

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

Keep us in your eye

### INTRODUCTION

On Thursday we remembered the day when Jesus returned to his heavenly father after saying goodbye to his apostles. Before leaving them, he prayed to his father and asked him to always keep them in his care.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3.

### SORRY

Listen to this reading from the prophet Micah:

God our father has told us what we must do: Be fair and honest in all that we do and say, be loving and caring towards others. If we do these things, then our friendship with God will last forever. (Micah 6:8)

Close your eyes and say this prayer:

Lord Jesus, often we make mistakes  
and forget the things you tell us.  
We are sorry if we have been unkind or  
if we have not always been honest or fair.  
We ask you to forgive us  
and help us to be good.

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2.

### GOSPEL (JOHN 17:11-19)

Looking up to heaven Jesus said: "Father, now I must return to you and leave these friends behind. I have shared your word with them and watched their faith in you grow, when many others chose to doubt. I have watched over them and kept them safe from danger and those who wish them harm. Now I am sending them out into the world, and I ask you to watch over them always and keep them in your care."

### DISCUSSION

Sometimes our friends move away to live in different parts of the country or even different parts of the world. Some people have relatives who only see them once or twice in a lifetime.

Have you ever had to say goodbye to a close friend or relative, knowing that you would never see them again? Was it difficult to say goodbye? How did it make you feel?

Saying goodbye is often a time for sadness and tears. Sometimes we are lost for words, and yet have so much we would like to say but don't know where to begin!

How do you think the apostles felt when they knew that Jesus was finally returning to his father? They had grown to love him very much, so much that they were prepared to go out and be witnesses for Christ. They probably felt sad and somewhat afraid about what lay ahead of them.

Yet the Holy Spirit would give the apostles the strength and courage they needed for their mission. They knew that they were not being left alone but would be watched over always.

At times when we are feeling worried or afraid, we can ask Jesus to watch over and care for us, with complete confidence that he will hear us and answer our prayer because he loves us so much. With Jesus beside us, we have nothing to fear.

### ACTIVITY

Make copies and ask the children to color the shapes of our world, sun, moon, stars, and clouds. Then take two semicircles of paper, one blue and one black, and place them next to each other to make a circle larger than the globe. Fasten the globe to the center of this background. Help the children fasten the sun, a rainbow, and clouds to the blue side of the paper, and add the moon and stars to the black part of the paper. Add the caption "Keep us in your care day and night."

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, I do not feel afraid  
because you are always with me.  
With you beside me there is nothing to fear.  
I know that you will protect me from harm  
and keep me safe from danger.

