A close up of a logo

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**Newsletter for the week commencing23rd/24th May 2020**

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter (A)**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1: 12-14**

**Psalm 65 Response: I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 4: 13-16**

**Gospel: John 17: 1-11**

**Father John writes:**

It is not unusual for people to say that their faith in God is real, but they don’t feel God’s presence as once they did.

On Thursday we celebrated the Feast of Our Lord’s Ascension into heaven. Jesus had been preparing his apostles for this moment because it would be a critical time for them as He leaves them and returned to the glory of heaven.

Luke starts his Acts of the Apostles with the account of the Ascension. “Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight”. How often in the Scriptures that word “cloud” is used to describe God’s real presence among his faithful but hidden from their sight.

When Israel went before God’s people as they escaped from Egypt “The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud” When Moses climbed Mt Sinai “the Lord descended in a cloud” There are so many other texts in the Old Testament speaking of God’s presence, God’s nearness, in a cloud.

And in the New Testament this continues, despite Jesus the Son of God being fully present in their midst.

At the account of Jesus’ transfiguration before three disciples on Mount Sinai, the Father’s voice announced from the cloud: “This is my Son, the Beloved.” Also, how often after Jesus’ Resurrection his disciples did not recognise Him at first until He opened their eyes.

Maybe during this time of lockdown, and no entry to our Church, you have been more aware of the “cloud” rather than the presence.

We pray that, not too soon, we will have access to the ‘real presence of Christ’ in Holy Communion and in our Tabernacle.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased: Graham Cunliffe RIP. (Husband of Bee).** His funeral will be in Tunbridge Wells

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Katherine Hyland, Elvira Lydon, Arthur Hesmer, John Browne, Lawrence Appleton and Claire Kirschen

There is a second collection this weekend for World Communications Day. Please see the notice at the end of the newsletter concerning collections.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week** “Perhaps we could all think of this time of semi-quarantine as an invitation to some monastic introspection, some serious confrontation with the questions that matter.”  Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is a bestselling author, speaker and cultural commentator. Fully embracing the new media, he founded the evangelical Catholic media organisation, Word on Fire, which now reaches millions worldwide. The words above are from a short online video reflection packed with suggestions for enriching one’s spiritual life in a time of isolation. Watch it, and many other of Bishop Barron’s video reflections, at [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](about:blank)

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday.

Regular and second collections: Please put your donations into an envelope and mark it with the date/s and your Gift Aid number (if you are a Gift Aider!). If you are paying by cheque, please make it payable to St. Andrew’s Church and put your Gift Aid number on the back, if applicable. Keep your donations safe and bring them along once the Church is open again! Thank you.

Future second collections:

14th June: CaTEW – Catholic Trust for England and Wales

21st June: Day for Life

28th June: Peter’s Pence