



To follow in Jesus' footsteps, caring for each other when we work, play and pray

As we are unable to gather together to celebrate Mass at the moment, please use the Gospel Reflection below to gather as a family and reflect on the message from this week's Gospel (the children are used to following this structure from their class acts of Collective Worship - please encourage them to lead your time of prayer).

Gospel Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

<p>Gather Bringing everyone into the Holy space</p>	<p>Preparation of the worship space: White cloth Welcome: Today Jesus tells us that through him we will come to know God and that we should trust in him as we trust in God. Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, open our hearts to trust in you, so that we may never be afraid to answer your call to love one another, and so that through you we may come closer to God. Amen.</p>
<p>Listen to the Word of God How will God's Word be proclaimed?</p>	<p><u>A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 14:1-12)</u> "Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. "Believe in God and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am. You know the way that leads to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?" Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me. Now that you have known me," he said to them, "you will know my Father also, and from now on you do know him and you have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need." Jesus answered, "For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe, Philip, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I have spoken to you," Jesus said to his disciples, "do not come from me. The Father, who remains in me, does his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of the things I do. I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do — yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father.</p>
<p>Respond How will we respond? What sort of prayer, action or song will we use?</p>	<p>Gospel Reflection: Today's reading is a little bit complicated. Jesus is telling his disciples that he is the Son of God. But the disciples find it difficult to understand. Right at the beginning of today's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples not to be worried and to trust in him. Trusting someone means believing that they are always there for us, that they are always willing to help us, that they will comfort us when we are upset or frightened. We all need people in our lives that we trust. People are more likely to trust us if we are kind, if we listen to what others are saying, if we are willing to help, and if we tell the truth. We can also trust in God. We know that God is always there for us and wants what's best for us. God is always ready to listen. When we pray, we can share all our worries and fears and also all our joys and hopes with God. We can show our trust in God by listening to what Jesus asks of us and trying to follow him. By loving one another and by doing what is right, we are doing what God wants us to do. Intercessions: We share all our worries, fears, joys and hopes with God as we pray together: We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a place of safety and welcome, where all people can come to know the love of God for us all. Lord, in your mercy... We pray for world leaders: that they may do what is right and best for all people, especially those who are poor, so that their people may trust in them. Lord, in your mercy... We pray for our parish, family and friends: that through our actions we may show that we trust and believe in God. Lord, in your mercy...</p>
<p>Go Forth What message can we give to people to think about and to act upon for the rest of the day?</p>	<p>Closing prayer: God of life, we thank you for being there for us always. Help us to do all that you ask of us and to love one another, so that all people may have someone to trust. Amen. Thinking about the message of today's Gospel reading, colour in the accompanying illustration and write or draw on the back how you will show trust in God and/or what you will do for the people who trust in you in the coming week. Perhaps you could play some trust games as a family. Will your sister catch you as you fall? Will your brother safely guide you round an obstacle course while you are blindfolded? Message to Remember: "Believe in God and believe also in me" I wonder how will you show your trust in God? What will you do for the people who trust in you?</p>

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus,
I know that you are truly
present in the Blessed
Sacrament.
I am sad because I cannot
receive you at this moment in time,
yet I know that your love for me
knows no bounds.
Please come to my heart
and make your dwelling place in me.
Give me the joy of knowing that you are always
by my side,
and the courage of sharing your love with those
I am with today.
Amen.



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Gospel: John 14:1-12

