

Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A

Readings

Acts 1:12-14

1 Peter 4:13-16

John 17:1-11

At the beginning of his passion Jesus spends time in prayer to the Father. John gives us this prayer in some detail and it is a prayer between the Father and his only begotten Son born for us into the midst of time. If you like, it is a dialogue between time and eternity. Prayer is a marker of all the major points in the life and earthly ministry of the Lord; another example would be before he called The Twelve to be his intimate co-workers in the proclamation of the Kingdom.

These days between the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord (last Thursday) and the giving of the Pentecostal gift of the Holy Spirit (next Sunday) are set aside by the Church as a Novena (a period of nine days) of prayer. Prayer, yes, in general, but also for the specific intention of praying for the coming of the Spirit with the gifts needful for the Church's work of worship and mission in the world.

Could I please commend to you all the following prayer intentions for your use during this period:

For the world:

- An end to the present pandemic, the control of the virus and/or the development of a vaccine/medication.
- All who continue to work in the medical and other frontline settings.
- For those who have died, those who mourn and those who are still in hospital or in self isolation.
- The opening up of the economy and a return to work for those who have lost jobs, homes, businesses and so forth.
- For our societies as we begin to ease the lockdown, for the establishment of a new normality.

For the Church:

- For the reopening of our places of worship.
- For all who will seek to make our places of worship safe and as Covid-secure as possible.
- For all who will be tempted not to return to worship.

- For those who have been deprived of the sacraments.
- For our young people who would have made their First Communion or been Confirmed at this time.
- For the spread of the Gospel and the renewal of the faith once delivered to the saints.
- For our own personal sanctification and holiness.

Yours in Christ

Fr Rob