

Seventh Sunday of Easter
+ Sunday, 16 May 2021



World Communications Day – Day of Prayer for the Right Use of Media

Cycle of Prayer: new members of the Church

Keynote: The mission of discipleship

Acts of the Apostles 1: 15-17, 20-26

In the days between the Ascension and Pentecost, Peter now taking the role of the leader of the assembly of believers stands up to address them, and to select a successor to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot. *'We must choose someone,'* says Peter *'who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us... someone with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he (Jesus) was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.'* So having drawn lots Matthias was listed as one of the twelve apostles. The essential elements of the continuity of the ministry of discipleship are established. The disciple is to be a witness of all that Jesus said and did. Called to witness to the death and resurrection of the Lord, and to be invited, by the whole assembly of the faithful, to fulfil this ministry of service.

Responsorial Psalm 102 (103) – In praise of God's love

First Letter of John 4: 11-16

A constant in the theology of John is the thought that God is the source of love and that it is God who chooses to reveal that love to people. God chooses to love us, unworthy as we are. *'God will live in us and his love will be complete in us'* writes John *'we can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit.'*

These are profound thoughts and worthy of our time. To be a disciple – to be possessed with the love of God, to be intimate with God – is to be in love. Such joy in love is not something we normally keep to ourselves, such joyful news, and a happy experience, this is news to be shared with others. So the disciple is to be a witness. *'We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God.'*

Gospel according to John 17: 11-19

This gospel text is drawn from what is called the Last Supper Discourse, and in it Jesus seems to be addressing his disciples before sending them out on their mission to the world. The key thoughts appear to be that Jesus is praying to the Father, that the disciples will be true, faithful to the word that Jesus has passed to them, and that they will be united as one. *'Holy Father,'* says Jesus *'keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us... I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world.'*

It is for each of us to reflect today on the meaning of discipleship and what our response to the gospel will be, whether to respond to the invitation to be witnesses, and at the same time to be true to ourselves, always *'consecrated in the truth'*.