

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE (C) 2022

A) MAKING A HOME

- my mother was a keen gardener
- I remember one occasion when she was in her little greenhouse
- she got hold of an old pot which had some dry soil and a dead plant in it
- as she was getting the plant out, to her surprise and shock, there leapt out from the soil a whole family of mice
- at this time of the year we notice how the birds are busy building nests
- I was told of a blackbird trying to build a nest in the mudguard of a parked car
- birds and animals make nests, make homes for themselves, in all sorts of unlikely places
- today's Gospel is all about God making an unlikely home for himself
- he wants to make his home in each one of us
- how extraordinary that he should want to do that, but he does

B) GOSPEL

- today's Gospel begins with the words: If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him, and make our home with him.
- Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper, the night before he died
- soon he will be taken from them, taken in his crucifixion and death
- taken, too, when he returns to his Father in heaven
- we will be celebrating the Ascension of Jesus this Thursday
- but though his bodily presence will be taken away, he tells them that he will remain spiritually present with them
- what's more not only will HE be present to them, but so will God the Father and God the Holy Spirit
- all three persons of the Most Holy Trinity

C) ST. AUGUSTINE

- the great St Augustine wrote:
- **God, the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit come to us when we come to them;**
- **they come to help us, when we approach them in obedience;**
- **they come to us to give us light, when we come to them in a spirit of prayer and contemplation;**
- **they come to us, to fill us with their presence, when we come to them with open arms.**
- God, the Holy Trinity, coming to make his home within us is the great gift that Jesus won for us by his death and resurrection
- it is a gift offered to anyone who responds to God's love by keeping his word and trying to be faithful to it.

D) THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Jesus also speaks in the Gospel today of the special role of the Holy Spirit, whom he promises to his disciples
- the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all I have said to you.
- so he comes to each one of us to teach us and remind us
- it is the Holy Spirit who helps us to apply to our own personal experience the truths of our faith
- he helps us to experience at first hand God's love for us, his hopes for us, his plans for us
- the Holy Spirit helps us to see the presence of God in everything that happens to us
- including our trials and difficulties
- he helps us to know at first hand his mercy and compassion towards us in our weakness and sinfulness
- he helps us in our understanding of the scriptures and his will for each one of us

E) PERSONAL PRAYER

- We CAN find God present in so many ways: in the world around us, in the word he has spoken to us, in the sacraments he has given to us, especially the Holy Eucharist.
 - but we can also find him dwelling deep within ourselves, in the sanctuary of our own hearts,
 - if only we take the trouble to find time, to make space, to be quiet and turn inwards, to be still and ready to listen.
 - all he asks of us is that we should come to him in prayer,
 - come to him empty-handed
 - to stand, or sit, helpless before him
 - to allow him to take possession of us
 - and to make his home within us
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