

# Formed in Prayer



*Let us be still and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us*

Dear Father,  
Be with us as we pray.  
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.  
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.  
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire  
and sustain us in our mission.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Gospel

John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading? What might God be saying to you in and through the Gospel?*

## Reflection

In the lead-up to the Ascension of Jesus, a central message to the disciples in this Gospel is 'to remain in my love'. Jesus is the revelation of God to the world and all who 'remain' in his love are in the embrace of God's love. In his suffering and death on the cross, Jesus gave the ultimate testimony of his love for humanity.

In response to the invitation of Jesus to 'do this in memory of me', the Eucharist re-enacts the Paschal Mystery. At the heart of the Eucharist we find the assertions –'this is my body given up for you', and 'this is my blood poured out for you'. Central to our roles as leaders in Catholic agencies is the challenge to be small 'e' Eucharist in the pouring-out of ourselves for those we are called to serve. This is Christian love in action, differing from the common transactional attitude to love, given in proportion to amount received.

The love of Jesus is unconditional and transforming. Christian historian of the era, Tertullian, recounts a pagan perspective of the early Church –'Behold how these Christians love one another'. Would a 'fly on the wall' witness this of me, of my community, in my place of work? (*Br Aengus Kavanagh, fsp*)

## Creator God,

Help me to recognise the whisperings of your love in the ordinary events of life.  
Help me to grow in capacity to model the unconditional love of Jesus,  
that I may become a channel of your love to others.  
In so doing, may I bear fruit that lasts,  
elevating and making holy the human condition.  
**Amen.**