

6th Sunday – Easter – Year C

- When my son was little he was afraid of the dark
- When it was time to turn out the lights he wanted a stuffed animal (like this one)
- He would hug it tight when the lights went out & darkness wasn't so scary
- Have you ever been afraid? Of course you have – we all have at times
 - Some of us are afraid of the dark Snarling potcake
 - Thunder and lightning we had TH night is another one
 - Ginni – snakes Some are afraid of dentists
- When Jesus told His disciples that he was going to return to His Father
 - They were afraid – what would happen to them?
 - JESUS knew they were afraid, so He offered words of comfort:
 'Peace I leave with you – My peace I give you
 Don't let your hearts be troubled or afraid
 REJOICE that I am going to my Father'
- Jesus promises a peace the world cannot give
 - It was **NOT** a promise to preserve them from hardship and suffering
 - But a promise to bring them safely through trouble and into eternal life
 - The peace Jesus was offering was the confidence of being loved
 - An assurance of knowing that God can be relied upon and trusted in hard times
 - It flows into our lives when we open our hearts to God's presence with us
 - His strength is a powerful help to ease the tension and restlessness of life
 - The basis of peace is God
 - The secret of peace is trust
 - But the soul of peace is love
 - We have all three of those in JESUS
- These words were a great comfort to the disciples
 - They can be a great comfort to us as well
 - When Jesus returned to His Father He sent the Holy Spirit to comfort His disciples until the day He returned
 - Well the truth is - we are His disciples
 - That same Holy Spirit – the Comforter – the Advocate is our gift as well
 - What a wonderful gift – peace – peace of mind and heart
 - We no longer have anything to fear
 - Whatever dark storms of life the world may throw at us – Jesus is with us
 - The Holy Spirit is **our** comforter **our** Advocate **our** Guide in storms of life
 - & He is much better than any stuffed animal