

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES - ACTS 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48;

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said, 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise, ' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God.

Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 97:1-4

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

THE LORD HAS REVEALED TO THE NATIONS HIS SAVING POWER.

The Lord has made known his salvation, has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.

THE LORD HAS REVEALED TO THE NATIONS HIS SAVING POWER.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.

THE LORD HAS REVEALED TO THE NATIONS HIS SAVING POWER.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST JOHN - 1 JN 4:7-10

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him. This is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The word of the Lord

<p>All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. John 14-23</p>
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A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN - JN 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business. I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me. No, I chose you and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION **A BLESSED MOTHERS DAY FOR ALL WOMEN IN DIVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES**

How grateful we are to God

for our mothers, grandmothers and for special women who have responded to us with love.



*God of Wisdom and Goodness,
Please bless all women who care for
their own children, grandchildren or other children.*

*Bless them with courage to face uncertainty;
strength to love and to be loved in return - not perfectly, but humanly.*

*Bless them with the faithful support of their loved ones,
good health, wisdom - and joy and delight in all in their care.*

Please bless all women

- those with good mother relationships
- those who have lost their mothers
- those who never have had a mother
- those with strained mother relationships
- those with strained child relationships
- those who struggle whether alone or with a partner to provide for children's basic needs
- those who have lost children
- those who long for motherhood
- those who have chosen not to be mothers,.....
- those who are mothers or who have mothering responsibilities.



"Hannah's Place" on the corner of Samuel and Jade Sts, Camp Hill, reminds our society of our need for education, transparency and a range of provisions to fight the scourge of domestic violence against all women, including mothers and their children.

Our responses as members of our Parish will be diverse.

Sensitive to issues and in communion with God in Christ, may we be instruments of God's love for others. God's enduring love will sustain, nourish and inspire us.