

Today's Readings **21st May 2023** **Easter 7**

THE COLLECT

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your
triumph,
fill your Church on earth
with power and
compassion,
that all who are estranged
by sin may find
forgiveness and know your
peace,
to the glory of God, the
Father.

FIRST READING

Acts 1.6-14

So when they had come
together, they asked him,
'Lord, is this the time when
you will restore the
kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He
replied, 'It is not for you to
know the times or periods
that the Father has set by
his own authority. ⁸ But
you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has
come upon you; and you
will be my witnesses in
Jerusalem, in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the
ends of the earth.' ⁹ When
he had said this, as they
were watching, he was
lifted up, and a cloud took
him out of their

sight. ¹⁰ While he was
going and they were
gazing up towards
heaven, suddenly two men
in white robes stood by
them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of
Galilee, why do you stand
looking up towards
heaven? This Jesus, who
has been taken up from
you into heaven, will come
in the same way as you
saw him go into heaven.'

¹² Then they returned to
Jerusalem from the mount
called Olivet, which is near
Jerusalem, a sabbath
day's journey
away. ¹³ When they had
entered the city, they went
to the room upstairs where
they were staying, Peter,
and John, and James, and
Andrew, Philip and
Thomas, Bartholomew
and Matthew, James son
of Alphaeus, and Simon
the Zealot, and Judas son
of James. ¹⁴ All these were
constantly devoting
themselves to prayer,
together with certain
women, including Mary the
mother of Jesus, as well
as his brothers.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

Beloved, do not be
surprised at the fiery
ordeal that is taking place

among you to test you, as
though something strange
were happening to
you. ¹³ But rejoice in so far
as you are sharing Christ's
sufferings, so that you
may also be glad and
shout for joy when his
glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you
are reviled for the name of
Christ, you are blessed,
because the spirit of glory,
which is the Spirit of God,
is resting on you. ⁶ Humble
yourselves therefore under
the mighty hand of God,
so that he may exalt you in
due time. ⁷ Cast all your
anxiety on him, because
he cares for you.

⁸ Discipline yourselves;
keep alert. Like a roaring
lion your adversary the
devil prowls around,
looking for someone to
devour. ⁹ Resist him,
steadfast in your faith, for
you know that your
brothers and sisters
throughout the world are
undergoing the same
kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And
after you have suffered for
a little while, the God of all
grace, who has called you
to his eternal glory in
Christ, will himself restore,
support, strengthen, and
establish you. ¹¹ To him be
the power for ever and
ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

John 17.1-11

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to N.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.***

After Jesus had spoken
these words, he looked up
to heaven and said,
'Father, the hour has
come; glorify your Son so
that the Son may glorify
you, ² since you have
given him authority over all
people, to give eternal life
to all whom you have
given him. ³ And this is
eternal life, that they may
know you, the only true
God, and Jesus Christ
whom you have sent. ⁴ I
glorified you on earth by
finishing the work that you
gave me to do. ⁵ So now,
Father, glorify me in your
own presence with the
glory that I had in your
presence before the world
existed. ⁶ 'I have made your
name known to those
whom you gave me from
the world. They were
yours, and you gave them
to me, and they have kept
your word. ⁷ Now they
know that everything you
have given me is from
you; ⁸ for the words that
you gave to me I have
given to them, and they
have received them and

know in truth that I came
from you; and they have
believed that you sent
me. ⁹ I am asking on their
behalf; I am not asking on
behalf of the world, but on
behalf of those whom you
gave me, because they
are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are
yours, and yours are mine;
and I have been glorified
in them. ¹¹ And now I am
no longer in the world, but
they are in the world, and I
am coming to you. Holy
Father, protect them in
your name that you have
given me, so that they
may be one, as we are
one.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, giver of love
and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has
sent us into all the world to
preach the gospel of his
kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the
good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.