

## **6th Sunday of Easter**

### **Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48**

Christ has revealed that God's love extends to **everybody**.

### **1 John 4:7-10**

John insists that the more fully and completely we know God, the more the reality of God's love dawns on us. We are called to love one another as God has loved us.

### **John 15:9-17**

Jesus spends his last hours with his closest companions, speaking of love – abiding in love, living each day with joy, and bearing the fruits of that love and joy.



### **Reflection**

The first Christian community was exclusively Jewish. We've now come to the turning point - the reception of the first Gentiles into the Church. Cornelius (in the first reading) was the first pagan to receive the grace of Baptism. We hear about his Baptism and that God offers salvation to everyone.

In the Gospel today Jesus talks about the love that binds him to the Father, the love that should bind the disciples to him and to one another.

Jesus' love is modelled on the Father's love; the disciples should model their love on the Son's: as he has observed the Father's commandments, so should they observe his.

Now he is going to give them the supreme proof of his love – giving his life for them. He has chosen them and sent them into the world to bear fruit — the fruit of love.




Jesus taught his disciples about the intimate unity that existed between him and his Father. Everything that Jesus said and did was in obedience to his Father's word. The Father's love so filled Jesus that it overflowed to his followers through the Spirit. His disciples would remain in Jesus' love if they were obedient to his "new" command: to love one another as he loved them. Jesus' commandment to love God and to love one's neighbour as oneself fulfilled and summed up all the other commandments. There was no other commandment greater than these. Jesus' disciples were loyal to the mission that he entrusted to them when they revealed his love to the world. They were his "friends" if they demonstrated that love by their readiness to lay down their lives as he did. Jesus did not ask his followers to do anything that he himself was unwilling to do. He would prove his love on Calvary by offering his life for the sake of his friends.

commandment called  
**commandments**

loves whatever  
 longer heard fruit slaves  
 doing name **JOY** life keep  
 appointed **one's** complete **friends**  
 disciples lay  
**love** greater  
 bear master ash know Jesus everything slave  
 command kept  
 Father's **remain**  
**Father** another chose

**GOSPEL WORDSEARCH**

S	T	N	A	V	R	E	S	T	E	REMAIN	JOY	COMPLETE	FRIENDS
N	N	T	S	A	L	R	A	E	B	COMMAND	LIFE	SERVANTS	BUSINESS
A	R	D	N	A	M	M	O	C	S	CHOOSE	BEAR	LAST	NAME
V	A	E	Y	B	E	A	O	S	D				
R	E	V	M	F	A	M	E	A	N				
E	L	O	I	A	P	N	S	L	E				
S	N	L	Y	L	I	Y	O	J	I				
E	A	S	E	S	I	N	O	Y	R				
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**“THE CHURCH PRAYED FERVENTLY TO GOD”  
(Acts 12:5)**

**During the month of May, led by 30 Shrines throughout the world, everyone will unite in reciting the Holy Rosary asking for an end to the pandemic and the resumption of social life and work.**

Pope Francis has asked that the month of May be dedicated to

**a "marathon" of prayer**

to ask for an end to the pandemic and a resumption of social and work activities.

He wants to involve all the Shrines around the world in this initiative, so that they may become vehicles of the prayer of the entire Church.

As well as the Holy Rosary, each day of the month there is a prayer intention for the people most affected by the pandemic:

1. those who have not been able to say goodbye to their loved ones,
2. all health care personnel,
3. the poor,
4. the homeless and
5. those in economic difficulty and
6. all the deceased.

Every Shrine in the world is invited to pray, in the language and manner used locally, asking for the resumption of social life, work and the many human activities that were suspended during the pandemic.

The idea is to create an unceasing intercession, all round the world from the whole Church to the Father through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Shrines are called upon to promote this and to try to get as much participation of the faithful as possible, so that

**everyone can devote a moment to daily prayer, in the car, on the street, and, thanks to communication technology, by smartphone, praying for an end to the pandemic and the resumption of social life and work.**

On May 1, Pope Francis prayed at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (or Our Lady of Help), an icon venerated since the seventh century in a fresco in the 'new' Saint Peter's Basilica erected by Pope Gregory XIII in 1578.

The Holy Father blessed special Rosaries to be sent to the thirty Shrines throughout the world directly involved. A number of families from parishes in Rome and Lazio will take part. They will read and lead the recitation of the Holy Rosary, with young people representing some of the New Evangelization Movements.

On May 31, Pope Francis will conclude this **prayer marathon** from the Vatican Gardens



The **Thirty Shrines** chosen to lead the prayer each day of the month:  
(Our English Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham  
has been chosen to start the month of prayer).

**Our Lady of Walsingham in England;**  
**Jesus the Saviour and Mother Mary in Nigeria;**  
**Our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland;**  
Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth;  
Blessed Virgin of the Rosary in South Korea;  
Our Lady Aparecida in Brazil;  
**Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in the Philippines;**  
Our Lady of Lujan in Argentina;  
Holy House of Loreto in Italy;  
**Our Lady of Knock in Ireland;**  
Virgin of the Poor at Banneux in Belgium;  
Notre Dame d'Afrique in Algeria;  
**Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in Portugal;**

**Our Lady of Health in India;**

Our Lady Queen of Peace at Medjugorje in Bosnia;

St. Mary's Cathedral in Australia;

Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in the United States;

**Our Lady of Lourdes in France;**

Meryem Ana in Turkey;

Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre in Cuba;

Our Lady of Nagasaki in Japan;

**Nuestra Señora de Montserrat in Spain;**

Notre Dame du Cap in Canada;

**National Shrine Our Lady Ta' Pinu in Malta;**

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Mexico;

**Mother of God in Zarvantsia in Ukraine;**

Black Madonna of Altötting in Germany;

Our Lady of Lebanon – in Lebanon;

**Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii in Italy.**

The Holy See will broadcast the prayers at each of these thirty Shrines at 6pm each day (Roman time) 5pm our time.

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