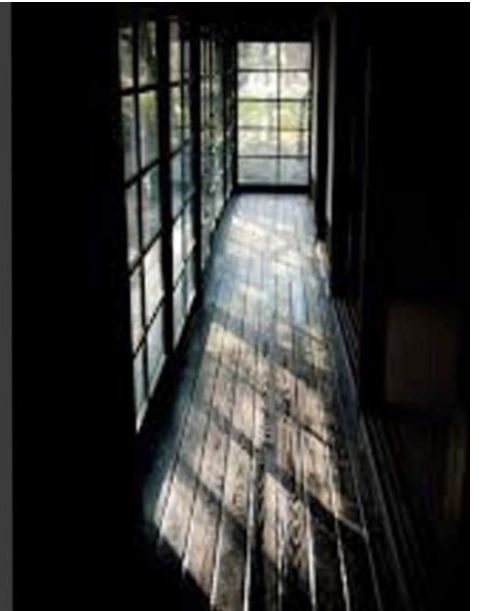


*'My Father's house has many rooms..'*

# GOD'S WORD FOR THE WEEK

POWERSCOURT WITH KILBRIDE



**10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**  
**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
Grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.

## **THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**READING** Deuteronomy 6: 20-25

20 When your children ask you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?' 21 then you shall say to your children, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 The Lord displayed before our eyes great and awesome signs and wonders against Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his household. 23 He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land that he promised on

oath to our ancestors. 24 Then the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our lasting good, so as to keep us alive, as is now the case. 25 If we diligently observe this entire commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, we will be in the right.'

## THE EPISTLE

### 1 Peter 2: 2-10

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built\*into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him\* will not be put to shame.'

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner',

<sup>8</sup>and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,\* in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL - John

### 14: 1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe\* in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?\*<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.'\* <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know\* my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.<sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me\* for anything, I will do it.

## Psalm 31

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.  
Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.  
Be my strong rock,  
a fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my stronghold;  
guide me, and lead me  
for your name's sake.  
Take me out of the net  
that they have laid secretly for me,  
for you are my strength.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord God of truth.  
'My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those  
who persecute me.  
Make your face to shine upon your servant  
And save me for your mercy's sake.

### POINTERS FOR PRAYER

*<sup>23</sup>He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land that he promised on oath to our ancestors.' (Deut 6: 23)*

The Old Testament Reading reminds us that God has been delivering his people throughout their history on earth. We are asked to keep this in mind and to respect God by living the life he requires us to lead. Have there been moments in your life when God delivered you from a certain circumstance? What are the things in your life that confirm God's presence with you?

Father, we give you thanks that we do not know what it is like to be out of your presence! These days, more than ever before, we are reminded of our blessings in this life and we give thanks to you for the gifts you give us .....

*9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,\* in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
(1 Peter 2:9)*

Recently it was remarked to me that "people are *doing church* for themselves these days!" This is certainly true in the outpouring of support and thoughtfulness throughout the world in humanity's response to Covid19. In what ways is your identity as God's own person apparent in your life and in the lives of others? Are there any issues you may need God's help with at the present time? .....

*‘Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ‘If you know me, you will know\* my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’ (John 14: 6-7)*

The entire Gospel passage for this week is most commonly used at funeral services as it speaks of hope and all that we cannot see. It also confirms that Jesus is the incarnation of the Creator and that we must go ‘through’ him to get to the Father. Perhaps today you might consider what going ‘through’ Jesus really means and how you might go about it. As mentioned last Sunday, every word and action of Christ in the New Testament is a key to unlock access to the Kingdom of Heaven.

What are the ways in which you feel most connected to Jesus?

Perhaps there is a particular bible passage that speaks most acutely to you....

