

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 Readings

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 32:1-2,4-5,18-19 Response v.22*

**R/.** *May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.*

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R/.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. **R/.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **R/.**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you

who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to his disciples:  
'Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Trust in God still, and trust in me.  
There are many rooms in my Father's house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.  
I am going now to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am  
you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'  
Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:  
'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.  
If you know me, you know my Father too.  
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

I tell you most solemnly,  
whoever believes in me  
will perform the same works as I do myself,  
he will perform even greater works,  
because I am going to the Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



# 5th SUNDAY of EASTER

Lectionary Year A

The word of God

Saint of the Week

In the gospel of St. John Jesus makes a series of powerful symbolic statements, each of which begins with the famous words “I am”, in which he likens himself to various images and things which illustrate some dimension of his person and mission; for example, “I am the bread of life”, “I am the light of the world”, and “I am the good shepherd”. In today’s gospel reading from the fourteenth chapter of St. John, he says: “I am the way, the truth, and the life”.

Coming in the penultimate moments of Jesus’ presence with his disciples his saying reminds the reader that Jesus himself is both the object and goal of our faith (the truth and the life) and the path which we must follow in order to arrive at that goal (the way).

First, he is the truth and the life itself in that he is the very image of the Father who is the source of all being and goodness: “If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him”. Jesus makes it clear in John’s gospel that he is equal to the Father and can never be separated from the Father from whom he came forth before all time.

In this particular passage he expresses this message through the actions of seeing, knowing, and believing. To see, know, and believe in Jesus is to see, know, and believe in the Father, and to have eternal life on account of that belief. Jesus is thus the unique source of life and salvation for all who desire to share in the glory and love of the God who was first revealed through the law and the prophets, and who has now been revealed perfectly in Jesus himself.

Second, Jesus is the way we must follow in order to arrive at our goal of unity with the Father. In the second reading from the First Letter of Peter, we learn that to follow the way of Jesus is to let ourselves “be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”; that is, to become like Jesus by freely offering ourselves to God—giving ourselves over completely to Jesus, just as he gave himself over completely to the Father for the sake of our salvation. When we do this we imitate his self-giving love and are thus, “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own”, united to God in Jesus through our faith in him. We take to heart the gospel for this fifth Sunday of Easter if we trust in the One who is “the truth, and the life”, and if we seek to walk faithfully on “the way” of charity, justice, and compassion which he has shown us—as a people who are one with the Father through our oneness in Jesus.

**Friday 19 May 2017**  
**St Dunstan (909 - 988)**

Dunstan was a Benedictine monk, reformer and Archbishop of Canterbury. He was born near Glastonbury and educated at the abbey. He joined the king’s household, but was soon expelled from court, accused of being a magician. Later he was ordained priest at Winchester. He returned to Glastonbury briefly but was soon recalled to court. King Edmund took a great interest in Glastonbury, and when the abbacy fell vacant he appointed Dunstan as abbot. Dunstan set about restoring monastic life, which had been almost extinguished under Danish invasions, and this is considered to be one of his greatest achievements.

In 995 his fortunes changed again, and through intrigue at court he was exiled to Mont Blandin (Ghent), and he saw for the first time a reformed monastery of the continent. Recalled by King Edgar, he became successively Bishop of Worcester, Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury. He composed the Coronation Rite for King Edgar at Bath, which is the basis of the Coronation Rite still in use. So began the fruitful collaboration between King and Archbishop which reformed the Church in England, largely through the monastic orders, and was regarded after the Conquest as a ‘golden age’. The promulgation of *Regularis Concordia* in about 970 marked the success of the movement Dunstan had started in Glastonbury years before. He collaborated with the king in making laws, administering justice and reforming the Church, and remained active until he died, at Canterbury, on 19 May 988. After his death his cult grew rapidly, and under Anselm’s rule it became nationwide. He was one of the most popular Anglo-Saxon saints, and many legends have grown up around him.

## Prayer of the Week

### Grail Prayer

I give you my hands to do your work,  
I give you my feet to go your way,  
I give you my eyes to see as you do.  
I give you my tongue to speak your words.  
I give you my mind that you may think in me.  
Above all, I give you my heart  
That you may love in me your Father and all mankind.  
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me.  
Amen.