

SUNDAY PLUS

My God and my all!

We celebrate God

By Sr Janet Fearn
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It was a very human situation. One unexpected piece of bad news followed another and there was a limit to what they could take in. Frightened and confused, their unasked questions were not yet formulated into words.

This was the disciples' experience at what they thought would be a Passover celebration, but which Jesus knew would be their last meal together. He had more to say than his friends could handle. Perhaps his own heart was bursting with emotion and he wanted a break?

Sometimes we need a third party to continue an interrupted conversation and time to absorb

and make sense of an event. The disciples were no different. Like us, they needed someone who could explain all that Jesus had told them, someone who instinctively knew what to say to move things forward with hope and encouragement, regardless of what the future might hold.

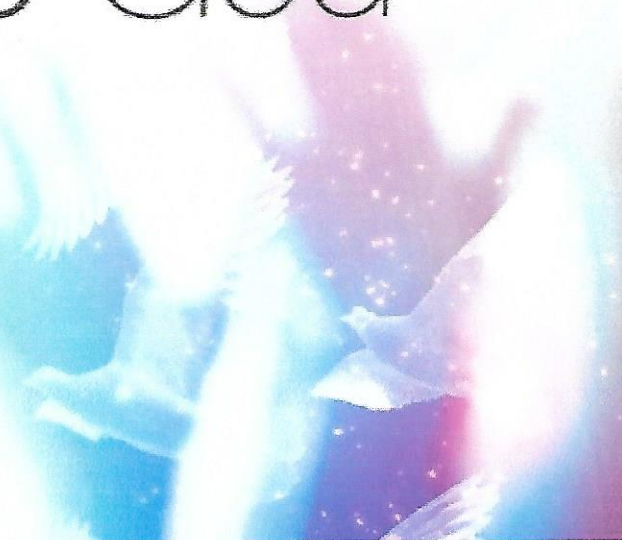
This is what Jesus was promising in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would be someone incredibly close to Jesus who, knowing and understanding everything that Jesus wanted to say – even his unspoken words – would be his spokesperson and interpreter. Speaking within their own hearts, the Holy Spirit would help the disciples to understand and face the future. But all this would happen within the loving embrace

of the Father. Jesus always said that he and the Father were one so he would give his followers the person who meant everything to him.

The disciples needed God more

than ever before – and so do we! That's why, today, we celebrate God.

Sr Janet Fearn is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.




“My God! my God!”

Bernard of Assisi, one of the richest and most learned nobles of the city, began to consider deeply the conduct of St Francis... and so resolved to invite him to sup and to sleep in his house.

St Francis having accepted the invitation, Bernard... ordered a bed to be prepared for him in his own room, where a lamp burned all night. Now St Francis, in order to conceal his sanctity, so soon as he entered the room, threw himself upon the bed, pretending to fall asleep. Bernard likewise soon after went to bed and began to snore as if sleeping soundly. On this, St Francis, thinking that Bernard was really fast asleep, got up and began to pray. Raising his hands and eyes to heaven, he exclaimed with great devotion and fervour, “My God! My God!”... and thus, he remained on his knees all night, repeating with great love and fervour the words, “My God! My God!” and none others.

Little Flowers of St Francis, Chapter 2, c1390

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I celebrate you. I love you. I adore you. May my every thought, word and action be yours. Make me entirely yours and, my loving God, please be mine forever and always.  Amen.

Feast of the week
Monday 13 June

St Anthony of Padua (1195-1231)

St Anthony of Padua, a wealthy young Portuguese, first became an Augustinian and then, meeting the Franciscans, a Franciscan. St Francis of Assisi personally authorised him to teach theology to the other friars. A renowned preacher, he was described as having a “golden tongue”.

Anthony is regarded as the patron saint of lost things because, when teaching in Padua, a precious, much

used book of psalms went missing. Anthony prayed for its return – and the thief brought it back!

An unidentified Franciscan wrote: “Anthony should be the patron of those who find their lives completely uprooted and set in a new and unexpected direction. Like all saints, he is a perfect example of turning one's life completely over to Christ. God did with Anthony as God pleased – and what God pleased was a life of spiritual power and brilliance that still attracts admiration today. He whom popular devotion has nominated as finder of lost objects found himself by losing himself totally to the providence of God.”

“The Holy Spirit is the master of harmony; he is capable of making it, and he has made it happen here. It is what needs to happen in our hearts, many things in us must change to create harmony, because he himself is harmony. Also, the harmony between the Father and the Son: it is he, the love of harmony.”

Pope Francis

Today: Proverbs 8:22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15	Monday: 1 Kings 21:1-16 Matthew 5:38-42	Tuesday: 1 Kings 21:17-29 Matthew 5:43-48	Wednesday: 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18	Thursday: Ecclesiasticus 48:1-14 Matthew 6:7-15	Friday: 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20 Matthew 6:19-23	Saturday: 2 Chronicles 24:17-25 Matthew 6:24-34	Next Sunday: Genesis 14:18-20 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Luke 9:11-17
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