

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (a)

## *Mothers' Day*

### Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)*

*Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.*

*Remind everyone that there will be refreshments ????*

*Announce the theme of the liturgy (see next)*

### **Theme – “I will give you another Advocate”**

*leader: In today's gospel reading,*

*Jesus continues his farewell talk to his disciples.*

*Jesus is the visible presence of GOD among humanity.*

*He is the person who establishes a new covenant with disciples.*

*He speaks like the covenant GOD of Sinai.*

*GOD demands to be loved exclusively.*

*Now is time for us to take stock, for the long-haul ahead.*

*The approach of mid-winter – when plant growth*

*seems to slow or even die-off completely,*

*serves to remind us, that like the fleeting hints of the sun's warmth*

*in late autumn, the gifts of the Spirit are subtle and scarcely noticed!*

*This Sunday is Mothers' Day and we have an intercession for all mothers asking a blessing for our mothers who have given us life and well-being.*

*(Announce the opening hymn: . . . . .)*

### Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:*

*The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, whose table we share, be with us:*

*all: **And with your spirit***

### **Penitential Rite** *Invitation to Repentance*

*leader: GOD, in Jesus, has called us to a radical new way of living.*

*Now is the time to take stock for the journey ahead:*

- *Our understanding of GOD's call and our acting on the call is tentative and slow: - (pause) - **LORD, have mercy:***
- *We too easily forget the good news about the radical new life to which Jesus' call invites us: - (pause) - **CHRIST, have mercy:***
- *As winter approaches we notice only the increasing cold and wet - rather than the hints of the sun's warmth. Like the sun's presence, which is powerful, but subtle; we can ignore and dismiss the hints of GOD's Spirit: - (pause) - **LORD, have mercy:***

*May almighty GOD, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of`*

*GOD's realm:*

*all:* **Amen**

**GLORIA** *an invitation*

*leader:* *With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to GOD.*

**Opening Prayer**

*leader:* *(Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, ...)* *Faithful GOD,*  
*Who love us in Christ Jesus,*  
*send Your Spirit of truth to dwell within us,*  
*that we may always reject what is false,*  
*live by the commands of Christ,*  
*and be true to the love You have shown us.*  
*Grant this through Jesus Christ,*  
*the resurrection and the life,*  
*who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,*  
*GOD now and always:*

*all:* **Amen.**

**Introduction to the first reading:** *(Acts 8 : 5 – 8, 14 – 17)*

*leader:* *Acts reports the persecution of the church in Jerusalem following the death of Stephen. Samaria is evangelised by refugees from Jerusalem. The Samaritans had entertained their own hopes about the Messiah. They were related to the Hebrews by ties of kinship and religion. But they lived separately and were considered heretics by orthodox Hebrews.*

**Introduction to the second reading:** *(1 Peter 3 : 15 – 18)*

*leader:* *The author confirms that the resident-alien Christians of Asia Minor, are being tested and called to give an account of their beliefs. These believers suffered inferior political, legal, and social status. In such conditions, their unity with, and their fidelity to GOD, was at risk. The writer urges them; "Do what is right." They are to live uprightly in the midst of hostility, inspired by their Christian hope.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*all:* **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All who love me will keep my words,  
 and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
 Alleluia!**

**Introduction to the gospel reading:** *(John 14 : 15 – 21)*

*leader:* *In continuing his farewell talk to his disciples, Jesus declares that they love him by obeying his commandments. Already they know that these commandments are only one – the new commandment! Jesus is love incarnate. He is the new commandment. To live his message of love, is to love one another.*

**Homily Notes** *presider:*

- *The announcement of this "news" is always an act of liberated defiance. The liturgy challenges and exposes the defeated power of death which still seem to have vitality and authority. As disciples of the risen Jesus - the doers of the new Word of God – we stand between the old world that still seems very powerful, and the new world voiced in the texts.*
- *For John the evangelist, there is only one gift of the Spirit – the knowledge of the Truth that is Jesus! The resurrection of Jesus is our sign of the victory of GOD's Life and Truth over the power-of-death - all forms of unreasonableness, self-deception, bigotry, prejudice, and pedantic legalism. For us Jesus embodies the undying spirit/Spirit of Truth or holy Wisdom (Sophia).*
- *In the tradition of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, the gift of Truth or Wisdom holds together reasonable knowledge of the world and passionate trust in GOD. Self-deception, bigotry, prejudice, and pedantic legalism, still characterise life in our world! The "Spirit of Truth" that Jesus promises for the community of believers (Jn.14:17a) implies that there is a "not-knowing," and a "waiting to know," a "patience about what is yet to be discerned," and a "respect for this not knowing, that must be honoured and not crowded out!"*
- *Long ago, GOD breathed upon the waters and stirred them to life! We actively wait for GOD to breathe once more upon our world - that we may know a new and better place, where everything around is alive to GOD. Partly in anticipation of the new world that is coming into being, partly in remembrance of GOD's action in the past, we respond to the re-presentation of GOD's WORD and Sacrament with "Thanks be to GOD!"*
- *Jesus is going to send the spirit of Love; the spirit/Spirit of Jesus. Jesus doesn't call this spirit, the spirit of Love, but "the Spirit of Truth." In the Hebrew scriptures, the holy Spirit is the spirit of the LORD GOD, and that is the same as saying the spirit of Justice and true Freedom. The spirit of the LORD GOD spoke through the prophets proclaiming the truth. The spirit of GOD, or the spirit of Justice, is the spirit of struggle that is present in people. It is also the spirit of Jesus. Worldly ones who practise injustice, don't see or recognize this spirit (v.17b). When Jesus came into the world, it was full of falsehoods, myths and deceptions, because it was full of injustice. Somewhere John says that Truth is the same as Love.*
- *In John's gospel "the world" means the same as "the system" or the unjust society! Jesus says those who belong to the system, cannot receive the spirit. Jesus implies a continued or permanent presence of GOD's Spirit (v.18). The Paraclete is this presence (v.16) while Jesus is absent! The spirit of Truth is a paraclete, carrying on the earthly*

*advocacy work of Jesus, in and through His disciples. The real gift of Jesus after the resurrection, was the union with him that did not depend on his bodily presence to all His followers (vv.19-21). In the period after the resurrection, Jesus' life is the source of the Christian's life as a community. When life in Jesus' spirit/Spirit has been received by his followers, they will recognise that it is a life mutually shared by Father and Son.*

- *The condition for sharing in the indwelling of the Father and the Son in our lives, is keeping Jesus' commandment. This is loving him. It is really repeating the earlier verse (v.15). Love and keeping the commandments are two different facets of the same way of life. The one who loves is the one who practices the truth and commits no injustice. GOD is Truth, and Love is Truth. But what happens is that many of us know the Truth, but we don't practise it, or we don't obey the Truth out of fear. We obey a lie. If we obey Jesus' commandment, we have to disobey the commandments of the worldly ones. Jesus promises that those who follow His commandment to love will be able to understand (v.21).*

## **Creed**

**Intercessions - 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter** [ Sun 10<sup>th</sup> – Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 ]*invitation to pray:*

*leader: Friends, let us pray with confidence to GOD who did not leave us alone in the world, but sent us a special Advocate who pleads our cause and the cause of our world:*

*1: Let us pray for peace. May the peace that the Risen Jesus offers, and which the world is unable to give; inspire us to place ourselves at the service of others: - (pause) - GOD of Peace-makers, hear us:*

*all: **GOD of Peace-makers, hear us.***

*2: For Church leaders. May the peace that the Risen Jesus offers, help them to defend the freedom of the Gospel and not burden believers with the weight of our human traditions: - (pause) - GOD of True Freedom, hear us:*

*all: **GOD of True Freedom, hear us.***

*3: For our parish. May the peace that the Risen Jesus offers, renew us through GOD's holy Spirit, who keeps the WORD of Jesus in our hearts: - (pause) - Spirit of Parish Renewal, hear us:*

*all: **Spirit of Parish Renewal, hear us.***

*4: For mothers. May GOD bless them for bringing us life and who continue to influence us for the good: - (pause) - GOD of Motherhood, hear us:*

*all: **GOD of Motherhood, hear us.***

*5: Healer of the sick, we pray to You for: . . . (see parish newsletter)  
Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering.  
May they be blessed with courage and patience:*

*- (pause) - GOD of Well-being, hear us:*

*all: **GOD of Well-being, hear us.***

*6: O GOD, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon You in hope, look kindly on Your servants who have died confessing Your name, including those who have died recently . . . and those whose anniversaries occur about now: . . . (see parish newsletter)*

*Number them among Your saints: - (pause) - GOD of Eternal Life, hear us:*

*all: **GOD of Eternal Life, hear us.***

*Concluding Prayer:*

*leader: Holy GOD, Your Son came into the world in humility and gentleness.  
Help us to have this same spirit with one another and within ourselves.  
We make this prayer through Jesus:*

*all: **Amen***

*( If no priest is presiding; introduce a short Prayer of Thanksgiving [below] before introducing the LORD's Prayer. )*

### **Prayer**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, ... ) GOD be with you.*  
*all: **And also with you.***  
*presider: Lift up your hearts.*  
*all: **We lift them up to the LORD.***  
*presider: Let us give thanks to our GOD.*  
*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***  
*presider: It is truly right and just,  
 our duty and our salvation,  
 that we should always sing Your glory, LORD;  
 but we praise You with greater joy than ever  
 in this Easter season  
 when Christ became our Paschal Sacrifice.  
 In him a new age has dawned:  
 the long reign of sin is ended,  
 a broken world has been restored,  
 and life for us is once again made whole.  
 Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,  
 and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of Your glory:*  
*all: **Amen***

### **Introduction to the LORD's Prayer**

*presider: With trust in GOD, who nourishes us in the hour of need,  
 let us pray as Jesus taught us:*  
*all: **Our Father, ...***  
*presider: Deliver us, O GOD, we pray, from every evil;  
 graciously grant peace in our days,  
 that by the help of Your mercy,  
 we may be always freed from sin  
 and safe from all distress,  
 as we await the blessed hope  
 and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*  
*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,  
 now and for ever. Amen.***

### **Sign of Peace**

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:  
 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.  
 Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church  
 and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,  
 where you live, now and always:*  
*all: **Amen.***  
*presider: The peace of the LORD be with you:*  
*all: **And with your spirit.***

*presider: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:*

**Lamb of GOD**

*all: **Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us (x2)  
Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.***

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living GOD,  
who by the will of the Father  
and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
through your death gave life to the world;  
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood  
from all our sins and from every evil:  
keep us always faithful to your commandments  
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*presider: Behold the Lamb of GOD. Behold him who takes away the sins  
of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the  
Lamb.*

*all: **LORD, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***

**Holy Communion**

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:  
( Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti: )*

**Prayer after Communion**

*leader: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, ... ) All-powerful and ever-living GOD,  
in the resurrection of Christ You restore us to eternal life.  
Increase within us the effects of this Easter mystery  
and pour out in our hearts the strength of this saving food.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ:*

*all: **Amen.***

*( an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . . )*

**Dismissal**

*leader: We are sent; in the name of the GOD,  
Father of Justice and Freedom;  
we are sent in the name of Jesus,  
the Way of Life and Truth;  
we are sent in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
the Advocate who dwells within us;  
to promote life in the spirit/Spirit of Jesus.  
until we gather again:*

*all: **Amen***

### **The Blessing**

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,  
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

*leader: The Mass has ended, let us go in peace to love and serve our GOD:*

*all: **Thanks be to GOD.***