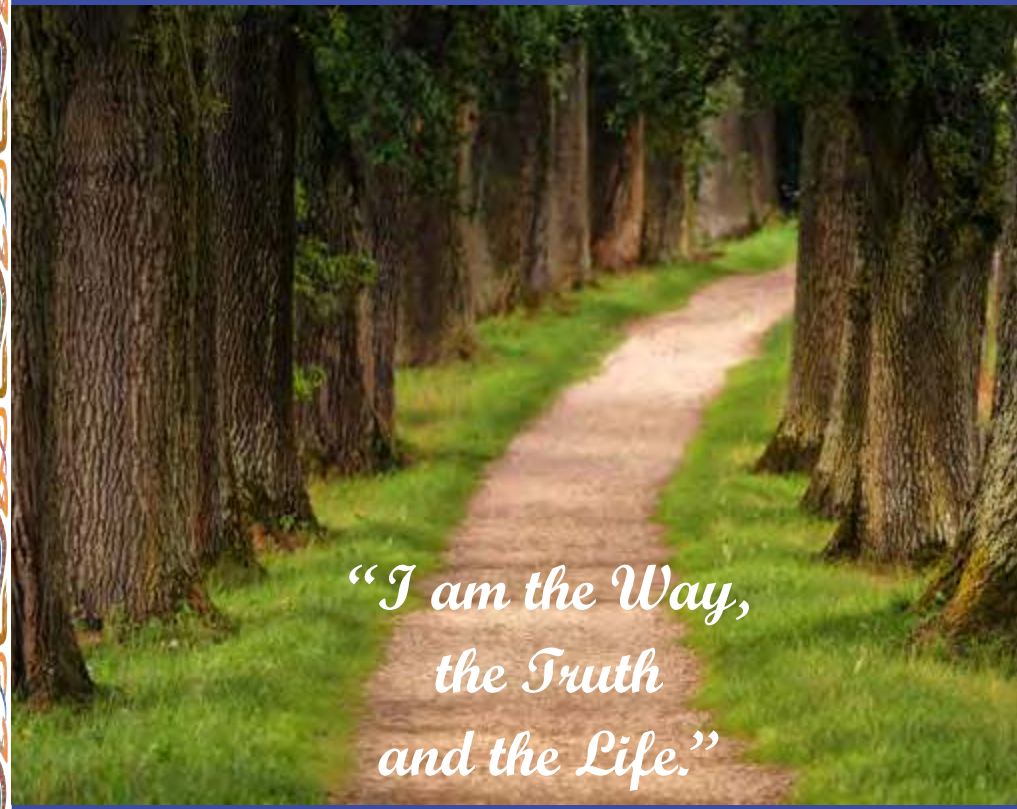


focus on sunday

The centre of Christianity is not a rule of law, a code of behaviour, but a Person whose love we receive and whose life we imitate. Jesus is in this manner, "the way, the truth and the life."



"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."



There is something of the very wide love of God in this gospel reading. The life that Jesus prepares for us is diverse – in the house of God there are rooms for all of us, rooms that suit each of us. As there are rooms in the Father's house, there are spaces in God's heart for all of us. God's heart is big enough to love each of us just as we are.


We often say of someone, 'he/she has a big heart'. This can mean someone is generous, kind, forgiving. A big-hearted person can see the good in others. This sort of heart is close to the heart of God.

This gospel is often read at funeral masses, with its consoling message that Jesus has gone before us, and our death will be our meeting with him. It's consoling also because he is our way to God, the truth about life and God, and all of our existence is sharing in his life.

Lord Jesus, be the way that guides our steps in life, the truth that enlightens of our minds and the life that gives love to our hearts.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

Jesus' Story *Fr. Liam Hickey*



When people die we say that they have passed away, to their Home in Heaven, and they find New Breath in God. The prayer says "We thank You God Our Father because You made us to live for You, and for each other". Mary is our mother in Heaven she is with God, she is very close to each one of us. Being in God who is close to us, Mary shares this closeness, knows our hearts, hears our prayers. She always listens, is always close to us. Mary help us to be friends of Jesus and follow His Way.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters....
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.* Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right and just.*

SANCTUS
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.....
AFTER THE CONSECRATION
The mystery of faith. When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE SIGN OF PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always. *And with your spirit.*

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION
Behold the Lamb of God,
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE
The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.* May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Go in peace, **Thanks be to God,**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

GREETING

In the name of the Father*Amen.*
The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.*

PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.

May almighty God have mercy on us.....*Amen.*
Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us;

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 6: 1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 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

R. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. or Alleluia!

1. 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]**
2. 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]**
3. 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 1 Peter 2:4 - 9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

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 ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:1-12

The Lord be with you *And with your spirit*
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.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.