

## Closing prayer

Leader: Through the resurrection of Jesus,  
God has redeemed us and made us his children.  
All: **May he bless us with joy.**  
Leader: The Redeemer has given us lasting freedom.  
All: **May we inherit his everlasting life.**  
Leader: By faith we rose with him in baptism.  
All: **May our lives be holy,  
so that we will be united with him for ever.  
Amen.**

(Adapted from Solemn Blessing for Second Sunday of Easter)

## Stewardship link

The Holy Spirit lives within us as a gift of God the Father, reminding us that even our call to live the gospel is itself a gift. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit are we able to be faithful to our vocation and mission.

## To do

This week, return to the gospel passage and reflect on what it encourages you to be and do. The gospel assures us of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Spirit to guide you as you pray this gospel.

Perhaps you are being encouraged to be part of the Body of Christ in a new way. What opportunities are there to serve as Christ served, to keep his Word and to love as he loved? These may be in the family, the workplace, the parish or the wider community. Is there a resolution you might make in response to this gospel?

*Take some time to note your responses in your notebook.*

Year C: Lent/Easter ©Diocese of Portsmouth  
Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 1973,  
International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Diocese of Portsmouth

## Stewardship Reflection

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away and shall return.’

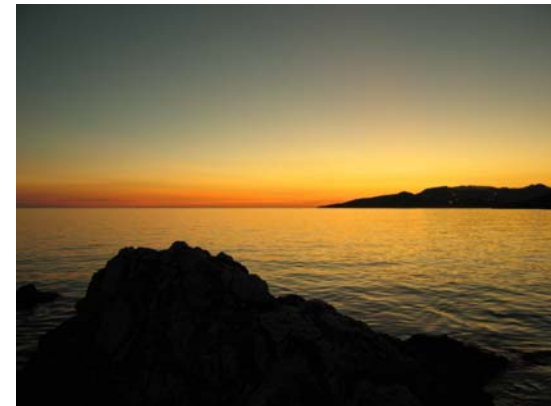
(John 14:27-28)

## Opening prayer

Leader:  
Let us pray  
that we may practise in our lives  
the faith we profess.

Response:  
**Ever-living God,  
help us to celebrate our joy  
in the resurrection of the Lord  
and to express in our lives  
the love we celebrate.**

(Opening Prayer for Sixth Sunday of Easter)



## To share

What insights have you had in the last week? Is there something in your notebook that you would like to share with others in the group?

## To listen

John 14:23-29

## To think about

This part of John's Gospel is sometimes called the *Great Discourse*. It is almost Jesus' 'Farewell Speech'.

We are hearing the accounts of Jesus' life, ministry and teachings *after* they have happened. At the time of the *Great Discourse*, Jesus' disciples were clearly frightened – wondering what lay ahead.

What must it have been like for the disciples to have been with Jesus through his public ministry – to witness his passion and crucifixion and then to see him in their midst when, as far as they were concerned, his life was over?

Did the disciples have any idea what Jesus meant when he said that they would be sent 'The Advocate, the Holy Spirit'?

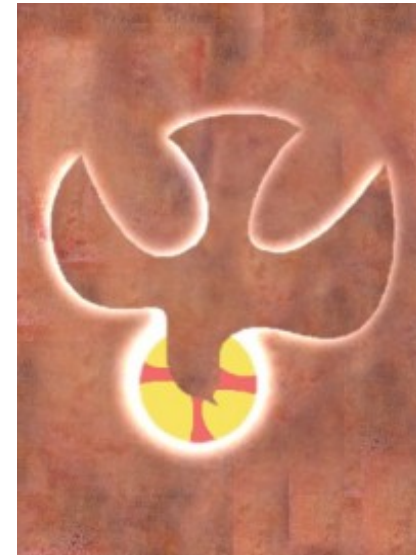
## To reflect on

Reflect on some of the important people in your life who have died or moved away.

Are there any things you remember them saying that now seem to take on greater meaning?

The gospel readings that lead up to Pentecost can be a source of great comfort to us as they reassure us that we are not alone. We are part of a community and together we are the Body of Christ.

God is present to us, even if we are not always present to God. And, as disciples, we are assured of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.



## To discuss

If you had been one of the disciples listening to Jesus as he spoke about 'going away', how might you have felt?

Can you recall occasions when you have felt the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit or felt very personally the presence of God?

How do you feel about being part of the Body of Christ?

What are the implications of this membership of the Body of Christ for how you live?

What witness do we as a parish / Pastoral Area give as the Body of Christ in our locality? In the world?