

7th Sunday of Easter

17th May 2026 Readings

Collect

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the
human race is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles
returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,
which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey
away. And when they had entered, they went up to
the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and
John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas,
Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of
Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son
of James. All these with one accord were devoting
themselves to prayer, together with the women and
Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and
sisters.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26:1. 4. 7-8. Response v.13.

**R/. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.**

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **R/.**
There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R/.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 4:13-16

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's
sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad
when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for
the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the
Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let
none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an

evildoer, or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a
Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify
God in that name.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 14:18

Alleluia, alleluia.
I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.
I am going away and I will come to you, and your
hearts will rejoice.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and
said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that
the Son may glorify you, since you have given him
authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom
you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they
know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom
you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having
accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And
now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the
glory that I had with you before the world existed.

'I have manifested your name to the people whom
you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and
you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.
Now they know that everything that you have given
me is from you. For I have given them the words that
you gave me, and they have received them and have
come to know in truth that I came from you; and they
have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them.
I am not praying for the world but for those whom you
have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours,
and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I
am no longer in the world, but they are in the world,
and I am coming to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Hear us, O God our Saviour,
and grant us confidence,
that through these sacred mysteries
there will be accomplished in the body of the whole
Church
what has already come to pass in Christ her Head.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



7th SUNDAY of EASTER

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

The prayer that Jesus prayed in John 17:1-11 is known as the High Priestly prayer because Jesus offers prayers for himself, his apostles and followers—just like the High Priest offered prayers for people in the temple. Something else that Jesus prayed was for unity. After his Ascension, the disciples were united in prayer. Unity exists through prayer. Jesus prayed for unity, and the disciples prayed together to draw upon the only source of power that they had before they received the Holy Spirit – prayer.

Jesus' High Priestly prayer proclaims our hope and certainty. Jesus and God have glorified each other. Jesus has come from the Father. We are embedded in Christ as Christ is embedded in the Father. We belong to God and are on our way to unity with him and with each other. Unfortunately in our world, divisions can and do happen, often with negative consequences. God gives himself to the godless so that he can receive them into divine communion through atonement, and we should do the same. We are to be one with each other just like Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are one with each other.



When we come together as one body, our prayers and deeds are a very potent force to be reckoned with. We speak to God when we pray, and in return he touches, embraces, shapes and changes us through the gifts he gives us. We are to use these gifts wisely and for the benefit of the world. Sometimes we have to ask for help, but when we work together, we glorify God with integrity, with devotion, and through service and the words we speak.

As children of God, we are united in one faith in a living God who has revealed himself to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We are united in faith in Christ whose word fills us with faith. We are also united in faith in the Holy Spirit whose presence guides us through life. It is in serving that our faith becomes real. When we serve one another, we serve Christ. He is the inspiration in our lives. He is the living example of faith in action. He is the Lord, the Master of our lives and the heartbeat of our faith - and that faith becomes real when we go forth as one in service.

Monday 18th May 2026

Pope St John I

He was born in Tuscany and elected pope in 523. It was a time of high political and religious tension. Theodoric the Ostrogoth, the ruler of Italy, was an Arian, while many of his subjects were Catholics. Initially tolerant, he became increasingly suspicious of the Catholics' influence and political allegiance – above all, because they naturally had strong links with the Catholicism of the surviving eastern Roman Empire in Constantinople. Moreover, Arians in the eastern Roman Empire were being persecuted by the Catholic emperor, Justin, and they appealed to Theodoric for help.

Pope John I was sent on an embassy to the emperor, to ask for better treatment for the Arians. In this he succeeded; but the enthusiasm with which he was greeted in Constantinople excited Theodoric's suspicions, and when he returned to Italy Theodoric had him imprisoned and he died from ill-treatment there a few days later.

Pope John I's career reminds us what tolerance is and is not. Arianism was a dangerous heresy (by making the Son subordinate to the Father it made the Atonement virtually pointless) and there could be no compromise with it – but this did not mean that Arians themselves were to be persecuted for their beliefs. Then, as so often now, it was the state and not the Church that tried to use force to impose uniformity.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for our Diocese

Generous God you have called us to be salt and light in this great city;
Guide us by your Holy Spirit to discern your will for your Church as we seek to follow your Son Jesus Christ in loving and serving our neighbours.

Give us the wisdom and strength to fulfil the vision you put before us and help us to play our part in transforming our earthly city into a sign of the Heavenly Jerusalem where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God now and for ever.

Amen