



Liturgy Cycle C

Fifth Sunday Of Easter

Love One Another

Introduction

Love one another as I have loved you.' Of all the commandments Christ gave us this as the most important. It sums up all the others. In a sense the only failure in the life of a Christian is the failure to love. Let us think about the people we don't love, don't speak to, don't forgive, and don't associate with.

First Reading (Acts 14:21-27)

Paul and Barnabas retrace their steps encouraging the little communities of Christians which they had founded.

Second Reading (Rev. 21:1-5)

This is taken from the final part of Apocalypse, and opens with the vision of a new world, and the manifestation of a new Jerusalem. This new order of things has been inaugurated by Christ.

Gospel (John 13:31-35)

During his last supper with his apostles Christ left them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Everyone should know that we are followers of Christ by the love we have for one another. Let us pray for the gift of love.

R: Lord, teach us to love.

For all the followers of Christ: that their love for one another may be sincere, generous and unselfish. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, teach us to love.

For all those who are well-off or powerful: that they may refrain from exploiting others; rather, that they may share with them, especially with the needy. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, teach us to love.

For all those who do not know Christ: that they may see him and meet him in the love of Christians. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, teach us to love.



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That we may not be content merely to love our friends, but that we may try to be kind even to those who make life difficult for us. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, teach us to love.

Communion Reflection

**It is easy to love people who are far away
It is not always easy to love those who are close to us.
It is easier to give a few pounds to relieve famine in Africa
than to relieve the loneliness of someone living next door.
In other words, it is easy to love at a distance,
but not so easy to love at close quarters**

**But does Christ really expect me to love
that woman next door who never stops gossiping,
that stupid fellow I have to work beside every day,
that unfriendly bus conductor who never smiles,
that shouting party member or social climber, that bad-tempered
foreman,
that neighbour's cheeky spoiled brats . . .?**

**Ah, if only they were in China or India,
and they needed my help,
I would be moved with pity and send them something.
But they are right on my doorstep**

**Yes, these are the people Christ asks us to love.
We must begin by loving the people near us.
That is where our love for each other must start.
But of course it doesn't have to end there.**