

A FAREWELL GIFT

(JOHN 14:23-29)



As Eastertide draws near to its close, our gospel reading today introduces the theme of Jesus' departure, his return to the Father.

But the disciples will receive two gifts, distinct but related. First, the Paraclete will come from the Father and will continue Jesus' mission of teaching the disciples, leading them into an ever-deepening appreciation of his message as they remember all that Jesus has said to them. The Paraclete will maintain Jesus' presence among the disciples. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be the second Paraclete, just as Jesus was the first, so that might help us to understand the role of the Spirit once Jesus is no longer physically present.

The second gift is that of peace, but it is Jesus' peace, something that the world cannot match. It is connected with the gift of the Spirit, the Paraclete, and is from God. It is not the absence of strife in human relations, but rooted in the Spirit of truth, and Jesus goes on to talk about how the disciples should not be distressed at his leaving them, as he is going back to the Father, an idea which we find only in the Fourth Gospel. Jesus' departure may be marked by violence and malice on the part of his opponents, but he accepts this as his way of returning the Father's love for him. This should not be a cause of fear for the disciples, but rather one of joy. ■

REFLECT

The Easter event is not simply about the Resurrection of Jesus: the final act of the Paschal mystery is the conferring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. In our gospel reading today, we are invited to look forward to the consequence of Jesus' going back to the Father, which will be the giving of the Holy Spirit who will continue Jesus' presence among us and within us.

But we will not benefit from this gift unless we are open to the Holy Spirit and prepared to allow the Paraclete to influence our thoughts and actions. The peace – *shalom* – which Jesus promises flows from Jesus' union with the Father and our union with Jesus. The gift of peace was associated in the Hebrew scriptures with the Messiah.

Jesus is not promising a trouble-free existence for his followers (then or now) but rather a rooted way of being which can cope with the troubles which arise in human life. 'Peace' in the Hebrew sense is more a matter of total well-being, of having a firm anchor of faith within ourselves which helps us face the problems which we encounter. This is one of the reasons for the giving of the Holy Spirit, the other Paraclete. But the Spirit can only function in our lives if we are open to the Spirit. Soon we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension of Jesus; we might ask ourselves in the next few days how we appreciate the ongoing presence of Jesus with us and what that means. ■

LEARN

The Easter mystery includes the events surrounding the Resurrection of Jesus, the Ascension and Pentecost.

The giving of the Spirit is the fulfilment of Jesus' promise to his disciples.

The word "Advocate" in today's reading is an alternative to the term Paraclete.

SAY

Abba, Father, send your Spirit, Glory, Jesus Christ

(Ginny Vissing)

DO

Try invoking the Holy Spirit the next time you are faced with a difficult situation and see what happens.





NEWSLETTER

22ND MAY 2022

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

Fr. Stan Deegan Tel: 044-9374127 0872673655.

Email: parishofkillucan@gmail.com

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Saturday 21st, 6pm. James & Margaret Boyle.

Sunday 22nd, 11.30am. Dympna Rourke. Michael Kenny & his brother Tommy.

Sunday 29th, 11.30am. Helen Carley.


ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 22nd, 10am. John Mulvaney & his son Paddy.

Sunday 29th, 10am. Peggy & Mattie O'Keefe. Maureen Mulkearns Hill & John Mulkearins & his son Kenneth also Peggy, Mary & Peter

Weekday Masses; Tues & Thurs Raharney. Wed & Fri Rathwire.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €575
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €655

<p>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</p> 	<p>In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm. & St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm: Special Diocesan intention of prayer for vocations and the family. Take one Hour with the Lord</p>
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Cemetery Sunday: in Rathwire cemetery on Sunday June 19th at 3pm. There will be no 11.30am Mass in Rathwire on that day.

The Rosary will be recited at 7.30pm each Friday evening for the month of May, at the grotto in Raharney.

A Better World

No celebration of Easter would be complete without a reference to the peace brought to us by the Paschal mystery. Today's liturgy provides us with that reference: 'Peace' is my farewell to you, my peace is my gift to you.

Peace is what Jesus gave us in his redemptive acts of dying and rising.

The early Christian communities experienced dissension and controversy. The reading from Acts documents the manner in which the leaders of the church resolved those conflicts and brought peace to the Church.

There is a lesson for us in the elements of their peaceful settlement: the exercise of responsible leadership, respect for all the members of the community, and the decision "not to lay on you any burden beyond that which is strictly necessary."

"O God, let all the nations praise you!" for you have rescued them from death and offered them the gift of peace through your resurrection.

The perfect world, we Christians believe, is beyond the horizon, in an endless eternity where God will be all in all. But a better world is here for human hands and hearts and minds to make.

For the community of faith the risen Christ is the beginning and end of all things. For all things were created through him and all things will return to the Father through him.

It is our belief in the risen Christ which sustains us in confronting the awesome challenge of the nuclear arms race.

U.S. Bishops, The Challenge of Peace,