

## **Homily for 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Eastertide (A) 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

This time between Ascension and Pentecost is a special, privileged time in the Church's calendar. Don't let it pass by unnoticed or unmarked.

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, as Advent is to Christmas, and Lent is to Easter, so this time is to Pentecost. It is a time of preparation and prayer to receive the Holy Spirit afresh, for the Holy Spirit to renew that presence, that powerful indwelling within us.

This time also has echoes of the 'in-between' time that is Holy Saturday. There is silence and stillness as we wait for something momentous.

The eleven apostles, with the women, 'including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers' show us how this is done. They join 'in continuous prayer' as they await 'what the Father has promised'. Waiting, watching, praying: familiar themes perhaps from the lockdown.

In the gospel we see Jesus at prayer. Chapter 17 of St John's Gospel is sometimes called the Priestly prayer of Jesus. It is the most intimate and privileged revelation of his loving, priestly heart and his union with the Father.

We are all called to share in that one priesthood of Christ. His choice of us may have withdrawn us from the world, but we are still in the world. And our participation in the priesthood of Christ is to pray for the world, for the sanctification of humanity, for the Church and her members, for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

This week especially then, that priestly prayer in each of us, as much as is humanly possible, should be continuous, until we are clothed with power from on high.