

26<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year C)

Acts 15:1-2,22-29; Psalm 66(67):2-3,5-6,8; Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23; John 14:23-29.

**'The Holy Spirit will teach you everything!'**

The story that we form part of and that we celebrate each time we meet as a faith community, is deeply rooted in God's great love. Out of this love, God creates us so that we can come to know him, love him, and worship him; we are invited to have a share in his divine life.

The books of the bible tell us of this divine adventure. God creates the whole universe which already speaks of his divinity. The book of Genesis tells us that God saw that it was good! The universe we live in reflects God's infinite goodness.

God creates the universe as a home for us to live in as a revelation of himself to us. God then continues to reveal himself, in a special way to his chosen people, through his relationship with them. The whole of the Old Testament is a record and a reflection of this process of revelation.

Along the Old Testament God speaks through various messengers and in the New Testament God himself comes to live with us and is born as a young child in the person of Jesus. Jesus is both fully human and fully God, he is the Son of God and the Word of God. In Jesus God now speaks directly to us; in his life, death and resurrection he becomes the fullest revelation of God.

God knows that as limited human beings, we can never fully know God, even if God himself speaks to us directly. After Jesus' death and resurrection, we still need another helper to continue guiding us in our revealing relationship of God. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, journeys with us and within us, and continues to lead us to God.

When we live Jesus' commandment, his word and his teachings, this Word comes alive in us and this Word of God, that is God himself, makes its home in us. Our faith relationship with God never ends. We need to continue growing and learning more about God. In one of his letters Paul tells us that here we can only know God indirectly, as if through a mirror, only a reflection; but the moment will come when we will be able to be fully and totally in God. Here on earth, God lives in us; when we die, we rise again to live fully in God.

As a community of faith, we too are on a journey of discovery. The experience of the People of God is that we need to keep on learning and discovering more about who God is. The Body of Christ starts with the teachings in the Word of God, but does not stop there. God's revelation of himself to us continues. As the People of God interacts with the universe and the culture around us, as it changes continually, we continue to ask questions and to grow in our understanding of God. The Holy Spirit, the helper God sends us, guides us in our discovery of God.

As we read the books of the Old Testament, we notice that God always reveals himself in a way that can be understood by the people he is showing himself to. To people of no faith, God shows himself through creation; we can all see the beautiful creations of God and praise him in his creation. The various prophets of the Old Testament and Jesus himself speak to people around them in words and symbols they could understand. God also reveals himself to people of different faiths and beliefs. Our role as people of God today is to continue finding God and speak of him in a way that can be understood by the culture we live in today. We therefore need to be current in the ways of our world and in a faith dialogue with God so that, helped by the Spirit of God, we can continue to bring God to the world we live in.

The Holy Spirit, the 'other' advocate, who God sends upon us especially on Pentecost, and each moment in our life that we require his assistance, will journey with us, enlighten us, and lead us on this journey.

..... Mario