

**Tuesday, May 12, 2020; Fifth Week of Easter**

Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 144(145):10-13a, 21; John 14:27-31

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you...”

These special words of Jesus define the power of his presence with us, especially in difficult times. His disciples were faced with uncertainties and fear of the unknown when they first received these words. The two verbs (leave and give) describe the enduring character of Christ’s gift of peace. What Christ gives, he leaves with us; he does not give it and take it back. It is not temporary. So that gift is synonymous with Jesus’ actual presence with us, the reason he encourages us not to let our hearts be troubled or afraid. That synonymity also makes Christ’s gift of peace essentially different from peace as the world knows it. In Christ’s peace, the disciples remain fearless, courageous and joyful even in the midst of trouble and struggles because of the consciousness of God’s abiding presence and indwelling. That was the situation of Paul and others, who remained undeterred by the many hardships they endured, while pushing ahead with the spread of the good news. Worldly peace thrives in the absence of bad times. Christ’s peace thrives even amidst war, sickness, challenges and death because nothing can take it away from those who receive it.

Jesus, Lamb of God, grant us your peace. Amen.

Fr Maurice Igboerika