

Based on the gospel for Sunday 13 May – John 17:11-19

“Keep those you have given me true to your name”

In this reading, John is conveying the urgency of Jesus’ last words to the disciples and also to us, his followers in faith.

Jesus states that while he was on earth he was able to keep the disciples with him and believing in him. Now he is returning to God the Father and leaving the disciples without his guidance and protection.

Jesus knows that temptations to despair and loss of faith are possible, but he hopes that his teaching and example will keep them from giving into temptation and he prays to God to protect them.

This gospel is so pertinent for all of us. We are tempted constantly by honours, money and pleasure and it is only by prayer, reflection on the Gospels and listening to the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit that we remain true disciples.

Like true disciples our faith is expressed in action – compassion for those who are persecuted, solidarity with those who are living in poverty, seeking justice for those who are suffering under unjust laws and giving aid to those fleeing to other countries.

After all, “By their deeds shall they be known.”

We know that sometimes we fall short, but we are always striving to live better and happier lives in tune with God’s will.

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Holy Spirit, keep my faith strong and my heart tuned to your whispers so that I may

grow in love and spread that love to all with whom I come in contact daily. Amen.

This reflection and prayer were written by Sister Bridgetta Rooney of Saint Joseph and Peace. This congregation is dedicated to bringing peace and justice to the world by their work and prayer.