

Thought for the week
Seventh Sunday of Easter – 13th May 2018

No one really knows if the person who wrote the Gospel and the three epistles of St John, was the same person or even whether his name was John, It is possible the collection of writings was produced by more than one person. It doesn't really matter. Whoever wrote the Gospel and the letters had the same idea in mind. To help the early Church understand who Jesus actually was, the significance of the signs he worked and the words he used, and what these mean for his followers. Tradition has it that the author was Jesus' beloved disciple who may have been the only apostle to live into old age and not die for his faith.

In the gospel passage Jesus seems to be in earnest conversation with His Father commending his disciples and by extension us, and asking him to look lovingly on us who are his own in the world. It is a curiously human conversation: look Lord, these are my friends who you asked me to bring into the light. Now I am leaving them, you must look after them, and love them, and mould them into one body.

It's how we might think about, and pray for our own loved ones and friends; especially if we know we are going to have to take our leave and they will be left behind. Like Jesus we can be confident that the Father will remain when we cannot and that his loving care will take care of everything.

“I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord. I will come back to you and your hearts will be full of joy”.

In his letter John sums up everything we need to know: all we have to do is love, just as God loves us, and then he will be in us and we will be in him. Simple really. However much of a mess we make of things, day to day, we can hang onto that thought and in our own conversation with God ask him to help us do the simple things well, with love, and let him take care of the rest.