

### **Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter. Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Ascension of the Lord. Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 46; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20.*

About fifteen years ago, when I was working in Newcastle, I went on a bike ride to the estate where I had grown up. A 1950's council estate on what was then the northern edge of Newcastle. It was still as it was, nothing much had changed. I sat on my bike at the top of our street and looked down at the row of houses and allowed my memory to roam. I remembered, vividly, coronation day in 1953 and a street party plus all of us children playing, as we did most days. At first, it was just remembering, and then suddenly it felt as though there was just a thin film separating me from the past and its people, many now long dead. I could almost reach out and touch the past; it was so real. I felt a burst of love for all those people who made up my past, especially my parents and next-door neighbours. Ascension Day is almost like that experience. Jesus doesn't just disappear; he becomes a new reality. He becomes more real than ever before, limited as he was in human form and our present reality. The Ascension is telling us, revealing to us, a new reality where love breaks all our barriers. Death or dying is not the end but an entry into a new life. It is a victory over death that unfolds from the cross to Pentecost and onwards. Our faith is like that film that separates yet reveals what is really there, God's reality.