

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 66)

Antiphon: O God, let all the nations praise you!

RESPONSE: **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

Or

**Alleluia!**

**LECTOR:** O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth, and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

**LECTOR:** Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

**LECTOR:** Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Or

Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rev 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29

**NEXT WEEK** (The Ascension of the Lord, Year C) Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 46; Ephesians 1:17-23 (or Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23) Lk 24:46-53

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## Figuring out Families-Focus Sessions

The Focus Sessions are a series of podcasts to help families be the best they can be. Derek Boylen, Director of the Centre for Life, Marriage and Family in the Archdiocese of Perth, gives expert advice on a wide range of issues. Hosted by David Ahern.

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# majellan

## Trusting in God's love will bring peace



**25 May 2025 6th Sunday Easter Year C**

We are still in the Easter season celebrating a new creation. But John's gospel takes us back before the Easter event as we hear another part of the farewell spoken by Jesus before his death.

Jesus seeks to give his disciples hope in the face of what is to come. Of course, they don't know what's coming, but at this moment he says to them that, if they love him, they will keep his word and Jesus and 'my Father' will make their home with them.

It's quite breathtaking, revealing to us an intimacy we're unexpectedly invited to share in. And that home is being made whenever we are present to one another, not using one another, or fantasising about one another, but are able to be with each other.

Jesus then speaks out of this love when he says that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in his name, will reveal everything, deepening our understanding of what has been said to us. And more, Jesus continues to reveal the great generosity of God and gives his peace to us, a peace quite unlike what the world offers.

The emphasis is not on stopping hostilities, which is what we understand peace to mean in international affairs, or closer to home, or a peace of mind which brings with it the 'power of inner peace', crucial and helpful as they might be at moments. But rather it is a peace

centred on relationship, on a person, on Jesus Christ, on one another.

As we learn to love one another, to be with each other, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Father come to be with us, to live in us. And the peace this love brings is not a DIY peace, but a gift to be received. We can't simply will it into being, or program it; we have to learn to receive it. That's the part we find difficult. Letting go of our old, comforting habits.

Often, we prefer to hold tight to what we know because letting go seems risky. But that's what Jesus is speaking of: trusting in God's love, this peace, as revealed in him and made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit. This is the intimacy we're invited to share in, where 'on the far side of my letting go is myself in God'.

It's the vision revealed to us in the second reading from the Apocalypse where 'the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the Temple' and we live in them, opening our hearts in praise, as in the psalm. It reminds us that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, there will be decisions to be made, and work to do, to enable the Good News of God's love to be heard.

But now, in the light of Easter, we know, as do the disciples in the first reading, nothing can prevent God making a home with us.

**Damian Coleridge**

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