

Theme of the Week - Glorify

In Sunday's Gospel we hear again of the last supper, the last time Jesus is with all His disciples before His death. And Jesus gives them this new commandment; 'that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' And to hear this reading again on Sunday is quite fitting during this Easter season. We know Jesus was resurrected and appeared to the disciples, however we also know he will leave them again to ascend into heaven and all of this was to show the love God for us. To hear this again in the Gospel, Jesus is affirming to the disciples and to us, don't forget to love one another, this is so important to do.

People see Jesus in us and know that we are his followers when we love and care for others as he taught us to. The Gospel on Sunday comes from a section of John's Gospel known as the 'farewell discourse' delivered by Jesus just prior to his arrest, when Judas has already left to betray him. He had locked himself away with those who believe, and is giving them instructions on how they are to continue his mission after he is gone. Jesus is telling his disciples not just that they must love one another, but that they must love as he had loved. The love that Jesus showed was totally unconditional and self-giving, expressed in service and fulfilled by the ultimate sacrifice of his death on the cross. It is this love which reveals the total love of a God who is Love. And it is this love that is the true mark of Christian discipleship.

No society can survive without tolerance, yet Jesus is demanding more than this for the new community he has formed. There are times when to love is one of the most challenging things we are asked to do, especially when it is not deserved. Can you think of people who have displayed this selfless love? How would people be able to tell you are a follower of Christ even if you didn't say anything? Jesus went on to say that this was to glorify God. In what ways do you glorify God in your life? Perform some random acts of kindness and act with love towards all the people you encounter this week. How this week can you be Loving and Compassionate to others as the Lord has been to us?

Glorify

Weekly Reflections
18th May 2025
5th Sunday of Easter



From the Gospel of John (13: 31-33a, 34-35)

When Judas had gone out from the upper room, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you.

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving Father,

In giving us the commandment of Love, you allow us to be your disciples. Give us the opportunity to show acts and words of love to one another just as you continue to show your love in us.

Through Christ our Lord
Amen

Day 1

Why do you think the message of 'Love one another as I have loved you' is repeated again during the season of Easter so soon after we heard it during Holy Week?

Day 2

What does true love from us actually show?
Why is this so hard to show?

Day 3

How can you be more **loving** and **compassionate** to others so they can see God's unconditional Love through you?

Catholic Social Teaching - Peace

Today the world has a profound thirst for peace. In many countries, people are suffering due to wars which, though often forgotten, are always the cause of suffering and poverty." **Pope Francis, 20 September 2016**
Peace is not just the absence of war. It is part of God's nature, and a value we should all seek to live out in our daily lives.

"Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life." **Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 225**

How this half term can you promote Peace in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?