

## **Fr. Martin's Reflection – May 22, 2022**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we all know, it is so very hard to say goodbye to someone we love. May they be moving to another part of the world or leaving this world to go to God. In this period following the resurrection, Jesus is preparing his followers for his imminent departure, but what is crucial, he reassures them that he is not going to leave them alone, abandoned, or without them feeling his continued presence.

Jesus reminds his disciples of the importance of reflecting on the 'word' he gave them, and to live a life of love. Jesus knew that his followers would have to endure struggles, and if they reflected on his word and practiced each day the gift of love, this would enable them to face the struggles of this world. Jesus was also aware that some of these struggles would be difficult and sometimes divisive. To help them with these difficulties he promised to send them the Advocate – the Holy Spirit.

Our Church today still faces difficult struggles that are divisive, but if we remember the love that Jesus has left us, and practice that love, and call on the Holy Spirit to guide us, then we will continue to struggle on.

Our own personal struggles are no different, let us practice the love of Christ towards others and towards ourselves, and let us call on the Holy Spirit to guide us in our decision making.

**“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our dwelling with them.**

**The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”** Jn 14:23-29

God's grace and love always,

*Fr. Martin*