

Seventh Sunday of Easter: 'Talking!'

(The Acts of the Apostles 1: 12-14 & the Gospel of John 17: 1-11)

I know we can be told-off for talking too much, especially in the wrong places! So, talking in class is probably not a good idea and in church on a Sunday morning. Having said that there is one exception to the church rule about talking during Mass; that is, you can talk to God who loves to hear from you. We call talking to God prayer, and God always listens to what we say and does not interrupt. We can say everything that has happened to us and what we think about it and how we feel. God always answers us but not always in the way we expect or in the way that other people do. Sometimes he sends us help through the people who love and care for us, like parents, carers, and teachers. At other times we may feel calmer after we have told God about what is happening. There may be times God prompts us to ask those who care for us for help, this happens if we or others cannot manage on our own or we or someone we know has been hurt or is in danger of being hurt or badly treated.

There is another thing we can ask God to help us with, that is, to help us understand, be patient and be good. This is important when things are difficult, such as now when everyone is trying to control this virus and help those who may be sick. In the first reading today some followers of Jesus are together, and they are praying. I think they are praying to help them understand what is happening and to be patient. Jesus has ascended into heaven to be with God the Father. So, these followers of Jesus must be patient until the Holy Spirit comes who brings Jesus to them in a spiritual rather than physical way. It must have been difficult for them to understand but through being together and praying they got through this time of waiting. In the Gospel Jesus is praying to God the Father. We only get a short part of this prayer which is quite long. During this prayer Jesus is praying for his followers. In the same way he prayed for his followers then he still prays for us, his followers, now. All these examples from the Bible show us people talking to God about what has and is happening to them.

So, talk to God! Before you do, think first about what you would like to tell him. Think about what has happened to you and what you think and feel about it. He is a good listener and he will help you. Do not forget to tell parents, carers or teachers, things you think they should know, especially if it is harmful to you or others. Believe God is listening to you and loves you. When you finish telling God what you would like, thank him by saying a prayer like the Our Father. This prayer includes praying for others which is an important part of being a follower of Jesus. Many people make prayer an important part of their daily lives and I hope you will too. God bless you, Canon David