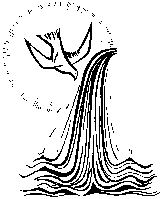
A Way to Pentecost: Thursday



**Reading: from John 17: 20-26**  
Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:  
‘I ask not only on behalf of these,

but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,

that they may all be one.

As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,

so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

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**Wondering**  
Who are the people whose lives my own touches? How do my words - my gestures bring others to believe in God? How have the words and gestures and attitudes of others helped me to believe?

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**Contemplating**  
Read the shorter version of today's Gospel slowly and prayerfully. The full version can be found in a Missal or Bible if you would prefer to use that. As we have done over recent days, allow words and phrases to speak to you. Stay with any that do and allow God to speak to you through them.

***or***For several days now, John has described Jesus as raising his eyes to heaven. Take time to watch the sky - changing patterns of cloud - or starlight and moonlight. People long believed that heaven was in the sky - we have a different sense of heaven. Allow the time of gazing and contemplating the sky to speak to your soul of heaven and the promise of eternal joy there

**Reflecting**  
It is a staggering thought that our lives can touch other people's in ways that speak to them of God. The fact that we may say something that helps people to come to know Jesus and kindle that spark that the Spirit has planted in them. How can we build up relationships that will encourage and support us and others as we fulfil the commission that Jesus has invited us to take?  
Pray for people in neighbouring parishes.  
Pray for wisdom and enthusiasm for people who will be working together.

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**Praying**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
give us a sense of unity and common purpose  
As we have received Faith through other people,  
give us the words and actions   
that will help others to believe in you.

**From the Sequence for Pentecost**  
Heal our wounds, our strength renew,  
On our dryness pour thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away.

Our Father… Hail Mary… Glory be...

**Action point from the writing of Pope Francis**

Jesus takes us from the midst of his people and he sends us to his people; without this sense of belonging we cannot understand our deepest identity. He himself is the model of this method of evangelization which brings us to the very heart of his people. How good it is for us to contemplate the closeness which he shows to everyone!

*(Evangelii Gaudium, 268)*

* Think about the kind of people Jesus drew close to in his earthly life. Who are the people he might want to grow closer to through you today? How can you help him to do it?