A serene sunset scene over a large body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water's surface. In the foreground, an open Bible lies flat on a wooden pier or dock, its pages illuminated by the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

# Getting Ready for Sunday!

## Sunday, 5 May 2024

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus prepares His disciples for His return to the Father.

We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism and in Confirmation.

The Holy Spirit (the Advocate) is our constant guide through any difficulties that we may have.

The Holy Spirit guides us to live good lives in the truth of the Good News of God's love for all.

**John 15:9-17**



**Love One Another**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;  
abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide  
in my love, just as I have kept my Father's  
commandments and abide in his love.



I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.



No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.



We lay down our lives for others whenever we make a choice that is not selfish....a choice that puts others first!

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.



We are bound in friendship with God.

We are made at one with God.

We act at one with God when we choose to accept and give love when that may not be easy to do!

This is about love as a choice, not a feeling!

You did not choose me but I chose you.

God chose us to be!

God made you unique!

God has made each one  
of us for a great purpose!



And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.



I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

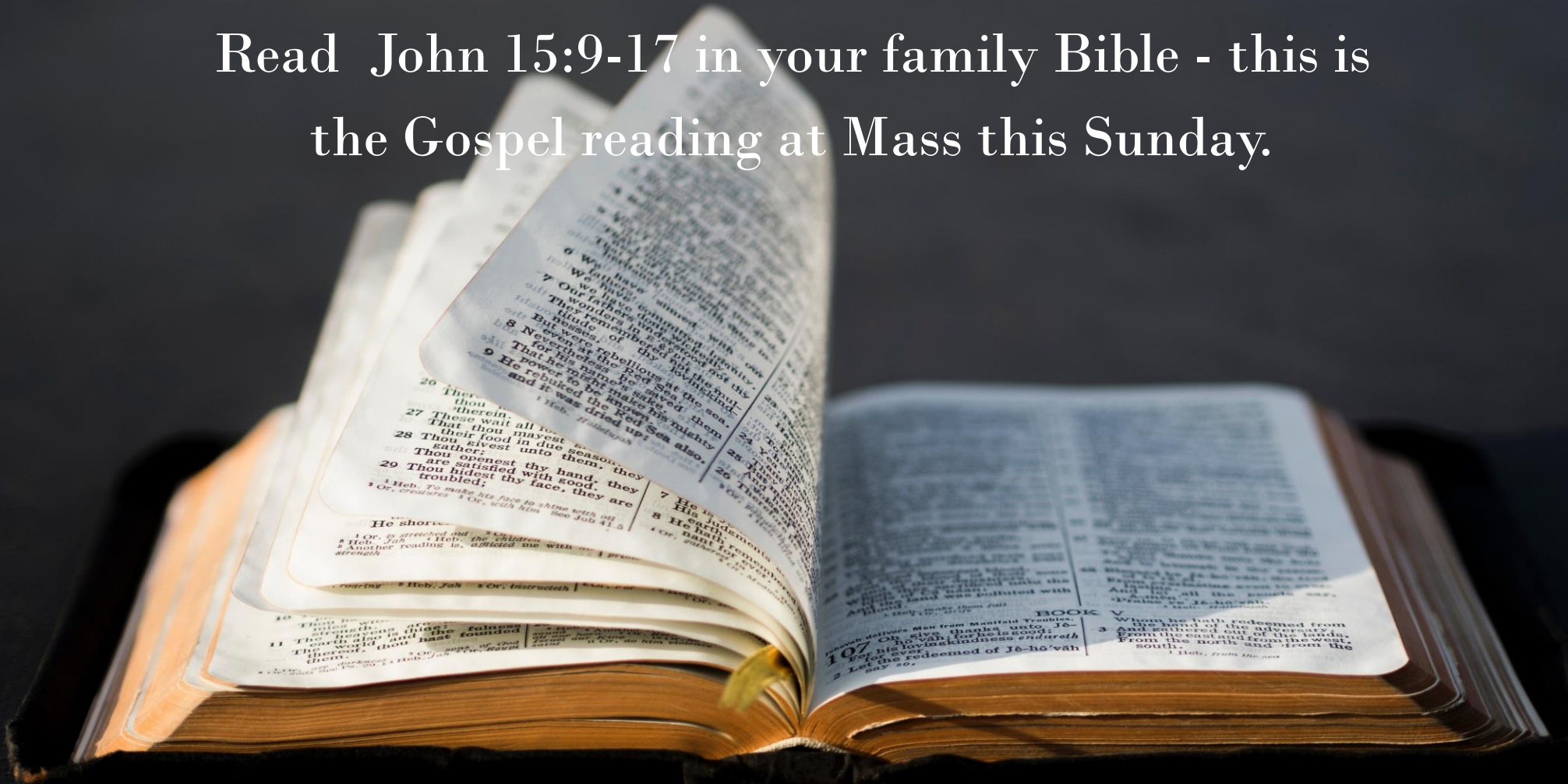


# **The Ten Commandments**

- 1. You shall have no other Gods but me.**
- 2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.**
- 3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**
- 4. You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy.**
- 5. Respect your father and mother.**
- 6. You must not kill.**
- 7. You must not commit adultery.**
- 8. You must not steal.**
- 9. You must not give false evidence against your neighbour.**
- 10. You must not be envious of your neighbour's goods.**

# Bible Search

Read John 15:9-17 in your family Bible - this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



6 We have sinned with our fathers, and have done wickedly, but thy mercy, O Lord, is great.  
7 Our fathers, who did not know thee, worshipped idols; but thou, O Lord, thou art merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy.  
8 Nevertheless, O Lord, do not remember our iniquities, but thy tender mercies over us, O Lord, O Lord, our God.  
9 He refused to be made like them, and it was dried up.  
10 These wait all day long, that thou mayest give them their food in due season.  
11 Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and the Saviour of the widow, O Lord, our God.  
12 Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and the Saviour of the widow, O Lord, our God.  
13 Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and the Saviour of the widow, O Lord, our God.  
14 Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and the Saviour of the widow, O Lord, our God.  
15 Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and the Saviour of the widow, O Lord, our God.  
16 Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and the Saviour of the widow, O Lord, our God.  
17 Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and the Saviour of the widow, O Lord, our God.

## BOOK V

107 O Lord, give thanks unto JEHOVAH for his kindness and truth, for he hath redeemed of JEHOVAH  
1 Let the redeemed of JEHOVAH say so.  
2 Let the redeemed of JEHOVAH say so.  
3 And entered out of the south, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.  
4 Heb. from the sea

# SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

## John 15:9-17

A commandment of love is something of a contradiction in terms. Love is a free choice. That is what gives the thrill to the experience of being loved. Recall times when you received gestures of love from another:

- a spontaneous embrace from a husband or wife;
- a wave from a friend;
- words of comfort and affirmation;

not because the other person felt obliged to reach out to you but because they wanted to let you know that you were loved. What effect did that have on you? Did it bring you joy? Perhaps you have had a glimpse of the truth of what Jesus said, that it is in loving that our joy is complete.

Often love and friendship make demands on us. Parents give freely of their time and energy to the care of their children and sometimes it requires a lot of effort. Also in responding to the needs of friends or spouses we can be challenged to 'lay down' our own 'lives' at least for a time. Can you recall a time when putting yourself out for others bore fruit for them and for you?

'I chose you.' Have you had the experience of being 'chosen' by someone? What was it like for you to be chosen? What is it like for you to consider yourself as one chosen by Jesus??

# Consider



*Are you open to receiving and giving love?*

# Praying to Jesus



*Pray for the grace to accept that you are loved by God.*



Share