



Sunday 6th May 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Newsletter 235

Mass in Italian and English at 10.30 in San Francesco, Ostuni

FIRST READING * Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

PSALM * 97: 1-4

SECOND READING * 1 John 4: 7-10

GOSPEL * John 15: 9-17

Commentary

The *first* reading is sometimes called the “Gentile Pentecost”, because it describes the powerful act of the Holy Spirit entering the Gentiles, who were previously thought to be excluded from God’s plan. When Peter sees God at work in Cornelius, he becomes aware that God shows no partiality. If God has accepted the Gentiles into his household, so must the Christian Church and baptism is seen as a celebration of God's love.

This *second reading* uses the word love nine times. When it comes to speaking about the central mystery of our faith, speaking about who God is, the most important thing we can say about God is that he is love. Then John says an amazing thing: “whoever loves is begotten of God and knows God.” This means, among other things, that the person who lives a loving life, knows God, even if he or she is a non-believer. Elsewhere, John says, “where there is love, there is God”. The reverse side of this truth is that whoever does not love, does not know God. This refers to believers who do not live lives of love. The last verse of the reading underlines another important truth, namely that God loved us way before we ever showed our love for God.

In these words of the *Gospel* we face the struggle to deepen our sense of God's love for us. Jesus says to his disciples, 'remain in my love'. Even though Jesus will be physically separated from them by his death, they can still experience his love by remaining in his love and by keeping his commandments. Jesus summed up all the commandments in one word, LOVE, love of God, love of neighbour and love of self. The sacrificial dimension of love is also stressed here. Laying down one's life for another is the greatest form of love. This word of Jesus has to be very consoling for all those who day after day care for loved ones, for the sick and for those who live on the margins of society. Finally, the reading underlines God's initiative when it comes to our relationship with him. God is always seeking a relationship with us, even when we show little or no interest in him.

Don Giorgio's Masses, Sunday 6th May:

07:30 in Sant'Anna, Ceglie Messapica (Italian)

10:30 in San Francesco, Ostuni (Italian and English)

English mass sheets available at these masses.

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord.



It is with great regret that we hear of the death of Archbishop Michele Castoro who was Bishop of Oria for 4 years before being moved to become Archbishop of the Diocese of Manfredonia - San Giovanni Rotondo – Vieste. He was a wonderful pastor and a great example to his priests. His humility and gentleness gave us all strength. When he left many tears were shed – including his own.

After a year of living with cancer he returned to His Father's house at 01:50 this morning the 5th May. I will offer mass for him at 10:30 in San Francesco in Ostuni tomorrow. His funeral mass will take place in the new church at the Sanctuary of St Pius, in San Giovanni Rotonda on Monday 7 May at 16:00.

May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Thank you, God, for the great gift of Bishop Michele whose memory and example of Apostleship will remain with us always. Amen.

BLOG: please keep in contact with our new blog. All of our news as well as other items of interest are posted there regularly. Also other information currently on the English language site for San Rocco is being updated and transferred to the blog site. Each year more couples are choosing to come to Italy to be married, so a we will have new section on getting married in Italy.

In your prayers please pray for:

Departed:

Archbishop Michele Castoro; Fr Damian Sturdy OSB, a Benedictine priest from the monastery in Gloucester; Sister Catherine Cronin who has died after over 70 years of service as a nun; Mario Barletta

Sick or in Particular Need:

Jim Makin, Sareeta Jordan; Martin and Jenny; Rocco who has cancer; Klaus Pesch; Valentina for her continuing recovery.

Please contact the secretary with your prayer requests:

secretary.EnglishCommunity@SanRoccoCeglie.eu