

## Monday Eastertide week 5

Monday 11 May 2020

**First reading: Acts 14:5-18**

**Gospel: John 14:21-26**

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,  
whom the Father will send in my name,  
will teach you everything  
and remind you of all I have said to you.” (Jn. 14:26)

In our Gospel reading, St. John is giving us details of Jesus’ instructions to the Apostles at the Last Supper. We hear today the first mention of the promise of the Holy Spirit, the “Advocate” who will remind the Apostles of what Jesus said to them. One of the works of the Holy Spirit is to be the Church’s memory and keep present all that has happened in chronological time. Jesus formed His Apostles over about a three-year period and they did not take notes! Yet after Pentecost, they were able to go out and preach to the world about Christ. In this holy season of Easter, the first reading is generally from the Acts of the Apostles and several times we shown how the Holy Spirit lead and inspired the first Christians to pass on the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church to this day. As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we first receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism, and then in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit, and conformed more closely to Christ. The Holy Spirit guides us as individuals, and the Church as a whole, in three key ways:

1. He **prepares** us to encounter Christ – as the Holy Spirit prepared Our Lady to be the mother of Christ.
2. He **manifests** Christ to us – that is, He shows Christ to us. He enables us to recognise Him speaking through the Scriptures, in the prayers and in one another. Mother Teresa said that she did not see poor “people” lying in the gutter – by the grace of the Holy Spirit, it was Christ that she saw.
3. He brings us **into communion** with Christ, most profoundly in the Eucharist, when the Holy Spirit changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At this time, when we cannot receive Holy Communion sacramentally, the Holy Spirit unites us to Christ by His grace in a “spiritual communion. The Holy Spirit also strengthens communion with one another and so builds up the Church, the Body of Christ in love.

At the end of this month we will be celebrating Pentecost; the third greatest solemnity of the Church's year. Yet, the coming of the Holy Spirit is not just an annual event; He comes to us each day, each time we ask Him. God is a "gentleman" – He wants us to invite Him in. As our preparation for this solemnity, let us daily invite the Holy Spirit to lead us and to remind us of what Christ has said to us. Recall a favourite scripture passage or quote – you don't need to look it up – just ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of something. Ponder it during the day and recognise that it is God speaking to you as His beloved child. \*

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

\*(If you do want to look it up and don't know where in the Bible to find it, write a few words into "google" or some other search engine and then look up some of the suggestions you are offered.)

Carol Ann Harnett 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020