

# Year A - 6th Sunday of Easter

## John 14:15-21

*I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*



Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you love me, you will do as I command.

Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you.

The Spirit will show you what is true.

"The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him.

But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.

"I won't leave you like orphans. I will come back to you.

In a little while the people of this world won't be able to see me,

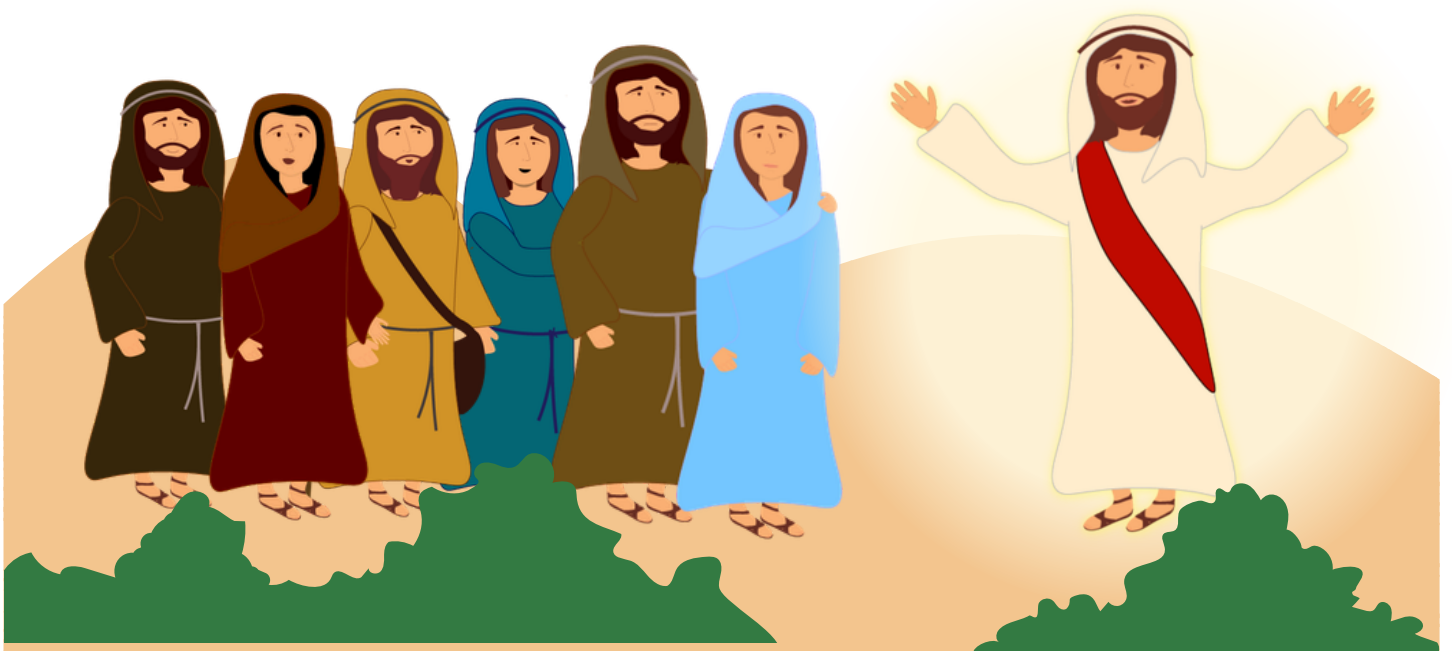
but you will see me. And because I live, you will live.

Then you will know I am one with the Father.

You will know you are one with me, and I am one with you.

"If you love me, you will do what I have said, and my Father will love you.

I will also love you and show you what I am like."



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## John 14:15-21

Jesus is the way



**Introduction** Today's gospel from John continues on from last week's when Jesus is with his disciples at the Last Supper. Jesus knows that he will soon be returning to the Father but wants to assure the disciples that he will not abandon them. He will ask the Father to send them an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will help them and will always be with them - and us.

**Message**

- Jesus tells how we can show him that we love him - "If you love me, you will do as I command.", i.e., we will do what he asks us to do.
- Earlier in John's gospel, Jesus said, "I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you." (John 13:34-35)
- It is easy to say 'I love Jesus', but showing that we love Jesus by our words and actions is harder. It especially hard to do this with people that we don't get on with or who make fun of us or treat us harshly.
- This is where the Holy Spirit is important in our lives. When we struggle we can remember that the Holy Spirit is in us and gives us the strength to follow the words of Jesus.

**Discussion**

- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand. Also check if there are any words or phrases that stood out for them
- I wonder if you can think of time when the people who love you and look after you have had to go away e.g. parents going to work, or away for a weekend. Did they make sure there was someone to look after you?
- I wonder what the disciples were thinking when Jesus said that he will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit
- The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which we will hear about in a few weeks time. I wonder when do we receive the Holy Spirit? (Baptism and Confirmation)
- I wonder how we can recognise the Holy Spirit in ourselves and other people (Through the Fruit of the Spirit: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)

