



CELEBRATING AT HOME

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Remembering & making present (John 14:23-29)*



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### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in  
this moment of prayer.**

### Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus, you are the eternal Word of the Father,  
**spoken in love and truth.**

Lord Jesus, with the Father,  
**you abide in our hearts.**

Lord Jesus, you send us your Spirit and your peace,  
**to continue to form us as your own.**

Risen Christ,  
you always meet us with warmth and love.  
**Give us the hope and peace we need  
to remain strong in our care of each other.**  
**Amen.**

### Scripture Reading (John 14:23-29)

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘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.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.  
And my word is not my own;  
it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you  
while still with you;  
but the Advocate, 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.

Peace I bequeath to you,  
my own peace I give you,

a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know  
that I am going to the Father,  
for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now, before it happens,  
so that when it does happen you may believe.’

### Reflection - Remembering & making present

Our reading of *The Farewell Discourse* in John’s Gospel (13:31-17:26) continues in the Gospel for today as Jesus makes a number of promises to the disciples.

The opening words say that those who love Jesus will keep his word. This is not like keeping road rules. It is about allowing the word of Jesus to form our hearts and shape our lives. Throughout John’s Gospel the word that Jesus speaks is about his boundless affection for the Father and the disciples.

Another favourite theme of John is that, just as the Father and Jesus abide together in love, they will also come to abide in the heart of the disciple. It is this bond of love that creates the ‘dwelling place’ for God in the heart of the disciple. There is no separation from the Father; the disciple does not need to look to a heavenly place in order to experience the presence of God.

Jesus promises that the Father will send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to help the disciples ‘remember’, that is, to understand more deeply the words and actions of Jesus, especially his death and resurrection. This remembering will make Jesus present to them.

Abiding in the love of Jesus and the Father brings a peace that cannot otherwise be found in this world, so the disciples have no need to be afraid of the future, not even the impending departure of Jesus. In fact, if they are already truly abiding in

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the presence of God and Jesus in their hearts, why should his physical departure disturb them?

Jesus does not speak these words in the sense of foretelling the future, but rather to prepare the disciples for their daily 'remembering' of, and making present, his words and actions in their own lives.

This Gospel begs us ask ourselves if we are truly people who remember Jesus and allow his Spirit to shape our words, thoughts and actions so that he may remain present to us and to those around us.

### Prayers of Intercession

You prepare us anew to be bearers of your Spirit.  
**Grant us all we need to be your presence and power in the world.**

Help us to know the presence of your Spirit in our hearts,  
**and to recognise it in one another.**

For those who live with scars of hurt and neglect:  
**May our lives witness your forgiveness and healing to our world.**

### Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

### Closing Prayer

Eternal God  
may your Spirit of love breathe in us  
with our every breath, word and action.  
Through our risen Saviour, Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,  
**and remain with us for ever.**





# Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when many cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



**The Carmelites**  
Australia & Timor-Leste  
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