

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

Read John 14.23-29

*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.*

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus is trying to prepare his friends for a time when he will no longer be with them. He knows that this will be a worrying time for them. What sort of things make you worried? Is there something that you are worried about at the moment? How do you deal with it when you feel worried? Do you talk to a friend, try to find a solution, ask for help, pray to God?

Jesus tells his followers that he will send an Advocate to help them. An Advocate is someone who supports you or speaks up for you when you need help. Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit. Jesus is promising that God's Spirit will be with his followers at all times, even after he has died. Why do you think that Jesus described the Holy Spirit as an advocate? How might the Holy Spirit act as an advocate in our lives?

Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would help them remember what he had said and how he had taught them about God. Who has taught you about God? What helps you to remember what Jesus said and did?

The Holy Spirit is sometimes illustrated as a Dove, and this is also used as a symbol for Peace. Jesus offers his peace to his followers: a peace that is different from worldly peace.



There are lots of images of war on television at the moment because of the terrible war in the Ukraine. Many Ukrainian people have had to leave their homes and travel to another country to try and find a peaceful place to live. How do you think these refugees are feeling? We think of peace as a place where there is no conflict or fighting. But peace can also be about feeling settled, having good relationships with other people, feeling comfortable with people from different cultures and backgrounds. What is your idea of peace? How might Jesus' peace help you in a scary situation?



The title of this image is "Peace is in our Hands". Each one of us can be a peacemaker in our own way and our own community. Think of ways that you could be a peacemaker. Are there ways that you can bring peace and joy to people you know - your family and friends?

### Activities

- Draw an empty speech bubble on a large sheet of paper. Write a prayer inside the speech bubble for someone you know who needs God's peace. Through your prayers, you are acting as an advocate between this person and God.

**Prayer**

*Light a candle with your family and use this prayer:*

We light this candle for peace, Lord.

May its light scatter the darkness;

may its flame be a symbol of hope;

may its burning be a sign of faith, joining with other lights for peace.

May the Holy Spirit guide us to be peacemakers,

bringing joy and warmth to all the people we meet. Amen.