



*Light and
Love in the
darkness*

CELEBRATING AT HOME SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Love among us
Love within us (Jn 15:9-17)
Special blessing for Mothers*

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.

CELEBRATING AT HOME

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in
this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

We have been called by God
to be the Church,
the Body of Christ in this world.
We are not a building, but a people,
gathered and grounded in
the Word of God,
the love of Christ,
and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

God of life,
prepare us anew to be bearers of your Spirit.

Scripture Reading (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.
No one can have greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends, if you do as 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
in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

Reflection - *Jesus, bond of love*

As we approach the coming feasts of the Ascension
and Pentecost, the Gospel today helps us
understand that Jesus is our bond of love with the
Father and with one another.

Jesus shows us the way to live full and happy lives
by living in love: "I have told you this so that my
own joy may be in you and your joy be complete."

The commandments of Jesus are always about love
- love of God and love of neighbour. Those who live
by these commandments of Jesus abide with him,
others and the Father in love.

Jesus is the reign of God in person. He is both
the image of God and the model of the redeemed
human being that each of us is called to be.

When Jesus says he has told the disciples
everything he has learned from the Father it
reminds us that Jesus was human as well as divine;
that his life was a journey of learning, too; a
path of facing choices and challenges. Jesus tells
his disciples that they are his friends. They have
become his friends because he has shared his
knowledge and understanding and love of the
Father with them.

We remain in Christ by remaining in his love and
loving one another just as Christ has loved us. We
are no longer servants but friends of Jesus because
he has made known to us everything he learnt from
God. Jesus has chosen us and commissioned us to
be love and to do love in the heart of the world.

Mother's Day Prayer

God of Love, listen to this prayer.

**God of holy people,
of Sarah, Ruth and Rebekah;
God of Elizabeth, mother of John,
God of Mary, mother of Jesus,
listen to us and bless the
mothers of our families.**

Bless with the strength of your Spirit,
the mothers who taught us to stand and walk,
who continue to be strength for us
as we walk the journey of life.

**Bless with the melody of your love,
those who showed us
how to speak,
how to sing,
how to pray to you.**

Bless with a place
at your eternal table
those who fed and nurtured our life
as it was formed within them.

**Bless our mothers today
with good things and with health;
with joy, love and laughter,
and surround them with many good friends.**

May they be carried one day to your divine
embrace: there for all eternity to rejoice with their
family and friends.

Hold gently in your love our mothers who are now
with you.

**This blessing and all graces, we pray,
descend upon the mothers of our families:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
in the resurrection of Jesus
you share with us his risen life.
Transform our darkness, fear and isolation
with your comforting presence
so that we can be your calm, loving,
healing presence to each other.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our trust in you.

Mother's Day Prayer adapted from Prayers for the Domestic Church
Edward Hays, Forest of Peace Books, Kansas 1990