

First reading Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48**The pagans have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have**

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.

Responsorial Psalm 97(98):1-4**The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

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

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

Second reading 1 John 4:7-10**Let us love one another, since love comes from God**

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.

Gospel Acclamation Jn14:23**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.' **Alleluia!**

Gospel John 15:9-17**You are my friends if you do what I command you**

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 him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

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Feast Days this Week

Monday 6th May: St Dominic Savio

Thursday 9th May: The Ascension of the Lord

Friday 10th May: St John of Avila

The Cycle of Prayer**Human Work**

Especially on St Joseph the Worker — 1 May

Background

The commemoration of St Joseph the Worker on 1 May was instituted by Pius XII in 1955. It proposes the example and intercession of Joseph as worker and provider.

Prayer

*God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe,
in every age you call men and women
to develop and use their gifts for the good of others.
With St Joseph as our example and guide,
help us to do the work you have asked
and come to the rewards you have promised.*

Roman Missal (adapted)

Reflection on the Readings

6th Sunday of Easter

5th May

In the Catholic tradition, a Homily, interprets the readings, shining a light on the present and asking each one of us what we must change in our lives, from today. The challenge is not so much about recounting the history or retelling the story, but living the gospel.

*The focus of this Sunday's readings is squarely on God's lavish love for us, and the question we must ask ourselves is how we are being called to respond to that love. The second reading makes clear what love truly is: "not that we have loved God, but that he loved us" and proved it by sending his Beloved Son into the world to give us life by sacrificing his own! Because God IS love and loves all of us completely, we are called to love each other as well. Jesus' love for us is so intimate and profound that he tells the apostles in today's gospel that he loves them in the same way the Father loves him. In the end he gave them only one commandment to obey to remain in his love and experience his joy: "Love one another as I love you." They were commissioned to spread that love to others through the Church after his Ascension. We are his witnesses now. How are we called to be the incarnation of God's love in our own day and situations? The first reading from Acts 10 challenged me to ask myself that question. When Peter sees for himself the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of Gentile faith seekers, he realises that his fellow Jews were not the only ones called to become members of Christ's family. Who have I seen as "other" that I need to see as someone Jesus died for and loves? Can I see good in someone who doesn't vote the same way I do? Act the way I would like them to? Comes from another country needing my help? How would Jesus respond to these "others"? How should I? **By Marylou Garrett, Notre Dame Associate - notredamesisters.org***