

TRINITY NEWS

Sixth Sunday of Easter Unforgettable Words Sealed by the Spirit

“Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me ”(John 14: 24). Jesus linked the love of God with love of neighbour and self-respect. Here he links the words that he has spoken with the love of those who still listen to him. He says that he speaks from the heart of the Father of all lights, that his words are not just his words but the words of the one who sent him. If we really love of someone, then their words are treasured. We love God because he first loved us, and it is often so with the love that we feel for someone else. Something has come from them, whether it is a smile that entrances us and includes us, or a touch of warmth makes us feel good inside. We may also sense in them some sort of integrity and strength of character and a grasp of what is true in life.

There are many aspects of human conduct that make us associate the word love with a person. Perhaps it is true simplicity, that rare gift that makes someone stand out in the crowd. They stand out because they have dared to be themselves. They trust in a few essentials that are really necessary for the well-being of our character and our integrity and the formation of our person that is recognised with a name.

I have thought about many of these aspects of being a person this week as we went through the rites and reflections that pertained to the wonderful life of Gabriel Dimanche. We tend to turn such people into saints in a singular sense, but in so doing we sometimes take away what made them truly human for us. Fr. Gaby would certainly resist it! He might say, “I have loved life and loved people and loved God. I discovered love in another sense in this country that offered me support that I would never have dreamed of before.” He reminded me of a calm pool in the shade of a towering forest, but he could be firm at times about things that mattered to him.

The gospel today goes on to talk about the Paraclete, “the Holy Spirit’ who will help us to remember Christ and his words. The remembering focus of the Paraclete is part of the Eucharist as the words at the Last Supper are recalled. The Paraclete is in the words of Scripture making them “ever new” for us. When a holy person comes among us in the name of Christ, the Paraclete refreshes our memories of them for the good of our souls. Memories fade, but The Holy Spirit makes them memorable again.

Bishop Arthur Jones

TO PLAN:

May 8, Wednesday.

- Bible study, 10am.
- Group discussion about Christian Meditation on the Scriptures, 7:30pm, Parish office. **Booklet: When God Speaks** (*by Henry & Richard Blackaby*)

May 9, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 47 or 68

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20

John 17:20-26