

SUNDAY *Plus*

7th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week III** Year C**World Communications Day**

Do you love me?

Augustine said: "My soul is restless until it rests in you, oh God," but when I examine the tortuous story of our own salvation, I see not only that we are yearning to belong to God, but that God also is yearning to belong to us. It seems as if God is crying out to us: "my heart is restless until I may rest in you, my beloved creation." From Adam and Eve... to Jesus and ever since, God cries out to be received by his own. "I created you, I gave you all my love, I guided you, offered you my support, promised you the fulfilment of your hearts' desires: where are you, where is your response, where is your love? What else must I do to make you love me? I won't give up; I will keep trying. One day, you

will discover how I long for your love!...

God becomes a child dependent on human care, a boy in need of guidance, a teacher searching for students, a prophet crying for followers, and, finally, dead man pierced by a soldier's lance and laid in a tomb. At the very end of the story, he stands there looking at us, asking with eyes full of tender expectation: "Do you love me?"...

Communion, becoming Christ, leads us to a new realm of being. It offers us into the Kingdom. There, the old distinctions between happiness and sadness, success and failure, praise and blame, health and sickness, life and death, no longer exist.

Henri Nouwen



Hope is the virtue of those who are young at heart; and here age does not matter because there are also elderly people whose eyes are filled with light.

Pope Francis

Look inside

By Paul Higginson

After Jesus had ascended into heaven two men in white appeared to the disciples and said, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky?"

If we think that God is somewhere "up above", then we too can spend our lives looking upwards, or trying to get "up there" ourselves. It's a pre-Christian image of God, and it misses the whole point of Christianity – God "came down" and dwells among

us; we need to look around, not above. Christ lives in all those we encounter as we go about our daily lives (if only we had eyes to see). God is not remote, living in the "highest heaven" and occasionally coming to our aid when the going gets tough. He is a constant, ever-present presence within each of us. Don't look for God somewhere "out there" but discover him in your deepest self and in your neighbour, where he has always been.

Paul Higginson is a retired teacher and author of Doing Christianity: how religion is about what you do, not what you believe

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Fan the flame of hope

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the rider was lost.
For want of a rider the battle was lost.
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

Anon.

Pope Francis calls us to "fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty". How can the Jubilee help me to spread hope to the people around me? It doesn't take much: perhaps a single word?



Lord, I have time.

I have plenty of time,

All the time that you give me,

The years of my life,

The days of my years,

The hours of my days,

I am not asking you tonight, for time to do this and then that,

But your grace to do conscientiously, in the time that you give me, what you want me to do.  Amen.

Michel Quoist