

Day 45 – Fr Jerome’s Lockdown Reflections

5th Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day

10 May 2020

Readings: Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5,17-18, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

It is no surprise, the worry and confusion in today’s Gospel text. Jesus is talking to his disciples about leaving, and although he promises to return and take them to himself, they are not comforted by Jesus’ words. All they hear is Jesus saying he is leaving. Lost and saying “they do not know the way.”

The reassuring words of the last supper discourse, “do not let your hearts be troubled” is troubling and they start asking Jesus many questions with anxious voices. There has been a monumental leap from the last supper to the resurrection and the disciples has not followed all the way. They do not see his leaving as not being permanent and abandoning and have not come to understand what it means for Jesus to rise from the dead.

We have taken that step. We understand. We are Easter people. We have received the Holy Spirit who empowers us to know Jesus. The gospel text challenges us to enter into a profound relationship with the risen Jesus, which ultimately means we share a profound relationship with the Father, through the Spirit of love.

The bold claim of Christianity is that God meets this desire by coming to us in Christ Jesus, and we come to God in Christ.

“No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The lectionary is slowly moving us to Pentecost. We find that we are more and more challenged to encounter Jesus, to believe deeply in his resurrection and that he dwells among and within us. We encounter Jesus and come to greater belief by doing the works of Jesus and by recognizing this Jesus in others.

Today we celebrate specially mothers. Mothers who carried us, biologically and other. Mothers of all kinds. We must recognise today in them, the humility and selfless acts of love offered and poured on all of us. The sacrifice, joy, pain, all the emotions presented in the face of Jesus.

Through good and bad. Mothers carry the world within and without of themselves.

Mothers are recognised today in the way we treat others in justice, mercy, forgiveness and love.

All relationships and even those we have or had with our mothers make huge demands.

Moreover, we cannot have a relationship with Jesus and the Father without relationships with each other. That is both a challenge and the good news.

May we today like with Christ honour mothers not for who they are only for us but truly what they are in Christ. Happy Mothers Day.

“God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.”

Rudyard Kipling