

7th Sunday of Easter A 2020

What confidence Jesus has in us! He doesn't pray for the world; he prays for us because he believes that we will bring **him** - Jesus Christ - to the world. This is affirmation of the best kind. We always like to be affirmed, especially by those we hold in great esteem. It is also a sign of the honour with which Jesus regards us. The word he has given us is himself. Jesus is the Word. Inviting and welcoming Jesus into our lives is much more than understanding all the information and reflections about Jesus. Jesus is part of every breath we take, every moment we live, every joy and every sorrow, every success and every failure. Jesus is part of every good and kind act we make and, although he is not part of our sinfulness or our failures to live the Gospel with truth and honesty, he is always there whenever we turn to him. Jesus never leaves our side.

On Jesus' return to heaven at the ascension, the apostles and disciples, including the women, returned to Jerusalem. They would have felt lost, have unanswered questions, been unsure what to do. We forget sometimes that this parting was also painful and difficult for Jesus. He, too, would have had questions about the future. He was aware of the fallibility of his followers, that they would get things wrong. But he had trusted in his Father throughout his life and he trusted in the Father now and was assured that the Father would send the Spirit who would lead his followers to all truth. He trusted them to share a belief that was shaped by love, inspired by hope, and filled with joy rather than having all the answers or being able to argue strongly, or confound people with knowledge. Truth is a Way – the way people live their lives in the example of Jesus. Truth is a life lived. In those early days the followers of Jesus inspired others because of the love they showed to each other as a community and to all those with whom they had contact. Truth is something that captures the heart as well as the mind. Truth embraces the soul. It embraces us. We cannot possess this kind of truth any more that we can possess love, or wisdom, or kindness. Truth shapes the way we see ourselves, the world and the people in it. It colours the way we encounter creation and opens us to the sacredness of all life and to the presence of God in all things and all situations. Let us join those early followers of Jerusalem as we await the coming of the Holy Spirit and spend these few days, we have left before Pentecost, in prayer. Who knows what kind of truth the Holy Spirit will bring us this year??

Pope Francis gives us an insight of what to expect from the Holy Spirit:

The Spirit frees hearts chained by fear and overcomes all resistance. To those content with half measures, the Spirit inspires whole-hearted generosity; opens hearts that are closed; impels the comfortable to go out and serve; drives the self-satisfied to set out in new directions and stimulates the lukewarm to new dreams. . . Plenty of people promise change, new beginnings, prodigious renewals, but experience teaches us that no earthly attempt to change reality can ever completely satisfy the human heart. Yet the change that the Spirit brings is different. It does not revolutionise life around us, but changes our hearts. It does not free us from the weight of our problems, but liberates us within so that we can face them. It does not give us everything at once, but makes us press on confidently, never growing weary of life. The Spirit keeps our hearts young. Youthfulness, for all our attempts to prolong it, sooner or later fades away; the Spirit, instead, prevents the only kind of aging that is unhealthy: namely, growing old within. . . Here is the kind of change the Spirit brings: from being guilty he makes us righteous, thus changing everything. From slaves of sin we become free, from being servants we become beloved children, from worthlessness we become worthy, from being disillusioned we become filled with hope. It is by the working of the Holy Spirit that joy is reborn and peace blossoms in our hearts.

No

wonder we need a lifetime to acknowledge and live this sanctifying and wonderful change.
Can't wait for Pentecost!!!

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After sharing a good meal and a bottle of wine, they retire to their tent for the night.

At about 3 AM, Holmes nudges Watson and asks, "Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?"

Watson said, "I see millions of stars."

Holmes asks, "And, what does that tell you?"

Watson replies, "**Astronomically**, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. **Astrologically**, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. **Theologically**, it tells me that God is great and we are small and insignificant. **Horologically**, it tells me that it's about 3 AM. **Meteorologically**, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. **SO! What does it tell you, Holmes?**"

Holmes retorts, "It tells me that someone stole our tent!!"