believe in him.

In which part of the Bible can you read about the lives and actions of those who first believed in Jesus? – After the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, there is a book called the Acts of the Apostles, which tells how the early followers of Jesus were guided by the Holy Spirit to share Christ's message with the whole world.

The early Christians were drawn together by their love and their belief in Jesus, just as Christians are today. What prayer do we say every week in which we proclaim our faith just as the first disciples did? – In the 'Creed' we tell each other, and the world, that we believe in God who is all powerful and full of love and goodness.

ACTIVITY

Photocopy the activity sheet and read the 'Little Creed' together, before colouring the illustrations.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Spirit of God,
fill us with faith and joy,
so that through us
others may come to know you.