

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

THE GUIDE

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

The Paraclete (John 14:15-21)

This passage from John's Gospel is part of the Farewell discourse after Jesus' last supper with his disciples. When Jesus is preparing his disciples for their ongoing life in the world after he has been taken from them, he promises them that the Father will give another Paraclete to be with them for ever. This word Paraclete is peculiar to the Johannine literature (Gospel of John and First Letter of John). The usual translation 'Advocate' refers to someone who argues our case on our behalf. Literally the word means 'someone called to our side'. In some senses the Paraclete is our guide.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *the guide*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (John 14: 15-17)

Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate,
to be with you for ever.
This is the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees him nor knows him.
You know him, because he abides with you,
and he will be in you.'

Gospel prayer

Risen Lord Jesus,
you promised the Spirit of truth
to everyone who keeps your commandments.
Send your Holy Spirit to guide us,
that we may walk in your way of truth;
now and always.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Jesus' teaching about the future, as he faces the events of the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you understand the word 'love' that is so central to this passage?
- what do you make of Jesus' promise in this passage about the 'Advocate'?
- what ideas does the 'Advocate' suggest to you?
- Can you think of better words than Advocate for someone called to be there alongside you?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore further how John develops the idea of the Paraclete:

- John 14: 26
- John 15: 26
- John 16: 7

Explore another reference to the idea of the Paraclete in the New Testament:

- 1 John 2: 1

Exploring online

- explore the idea of Paraclete
- explore ideas of guides (human, canine, electronic)
- explore ideas of spiritual directors (the term 'spiritual guide' has been captured elsewhere)

Drawing on experience

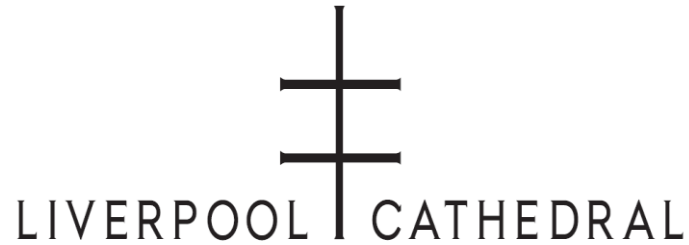
- what is your experience of people who have served as guides for you in various places?
- what is your experience of people who have served as guides for you in your spiritual life?
- what is your experience of the Paraclete guiding you?

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020

Creating and making

- make a card or poster around the words of John 14: 16
- create a pamphlet to guide people around your favourite cathedral or church
- create a collage of images of guides at work: Jesus promised the Paraclete to be with us for ever
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the Paraclete as guide

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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