

Monday the 6th week of Easter

Acts 16:11-15, Psalm 149:1-6,9 John 15:26-16:4

“And you too will be witnesses” (Jn. 15:27) says Jesus in today’s Gospel. The Gospel shows us that the Holy Spirit is our guide and “advocate” in witnessing to Christ. This sounds so much like a court of law! If Christianity were illegal, would our public lives be enough to condemn us; could we be found guilty by those who deny Christ? In other words, do we witness to Christ by what we do AND what we say. Many people are good and kind, and we have seen a lot of open-hearted caring in the past year. As Christians we have been given the Holy Spirit to help, guide and lead us in proclaiming Christ. People will not come to faith in *Christ*; will not know that He is the eternal Son of God, sent by the Father to restore us to communion with Him, only by witnessing our actions. Our words matter too.

In the first reading, we see how the Lord (the Holy Spirit) led Dorcas to faith in Christ by the preaching of St Paul. Aided by the Holy Spirit, she was excited and interested in what St Paul had to SAY.

In the Psalm, we read “sing a new song to the Lord” (Ps. 149:1). This Psalm is prayed by the Church in morning prayer on Sundays and on important feasts and solemnities. It is a Psalm of joy and celebration. A “new” song to the Lord can mean a number of things: each time someone comes to faith in Christ, he or she sings a “new” song to Him. However, each day, we too can sing a “new” song to the Lord. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us the grace and the words to be able to witness to Christ’s love, not only in what we do, but in what we say as well.