

Thought for the week
19th May 2019
Fifth Sunday of Easter

We are all on our earthly pilgrimage, navigating everything life throws at us, doing our best for our families and friends and indeed all those we meet in the course of our daily lives. I'm sure if we could but count the number of people whose lives we interact with and touch, the total would be huge!

In the first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, Paul and Barnabas continue their journey proclaiming the good news and setting up small church communities. As they journeyed they spent time encouraging the disciples to persevere in the faith and reminding them that they had all experienced many hardships. They talked about the kingdom of God and through prayer their efforts bore fruit and many they met were converted.

In the Book of Revelations we are encouraged to persevere through all the struggles we meet in this world – and we know there are many – because the kingdom of God – the 'New Jerusalem' awaits us and will last forever.

In the gospel reading from John, Jesus tells the disciples he won't be with them much longer. This is a passage reminding us that God the father had given his son to be the divine offering that would mend the breach between God and His creation.

This was the greatest gift of love that could be given and Jesus' command to us, is to imitate his father and in doing so, gives us a 'new commandment' to love one another in the same way that the Father had loved His son. This commandment takes the commandment given to Moses, to love our neighbour, to a new level. It is not just about charity and giving alms and helping out those in need but, as with Paul and Barnabas, it goes to a deeper level and asks us to proclaim the kingdom of God to all.

St. Thomas said '*My Lord and my God*'. That too might be our prayer.

A Parishioner