

REFLECTION FOR TUESDAY 6TH WEEK OF EASTER

Acts 16:22-34 John 16:5-11

In today's Gospel, Jesus tries to console his sad and disheartened disciples at the Last Supper, for they are at a loss, hearing the news of their master's imminent departure.

So, he assures them that they will not be left alone. He will send the Holy Spirit upon them as a friend, guide, consoler, and teacher. Then Jesus explains the three different roles of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

First, He will convince the world about the seriousness of sin. Thus, the Holy Spirit will lead us to repent of our sins and seek forgiveness from Jesus. The Divine Advocate will demonstrate that not believing in Jesus is the real sin. It is the Holy Spirit Who would prick the hearts of the Jews on the day of Pentecost, convicting them of their sin of crucifying their Messiah. In the same way, He convicts us of wrongdoing and convinces us of God's truth.

Second, the Spirit convinces us of the righteousness of Christ, which means that Jesus was right in his teachings and promises, as proved by God His Father, Who granted him Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven. Although Jesus was condemned to death, it was actually Satan, the ruler of this world, who was condemned through Jesus' death.

Third, the Holy Spirit gives us the inner and unshakable conviction that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. When we heed God's judgments, we find true peace, joy, and reconciliation with God.

We need the Holy Spirit to enlighten us, to teach us, to help us see things from God's perspective and not just our own.

It is the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who gives us God's perspective. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to see as God sees, to know as God knows, to understand as God understands, to be wise in the way God is wise. That is why we desperately need the Holy Spirit to keep filling our hearts and our minds afresh and set us ablaze with the fire of God's love.

Fr Patrick