

**Reflection on John 14: 15-21**  
**Gospel Reading for 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of Easter**

Last week's Gospel reading began by our Lord Jesus saying to his disciples "Do not let your hearts be troubled" and he exhorts his followers to believe in, i.e. to put their trust in, the Son and the Father. We could rephrase this exhortation as "don't be anxious". Why were the disciples so stressed out anyway? You will recall that the Master was preparing his followers for what was to come next i.e. his death and resurrection and what was next for them. It was all very hard for them to grasp; it was all very perplexing and unprecedented. Unlike the disciples, who were trying to visualize the future with little, if any, frame of reference, we have the advantage of being able to look back on the historical events, and the spiritual significance, surrounding the Passion and Resurrection. We also have the Scriptures and Church teachings to help us understand what was about to happen.

In the Gospel for this Sunday (May 17), our Lord continues preparing his disciples, and his disciples' anxiety, no doubt, continues also. He explains to them that they are to demonstrate their love for Him by obedience even when things are hard to fully understand. Moreover, he will no longer be visible to them, but the Father will send the Holy Spirit to mightily help them. While I imagine the disciples' angst building, Jesus declares these incredible words, "I will not leave you orphaned" and "because I live, you will also live." There is much more to this passage, but these are the words, I believe, God wants us to hear, process, and be changed by, during the Covid-19 pandemic. Like the disciples, we are living through very anxious times and things are confusing. I encourage us all to look back on the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ as we near the end of the Easter season and heed the words of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit "I will not leave you orphaned" and "because I live, you will also live." God bless you!

Finally, I wish to include some of the words of a popular Gospel song which I was reminded of whilst preparing this reflection.

*God sent His son, they called Him Jesus.*

*He came to love, heal, and forgive!*

*He lived and died to buy my pardon,*

*An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!*

*Chorus:*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,*

*Because He lives, all fear is gone!*

*Because I know He holds the future,*

*And life is worth the living,*

*Just because He lives!*

For those with Internet here is the URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M-zwE33zHA&feature=youtu.be>

*Reflection Provided by Deacon Michael Foulger*