

Sixth Week of Easter

IT IS YOU, LORD.

You who were born in Bethlehem,
who were the child in the temple,
who taught, preached, healed,
who scolded those who disrespect the temple,
who shared bread and wine and yourself,
who prayed to the Father,
who bore the humiliating cross,
who died for us that Good Friday,
who rose from the tomb on Easter morning,
who cooked fish for your friends,
who told us how to live, caring for others,
who went home to wait for us,
who are still here beside us,
who feed us still at each Eucharist,
who will come again.

It is you, Lord,
whom we worship and adore. Amen.



APRIL 27, 2008 A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

In the letter of Peter that we hear proclaimed at today's liturgy (1 Peter 3:15–18), we are admonished to keep our conscience clear. Most people would probably say that they do have a clear conscience, so Peter's rule might not seem such a difficult one to follow. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) says we have the right to act in conscience and in freedom to personally make moral decisions (#1782). This freedom brings with it a responsibility to have a conscience that is informed in order to know right from wrong. Being informed is a lifelong task (CCC, 1784), beginning in childhood and continuing to the day we die. We must never stop learning, questioning, and growing in forming our conscience. The Word of God is

the light to this path and the Holy Spirit is always there to help us (CCC, 1785). Christ also taught that it is not enough to know right from wrong. We must also live and act according to what our conscience tells us. In other words, our life, and our daily actions must show that what we believe is the right way to live and treat other people. It is not enough just to say, "I believe in the right to life." Or, "I believe racism is wrong." Our actions must speak for us, and as our conscience continues to grow and develop, so will our faithful following of Christ. The Easter season is a rich time to examine how we are doing with developing our conscience.

This Week at Home

MONDAY, APRIL 28 A KIND HEART

The saint we remember today, Peter Chanel (1802–1841), was a French Marist priest who became a missionary in Oceania and was martyred there. With great devotion he endured physical hardships, learned the language of those he served, and attended the sick. He was described by many as “the man with the kind heart.” How would you like to be described? What qualities or actions would you hope could define your life? How could you put them into action?

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

Saint Catherine of Siena (1347–1380), virgin and doctor of the Church, whose memorial we celebrate today, was a Dominican nun, sometimes called the great Saint Catherine. Though she experienced many mystical encounters with God and served the poor with great humility, she was also a very practical and wise observer of politics. She worked tirelessly to bring together warring factions, to reform the Church, and to increase its influence in the secular world. She left behind many writings, including prayers and nearly four hundred letters. *O God, you gave the Church this great woman at a time it needed her qualities. May we follow the example and teaching of Saint Catherine so that we may share in the revelation of your glory. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 GOD’S GLORY

“Heaven and earth are full of your glory.” This simple but profound prayer is from the Responsorial Psalm in today’s liturgy. On this last day of the month of April, look around to see how true this is. Go outside and look at the night sky. After a few moments of silent watching and listening, say three times: *O God of creation, heaven and earth are full of your glory.*



THURSDAY, MAY 1 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Today’s reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1:1–11) describes how, in the presence of the disciples, Jesus was lifted up and disappeared into a cloud. This Ascension Thursday, imagine what that must have been like for the

disciples. Even as he went away forever, Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would come. Tonight have a special farewell dinner for Jesus. He finished his work here on earth, living his life just as the Father wanted him to. We can celebrate his going away knowing that he has sent the Holy Spirit. He is with us still and will return again in glory.

FRIDAY, MAY 2 SAINT ATHANASIUS

Saint Athanasius (296–373) was an Egyptian who became a very significant bishop and doctor of the Church. One of the most important accomplishments of his life was his brilliant writing and teaching against the heresy of the Arians who denied the divinity of Jesus Christ. During this holy season when we celebrate Christ’s Resurrection from the dead, pray your own brief prayer in thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into our world, for our Savior, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity who possesses both a divine and human nature.

SATURDAY, MAY 3 SAINT PHILIP AND SAINT JAMES

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Philip, the fisherman and apostle, and Saint James, whose letter is part of the New Testament. In the Gospel today (John 14:6–14), Jesus reminds his followers that whoever has seen Jesus has seen the Father. How do you see the Father in your own mind? When you think of God the Father, what picture comes to you? Is this the picture you have always held in your mind? Talk about your mental picture with family or friends.