

Reflections on Sixth Sunday of Easter 26A.

Mass: Acts 8:5-8,14-17; Psalm 65; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21.

My father died suddenly during the night after a long illness. Early the next morning I went to call on my sister to tell her the sad news. I will always remember her words as she began to cry. 'We are orphans now'. Being orphaned in our sixties somehow made it worse. It came home to me a week later after I had celebrated his Requiem and said farewell to family and friends in my family home. That afternoon the sense of darkness fell and while the house was still there, the home had gone. It took friends reaching out to bring me out of the darkness. Jesus says to his disciples, 'I will not leave you orphans'. The Holy Spirit is the answer to that sense of abandonment that being without a loved one and home feels like. Being loved and being at home are really the same thing. Belonging, and being a part of a whole, is what the word peace really means, I think. When Philip reaches out to the Samaritans he is really reaching out to long lost family. The Samaritans had been a part of the family of Israel, but war, deportations and fear had divided the family. Jesus restores peace. Jesus will go home on Thursday, to his Father, his Abba. But, through the love made real in the Holy Spirit, his home is in us still as ours is in him. Happy Easter!