

SUNDAY HOMILY SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 17th 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you at your homes. May your homes continue to be a source of spiritual growth, joy, peace and love at this time of confinement at your home.

Hope you have all heard of the good news in regard to have our churches open to public for Mass and other liturgical celebrations. However, we have to keep in mind and ensure that guidelines and regulations as spelled out in the Manual are put in place. Therefore, I propose that Shepherd of the Hills Parish Council and Worship Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday May 20th 2020 at 6.00 pm for the same cause. Those intending to come for the meeting must have face masks.

This Thursday May 21st is the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven. In our Ecclesiastical Province, this feast will be celebrated next Sunday. Let us join in prayer to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit that abides in us as a Special Gift from Jesus promised to the Apostles.

For the last three weeks, we have been hearing Jesus telling his disciples of who He is; the bread that leads to eternal life, the resurrection, the Good Shepherd, the gate of the sheepfold, the way, the truth and the life, Jesus is the vine and the disciples are the branches.

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Jesus somehow bidding farewell to his disciples. The disciples must have felt very sad and confused. Jesus spoke openly to them of his imminent death and resurrection after three days.

Jesus assures his disciples that they will share into his life with him and his Father in a unique way- through the Holy Spirit. We need to bear witness to the Spirit of Truth- "Do not be afraid of..." stand for the truth – protection of the unborn etc..

The role of the Holy Spirit will be to remind the disciples all he had taught them as well as His continued presence among them. The Holy will be more or less like a memory card in our computers.

The Holy Spirit will continue the Teaching role of Jesus among the disciples.

The Holy Spirit will also be their Advocate and Comforter. This means playing a defending role among the disciples of Jesus.

The disciples like the branches on the vine, need to have their lives rooted in Jesus. They have to obey his commandments and have to abide in his love by observing the new commandment; “love one another as I have loved you.”

All called to be disciples of Jesus have to prove our true love and loyalty to Jesus as we choose to obey and do God’s will and live by his commandments; in particular love of God and loving one another. This is one way of the Spirit of Jesus can abide in us.

God bless and Have a great week.