

Because Jesus lives, you will live.

On the Sixth Sunday of Easter, we're reminded not only of all the reasons for our hope but the need to share those reasons with others as well. We have had an experience of the infinite love God has for man. Now the time has arrived to give him an answer of love in our daily Christian living. *"If you love me you will keep my commandments"* is what Jesus tells us in the Gospel. When a friend departs we tell him how much we love him, we ask for his advice and recommendations. In the last supper Jesus knew well that it was the final encounter he would have with his friends, and he took advantage to leave us a gift, a recommendation, and a promise: the gift was the sacrament of the Eucharist; the recommendation, his commandment of love; the promise, the Holy Spirit with his abundance of gifts.

In today's Second Reading St. Peter states: *"Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have."* Then, we must always be ready to share the reasons for our hope with others; which are:

We have received new life in Christ.

It's our duty to give others the opportunity to receive new life in Christ as well.

This doesn't just mean giving reasons, but showing in our lifestyle that hope has transformed us and sustained us.

It is thanks to hope that we sanctify Christ in our hearts.

It is thanks to hope that we don't shy away from explaining the reasons for our hope to everyone who asks, whether they're curious or skeptical.

It is not just what we explain, but how we explain it that lends credence to our message: gentleness and reverence.

The main reason for our hope is: the love of God. If we're mistreated as a result, we are consoled by the fact that we're imitating Christ in suffering for the sake of good.

In faith why will we live??? Because Jesus lives....and because He is alive guiding us along the way. Jesus lives therefore we will live. We will live because we are called into this awesome relationship with God. Jesus said that He will continue to be with us so we should have every confidence that the Spirit is at work in our lives, living in us and through us, whether or not we recognise it. Pentecost is closer now and Jesus promised to give his followers the best of gifts, the Holy Spirit as their Counsellor and Helper. The Holy Spirit is also the Giver of life. The Holy Spirit also guides us in the way of truth, wisdom,

and goodness. Jesus also promised his followers the gift of peace.

The Pastoral plan, all these parish vision and goals are the result of a process and a good discernment in God's presence with the help of the Holy Spirit. These plan, vision and goals start with each one of us taking the resolve to get involved in something new but fruitful. There is the temptation to be just sitting in the pew quietly and maybe thinking in our minds "*Leave me alone I don't want to do anything else*" but we are called to do greater things. Jesus is the way of action, the working of the Holy Spirit is action....we cannot stay still; we are moved to take action...

It's an opportunity for everyone; it might be a new beginning, a new chance to get closer to the Lord.

All of us are invited to be involved in a working team to develop our welcoming, our growing and our actions....

How can I help or help even more?

How can I contribute?

If I say yes; can I really help you Jesus for the salvation of my brothers and sisters?

Truly, it is worth the risk to say with all our faith: I will gamble it for Christ! Parents, you are receiving the formation with your children so that they can receive the First Holy Communion. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the knowledge of

Christ's immense love and with his gift of peace and your lives will be full of Blessings.

"O God, you are the unsearchable abyss of peace, the ineffable sea of love, the fountain of blessings and the bestower of affection, who sends peace to those who receive it. Open to us this day the sea of your love and water us with abundant streams from the riches of your grace and from the most sweet springs of your kindness. Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace; enkindle in us the fire of your love; sow in us your fear; strengthen our weakness by your power; bind us closely to you and to each other in our firm and indissoluble bond of unity."