

REJOICING IN THE SEASON OF EASTER, 2023: MAY 21

REJOICING IN ABIDING IN JESUS' LOVE SO THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE COMPLETE

*"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love...I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."* (John 15.11, 13).

*"...abide in my love...(so that) your joy may be complete."* Abide is a word that means to endure, to dwell, to be present. Jesus invites us to abide-to be present-in his love so that we experience joy as completely as possible.

With what person(s) do you find it easy and gentle to abide in love? What allows you to be present to and for yourself and the other as completely as possible when you do? What do you find inviting about Jesus' invitation to abide in his love?

Do you find it comforting or challenging to be loved by Jesus? Is it easier or more difficult for you to abide in Jesus' love than in the love of another person? How does Jesus' love of you bring you joy?

This week I invite you to rejoice in abiding in Jesus' love so that your joy may be complete...

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*"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love...I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."* (John 15.11, 13).

*"...abide in my love...(so that) your joy may be complete."* What helps you abide, dwell, be present as fully as possible in your life Is there a place-physical or in your mind-that helps create space for you to dwell as fully as possible? Is it a place where you can experience Jesus' love?

I invite you to go there at some point today, especially if the place is easier to go to in your mind. For me, such a place to dwell and experience God's joy is an island. What contributes to the sense of well-being is the realization that on an island I am disconnected from my ordinary life, allowing me to be present to what is around me.

What and where is such a place for you?

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*"...abide in my love...(so that) your joy may be complete."* How do you abide in Jesus' love? How does your experience of abiding in the love of another person help/hinder your ability/desire to abide in Jesus' love? How does your experience of abiding in Jesus' love help or hinder your ability/desire to abide in the love of another person?

Who has been helpful to you in modeling for how to dwell, to help you as a human being as well as a human doing? How have they been helpful to you? What about their practicing as well as their professing helped you to become more faithful at dwelling?

While reflecting on these persons, offer a statement—perhaps prayer—of thanksgiving for their presence and their presents in your life.

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Who has been helpful to you modeling love, helping you as a human being live as fully and intentionally into loving life, of loving another? How have they been helpful to you? What about their practicing as well as their professing helped you to become more faithful at dwelling?

While reflecting on these persons, offer a statement—perhaps prayer—of thanksgiving for their presence and their presents in your life.

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Who has been helpful to you in modeling joy, helping you as a human being live as fully and intentionally into experiencing joy, experiencing joy-full-ness? How have they been helpful to you? What about their practicing as well as their professing helped you to become more faithful at dwelling?

While reflecting on these persons, offer a statement—perhaps prayer—of thanksgiving for their presence and their presents in your life.

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*"...abide in my love...(so that) your joy may be complete."* How do you abide in Jesus' love? How does your experience of abiding in the love of another person help/hinder your ability/desire to abide in Jesus' love? How does your experience of abiding in Jesus' love help or hinder your ability/desire to abide in the love of another person?

Who has been helpful to you modeling how to abide in Jesus' love, helping you be living as well as believing this truth Jesus professes? How have they been helpful to you? What about their practicing as well as their professing helped you to become more faithful at dwelling?

While reflecting on these persons, offer a statement—perhaps prayer—of thanksgiving for their presence and their presents in your life.

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*"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love...I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."* (John 15.11, 13).

Jesus shared these words with the disciples before his crucifixion, and the Church has continued to read and reflect on them ever since. Fundamentally, Jesus' message is: *"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love..."*.

Tomorrow is the Day of Pentecost; the Season of Easter is completed. For 49 days we have remembered the witness of God's love in the person of Jesus through the presence and presents of the Holy Spirit, and been reminded of the power of God's love overcoming even death. Thank you for rejoicing with me this week in abiding in Jesus' love so that your joy may be complete.

Thank you for your companionship on this journey over the past seven weeks while we explored Rejoicing In The Season Of Easter together! May you continue to boldly rejoice as you continue to abide in Jesus' love.