

# SUNDAY *Plus*

6th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week II** Year A

## Wanted and loved



I didn't yearn for a career, or maids and a fur coat, or a trip to Europe. All in the world I wanted was a happy, normal little family. Perhaps, if God could arrange it, Carl and I could have a boy first, and after that, a little girl. God didn't arrange it. In fact, as a doctor regretfully informed us, Carl and I couldn't have any children of our own...

Every time I walked down the street and saw a fulfilled mother strutting along the sidewalk behind a baby buggy, I was possessed with violent jealousy, envy and acute self-pity.

Carl, who was a patient man, finally had enough.

"For heaven's sake stop mooning, or you'll have us both neurotic," he said. "If having a baby is that important, why don't we adopt one?"

The more I mulled the idea over, the better I liked it. Wasn't motherhood

compounded more of love than biology?...

The social worker droned on, going down the two pages of the questionnaire we had filled in. God bless her, she shut her portfolio, smiled like an angel, and said, "I have a baby for you."

Just like that. "I have a baby for you..."

Carl said, "Well, Helen, have you everything you need to make you happy, now?"


"Almost," I said.

"What else?"

"A little girl," I said... "He ought to have a little sister..."

The greatest joy of my whole life has been as the mother of my twelve adopted children.

Helen Doss, *The Family Nobody Wanted*

Lord, help me to keep on going even when I am exhausted. Give me the energy I need to see me through the day. Help me to love you with every fibre of my being.  Amen.

### READINGS

**Today:**  
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17  
1 Peter 3:15-18  
John 14:15-21

**Monday:**  
Acts 16:11-15  
John 15:26 - 16:4

**Tuesday:**  
Acts 16:22-34  
John 16:5-11

**Wednesday:**  
Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:1  
John 16:12-15

**Thursday:**  
Acts 1:1-11  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

**Friday:**  
Acts 18:1-8  
John 16:16-20

**Saturday:**  
Acts 18:9-18  
John 16:20-23

**Next Sunday:**  
Acts 1:12-14  
1 Peter 4:13-16  
John 17:1-11

### Stay with me

"Out of all eternity, I chose you, I need you.  
I need your hands to continue to bless,  
I need your body to continue to suffer,  
I need your heart to continue to love,  
I need you to continue to save,  
Stay with me."

Here I am, Lord.  
Here is my body.  
Here is my heart.  
Here is my soul.  
Grant that I may be big enough to reach the world,  
Strong enough to carry it,  
Pure enough to embrace it without wanting to keep it.  
Grant that I may be a meeting place, but a temporary one.  
A road that does not end in itself, because everything to be gathered there, everything human, leads towards you.

Michel Quoist, *Prayers of Life*

Let us live our faith... in search of hope; but seeking to be ourselves the witness that offers hope to the world.

Pope Leo XIV

### Feast of the week Thursday 14 May

## The Ascension

Dear brothers and sisters, the Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us. In our life we are never alone: we have this Advocate who awaits us, who defends us. We are never alone: the crucified and risen Lord guides us. We have with us a multitude of brothers and sisters who, in silence and concealment, in their family life and at work, in their problems and hardships, in their joys and hopes, live faith daily and together with us bring the world the lordship of God's love, in the risen Jesus Christ, ascended into heaven, our own Advocate who pleads for us.

Pope Francis