

Pope's prayer intention for May

Evangelization: That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

BE STILL

- Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord today.
- Listen to [‘Remain in my love’](#) by Christopher Willcock SJ.

THIS WEEK

- Friday 31 May: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (feast)
- Saturday 1 June: St Justin, martyr (memorial)

Gathering prayer:

Loving God,
Allow us to draw near to you
and to sit in your presence
as we open our hearts to hear your word.
Amen.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.’

—Luke 14:23–29

The Gospel of the Lord.

Ponder:

Re-read the text. Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice *lectio divina*—the reading of God’s word in prayer asking that it ‘enlighten and renew’ us. The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change in response to this text?
- What troubles me about this text?
- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me?
- Why does it attract me?

Reflect:

Abiding in love

What does it mean to love? This passage reminds us that God remains, or ‘abides’ (meno), in Christ. God dwells in Jesus and therefore has a constant influence upon him. God’s presence is in Jesus. Perhaps our invitation, then, is to remain united with Jesus, because when we unite with Jesus, we also unite with God. To remain in fellowship with Jesus—because we can also be in fellowship with God. To be in union with Jesus—because then we are also in union with God.

So let us this week accept God’s gracious invitation to be in relationship with Jesus, to hold Jesus and God at the heart of all we do, and to go on, with peaceful hearts.

PRAY

Loving God,
Encourage me in my living and my loving.
Gift me with a gracious spirit,
in order that I may more readily respond to your call.
Amen.