



CELEBRATING AT HOME

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Love among us, Love within us (John 15:9-17)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

We are gathered with the whole Church in this moment of prayer.

Preparing to hear the Word

We have been called by God
to be the Church,

the Body of Christ in this world.

We are not a building, but a people,
gathered and grounded in

the Word of God,

the love of Christ,

and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

God of life,

prepare us anew to be bearers of your Spirit.

Scripture Reading (*John 15:9-17*)

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.

No one can have greater love than this,

to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends, if you do as 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 in
my name.

What I command you is to love one another.’

Reflection - *Jesus, bond of love*

As we approach the coming feasts of the Ascension
and Pentecost, the Gospel today helps us understand
that Jesus is our bond of love with the Father and with
one another.

Jesus shows us the way to live full and happy lives by
living in love: “I have told you this so that my own joy
may be in you and your joy be complete.”

The commandments of Jesus are always about love -
love of God and love of neighbour. Those who live by
these commandments of Jesus abide with him, others
and the Father in love.

Jesus is the reign of God in person. He is both the
image of God and the model of the redeemed human
being that each of us is called to be.

When Jesus says he has told the disciples everything
he has learned from the Father it reminds us that
Jesus was human as well as divine; that his life was a
journey of learning, too; a path of facing choices and
challenges. Jesus tells his disciples that they are his
friends. They have become his friends because he has
shared his knowledge and understanding and love of
the Father with them.

We remain in Christ by remaining in his love and loving
one another just as Christ has loved us. We are no
longer servants but friends of Jesus because he has
made known to us everything he learnt from God.
Jesus has chosen us and commissioned us to be love
and to do love in the heart of the world.

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Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the whole Church and its leaders.
May our life together witness to your loving presence in word and action.

May your love at work in us,
hold us together in bonds of friendship and peace.

Love often calls us to a new direction and a new purpose.
Give us your strength that we may lay down our lives for each other.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Lord, God,
in the resurrection of Jesus
you share with us his risen life.
Transform our darkness, fear and isolation
with your comforting presence
so that we can be your calm, loving,
healing presence to each other.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our trust in you.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



The
Carmelites
Australia & Timor-Leste

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