

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

COACH

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

The Paraclete (John 14:23-29)

In John's account of Jesus' last supper with his disciples, Jesus prepares his disciples for their ongoing life in the world after he has been taken from them. Jesus promises them that the Father will give another *Paraclete* to be with them for ever. This word *Paraclete* is peculiar to the Johannine literature. The usual translation 'Advocate' refers to someone who argues our case on our behalf. Literally the word means 'someone called to our side'. In this passage Jesus promises that the Paraclete 'will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you'. In some senses the Paraclete is our coach.

The image to stimulate reflection on Jesus' teaching about the Paraclete is *coach*.

Core extract from the Gospel (John 14: 25-27); for reflection throughout the week)

Jesus said, 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you.
But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.
Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Risen Lord Jesus,
you promised the gift of peace to your people.
Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may share your peace
and lay aside all fear;
for you are the Prince of Peace,
today and for ever.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 14: 23-29

Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (John 14: 23-29)

Begin to explore John's account of Jesus' teaching about the *Paraclete* by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you make of Jesus saying that he and the Father will make their home with us?
- How do you understand the promise that the Holy Spirit will be sent?
- How do you understand Jesus' promise of peace?
- How do you understand Jesus' injunction not to be afraid?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Establish the context in John's Gospel for the passage.

- John 14: 19-22

Explore other references to the Paraclete in the Bible.

- John 14: 16
- John 15: 26
- John 16: 7
- First Epistle of John 2: 1

Explore other references to Peace in John's Gospel and in Luke's Gospel.

- John 20: 19, 21-26
- Luke 24: 36

Connect with the Psalms.

- Psalm 51: 11

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C) Sunday 25 May 2025

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of John's account of Jesus' teaching about the *Paraclete* by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Paraclete in the Bible
- The Holy Spirit in John's Gospel
- Christian coaching

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on John's account of Jesus' teaching about the Paraclete is *coach*. Draw on your own experience of a coach. For example:

- Have you personal experience of working with a coach in a particular sport?
- In what ways have you experienced coaching in your Christian life?
- In what ways have you served as a coach for others?

What have you learned about the role of a coach?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by John's account of Jesus referring to the Holy Spirit as Paraclete or by the image of coach.

- Make a collage of images of coaches at work.
- Make a poster of the Johannine texts referring to the Paraclete.
- Make a poster about Christian coaching.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the Paraclete or on the image of coach.



**Liverpool
Cathedral**

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2025
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Mary's Centre, Wales