

## 6th Sunday of Easter Sunday, 14 May, 2022

**First Reading:** Acts 8:5-8,14-17

**Psalm #66 R:** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 3:15-18

**Gospel Acclamation Verse:** Whoever loves. Me will keep my word, says the Lord;  
and my Father will love him and we will come to him. (John 14:23) **Alleluia**

**Gospel:** John 14:15-21

**Theme:** Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to those who love him and keep his commandments

### Commentary:

Have you blown a balloon up using your own breath? Isn't it amazing how this lifeless piece of latex seems to come to life as it fills with your breathe? It can also be fun to let the balloon go and watch it slowly swirl to the ground as it loses the air you breathed into it, getting smaller and small to its original size.

When we forget to breathe our bodies get starved for oxygen and we become as lifeless as an empty balloon. The word "Spiritus" means breathe or wind, and it is God's Holy Spirit who breathes his life into our lives.

What happens when a lid is put on a jar that has a burning candle in it? The lid cuts off the oxygen and the candle flame goes out. Our hearts, like that candle, glow with warmth and shine with the light of God's goodness and love. His Holy Spirit keeps that flame of love burning and alive with his life-giving breathe.

Jesus tells us today that He will send another Advocate to us when he is no longer with us. An Advocate is someone who speaks for us, to help us. Jesus tells us that he will never leave us alone to fend for ourselves, that because we keep his commandments he will ask the Father to send us the Spirit of truth. He reminds us that this Spirit of truth, this Holy Spirit, is seen in us when we do as Jesus commands and love one another as Jesus loves us.

We get to choose to show our love for the Father, and Jesus when we choose to show kindness even to people who are not kind to us, take care to treat everyone the way we would want them to treat us, share with those who have less than us, forgive and be forgiven, and to remember to pray for everyone.

It is choosing holy moments over unholy moments. When we choose holy moments we are drawing close to Jesus. Unholy moments pull us away from Jesus. It truly is our decision, our choice.

Today is Mother's Day. Mothers, and those that take care of us, show their love in many different ways. Today is a chance to show that you notice and appreciate all the love shown to you. Find a nice way to show your thankfulness for all that is done for you.

What would your days be like if you chose to do even one loving act to the people you are with every day?

May the Holy Spirit inspire you to let God's love shine through you every day.

### Prayer for Families:

Heavenly Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit help us in loving others as You love us. Send your Holy Spirit to help us to share what we have with those who have nothing, to give us the strength and courage we need to forgive others and to be forgiven, to fill our lives with friendship and love so we never feel alone or afraid, and to show us the way to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in loving others. May your Holy Spirit fill our lives and make our hearts burn with the flames of faith and love. This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

**Discussion Starters & Activities, Colouring Pages, Cross Word Puzzle and Word Search:** Pages 2-6

Resources used for inspiration in this post: Holy Heroes, Dynamic Catholic, Sermons4Kids, Katie Thompson

## Family Discussion Starters & Activities

### Discussion starters: (Choose one or more of these after reading today's scripture readings)

1. What happens if you let go of a balloon that is filled with breath? (See Balloon Breath below)
2. What happens when a person stops breathing?
3. Imagine a candle burning in a jar. What do you think might happen when the lid is placed on top of the jar?
4. Why did the flame go out?
5. What are some way you can show appreciation for those who show they love you?
6. Can you give some ideas for holy moments that you can do for others?

### Family Activities

**BALLOON BREATH:** As you slowly inflate a balloon, ask the children to explain what they see happening as it fills with breath. Have them watch carefully as it begins to change in shape and move - and almost seems to come to life! Now have them close their eyes and think about their own breathing. Have them place their hands lightly on their ribcage or chests. As they slowly breathe in and out, encourage them to feel their chest rise and fall as their lungs fill and empty with breath. Now have them open their eyes and let go of the balloon. Ask them what happens? What happens when a person stops breathing?

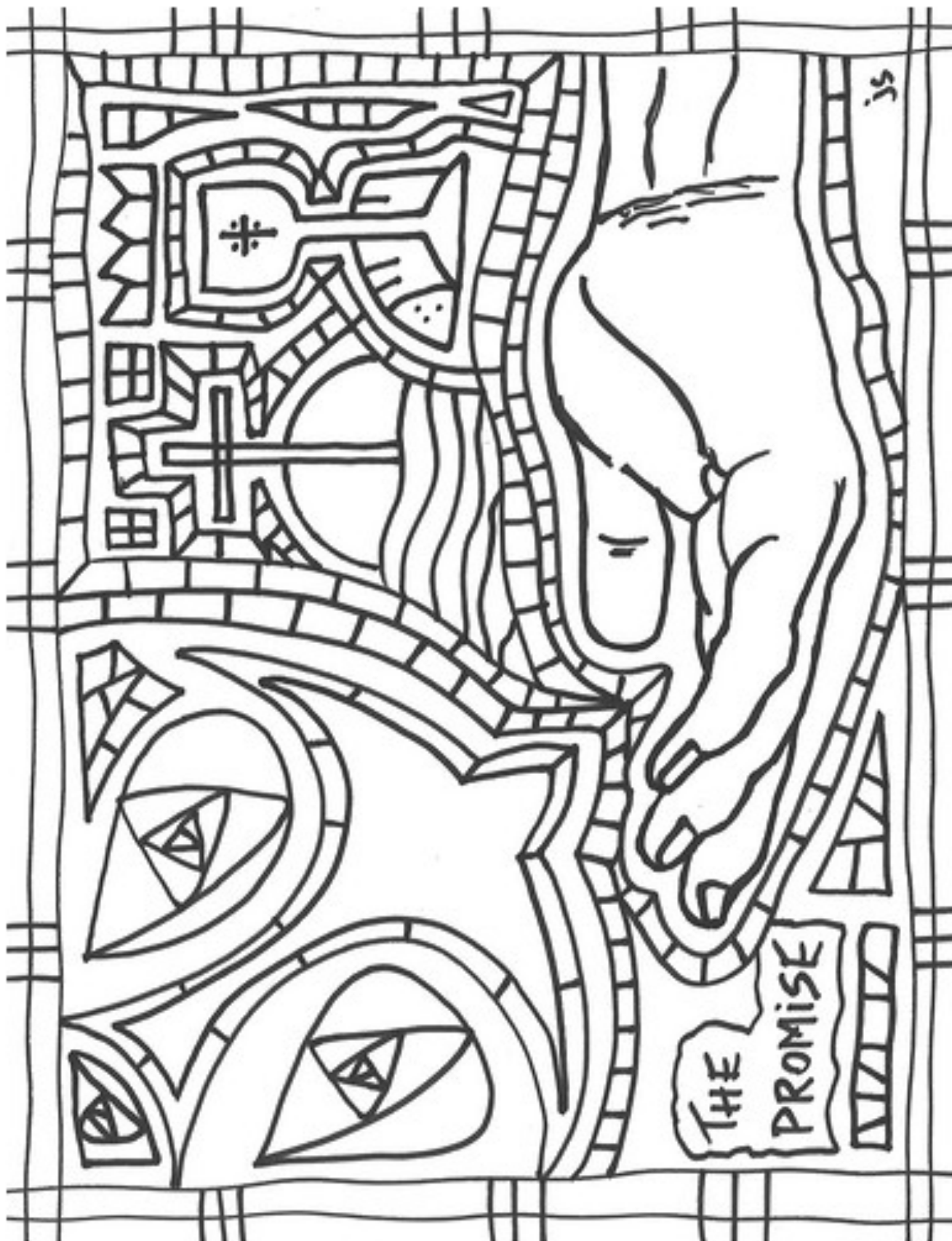
**BALLOONS:** Have the children help you inflate coloured balloons for each of them. Make name tags with their names on them to help them remember that the Holy Spirit is in them.

**SECURE BALLOONS (Or KITES):** Blow up balloons or put together a simple kite in groups or as individuals. Make sure that children tie a strong string or rope to the kite or balloons and let them know that the balloons (or kites) are SECURE and to listen to the Gospel reading to see who else is secure in our lesson today!

**FANCY TEA LIGHT LANTERNS:** **You will need:** a jam or mason-type jar per person, blutack or plasticine, a tea light (battery operated or wick-type), shapes cut from coloured self-adhesive shelf paper. **Directions:** Secure the tea light to the inside of each jar using the blutack or plasticine (wick-type only). Decorate the outside of the jar using different shapes of self-adhesive shelf paper. Lanterns can be used as dining table decor or perhaps outside on the deck or patio to remember today's Gospel.

**SECURE HIDE AND SEEK:** Play HIDE and SEEK but the twist will be that when the SEEKER finds someone, they will take them to a SECURE place and will continue to seek others to place in the SECURE place until everyone is SECURE!

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY CARD:** Provide construction or card stock paper, markers or crayons, stickers, and coloured paper to cut into shapes. Encourage the children to make Mother's Day cards for the women in their lives that take care of them: own mother, grandmother, caregiver, aunts, etc.



John 14:15-17. Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you and he will be in you.

# WORD SEARCH Based on John 14:15-21

B R F O Q B U S A W W C G V R  
 A E I D V X Z K P U O M S H E  
 T L X E T A C O V D A N O S H  
 R S W P U D J R S S N L K E T  
 U J U A L O Q D P A Y P C D A  
 T E V S Y A P Y I U N I O I F  
 H X S F E S I R R A C H N B L  
 V Q U I S J A N I E E S F A L  
 S L X B A M H X T X I R I K E  
 Z Z K P A R G N I S E O R D Y  
 U E R S I R P X F C B W M R G  
 C O M M A N D M E N T S E B O  
 M N U B A P T I Z E D I D H J  
 M P W S K T V H I X F S R K C  
 D T F H P E A X I F X P V M M

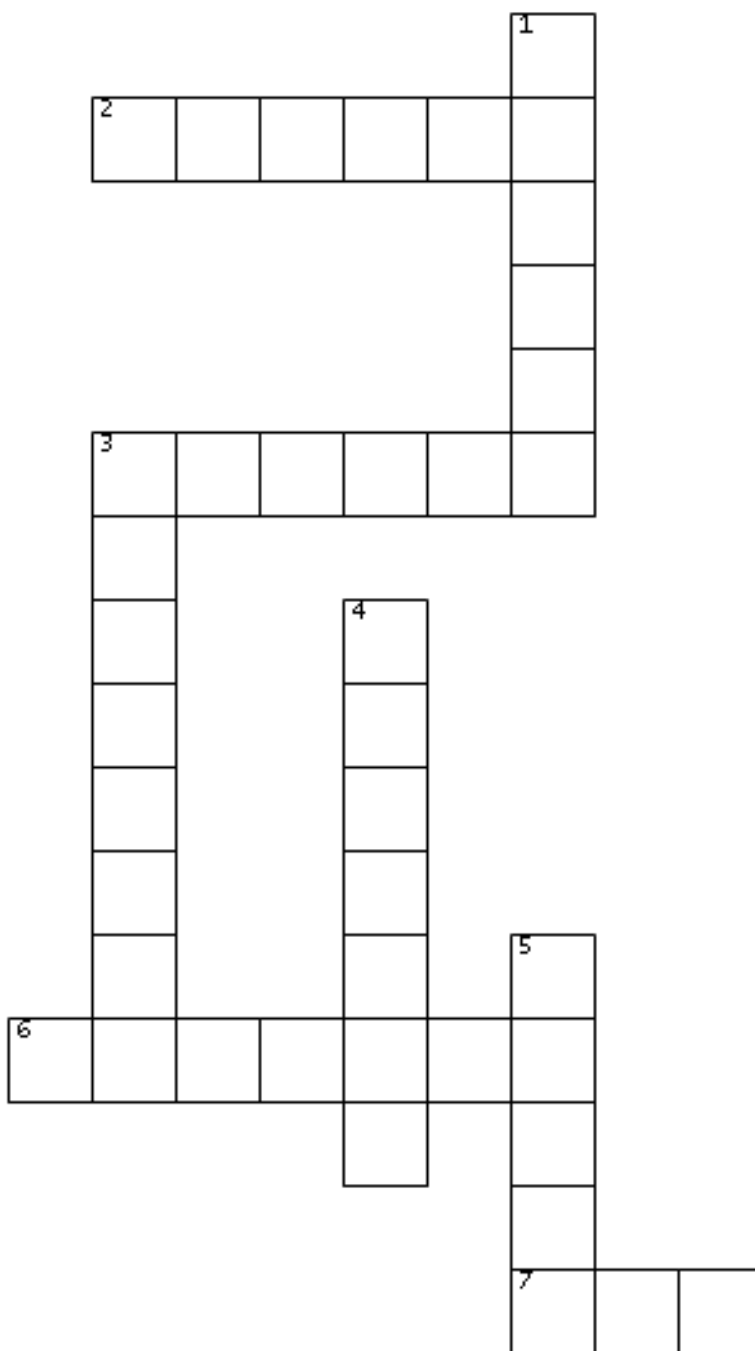
ABIDES  
 ADVOCATE  
 ALWAYS  
 BAPTIZED  
 COMMANDMENTS

CONFIRMED  
 EXPLAIN  
 FATHER  
 HOLY  
 JESUS

JOYFUL  
 KNOW  
 PRAISE  
 RECEIVE  
 SAMARIA

SEE  
 SING  
 SPIRIT  
 TRUTH  
 WORSHIP

# CRISS CROSS BASED ON JOHN 14:15-21



Use the clues to fill in the words above. Words can go across or down.  
Letters are shared when the words intersect.

## **ACROSS**

- 2. Showing or causing joy
- 3. To remain with you
- 6. To take into one's hands, to accept
- 7. To perceive with the eyes

## **DOWN**

- 1. At all times; forever
- 3. Another name for the Holy Spirit
- 4. The adoration given to God
- 5. The name of the Son of God

ANSWERS: ABIDES, ADVOCATE, ALWAYS, JESUS, JOYFUL, RECEIVE, SEE, WORSHIP