

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) Sunday 10 May 2026

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

THE GUIDE

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

The Paraclete (John 14:15-21)

This passage from John's Gospel is part of the Farewell Discourse over Jesus' last supper with his disciples. When Jesus is preparing his disciples for their ongoing life in the world after he has been taken from them, he 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 some senses the Paraclete is our guide. This passage prepares us for Ascension Day and for Pentecost.

The image to stimulate reflection on this passage from the Farewell Discourse is *the guide*.

Core extract from the Gospel (John 14: 15-17; for reflection throughout the week)

Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate,
to be with you for ever.
This is the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees him nor knows him.
You know him, because he abides with you,
and he will be in you.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Risen Lord Jesus,
you promised the Spirit of truth
to those who keep your commandments.
Send your Holy Spirit to guide us,
that we may walk in your way of truth;
now and always.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 14: 15-21

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (John 14: 15-21)

Begin to explore this part of the Farewell Discourse in John's Gospel 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.

- How do you understand the word 'love' that is so central to this passage?
- What do you make of Jesus' promise in this passage about the 'Advocate'?
- What ideas does the 'Advocate' suggest to you?
- Can you think of better words than Advocate for someone called to be there alongside you?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore further how John's Gospel develops the idea of the Paraclete.

- John 14: 26
- John 15: 26
- John 16: 7

Explore another reference to the idea of the Paraclete in the New Testament.

- 1 John 2: 1

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) Sunday 10 May 2026

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of the Paraclete in John's Gospel by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Paraclete in the Bible
- Guides (human, canine, electronic)
- Spiritual directors (the term 'spiritual guide' has been captured elsewhere)

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on the Paraclete is *the guide*. Draw on your experience of guides. For example:

- What is your experience of people who have served as guides for you in various places?
- What is your experience of people who have served as guides for you in your spiritual life?
- What is your experience of the Paraclete guiding you?

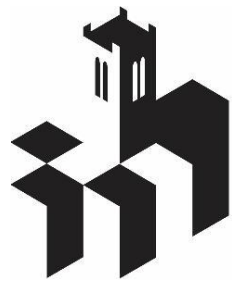
What have you learned about guides?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by the theme of the Paraclete or by the image of the guide.

- Make a card or poster around the words of John 14: 16.
- Create a pamphlet to guide people around your favourite cathedral or church
- Create a collage of images of guides at work.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the Paraclete or on the image of the guide.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) Sunday 10 May 2026



**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, 2026
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Mary's Centre, Wales