

We think, today, of the friends of Jesus who, having gone through the pain and sorrow of Jesus' death, were overjoyed to see the Risen Jesus and spend time with him. Then came the Ascension and Jesus left them again and they are living with a renewed sense of loss. What was this power from on high that would clothe them? Pentecost was still to come.

The Gospel for today comes at the conclusion of the Farewell Discourse that Jesus delivered to his friends at the Last Supper. This is a beautiful prayer of Jesus in which he affirms the relationship between himself and his Father as well as expressing his care and concern for his friends. Jesus asks that the unity he experiences with the Father be extended to all who believe in him. He prays that we, as Christians, be one with one another, with him and with the Father. To be a follower of Jesus is to be part of a greater whole. There cannot be any solitary Christians. Followers of Jesus have to be in relationship with one another.



In the first reading, we hear the story of Stephen, the first martyr. He was one of the deacons in the early Christian community who, with six others, were chosen to assist widows in the daily distribution of goods. As well as serving the community in this way, Stephen spoke the word of God and was full of grace and power. God worked wonders and signs through him.

His faith in Jesus and his teaching remained to the end as he said, *“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit”* and *“Lord, do not hold this sin against them”*.



In the second reading, we hear the word “Come” repeated and are invited to drink freely from the water of life. This reminds us of the story of the woman at the well (John 4). Jesus offers her living water to which she responds gladly and spreads the Good News about Jesus to others.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"  
And let those who hear say, "Come!"  
Let those who are thirsty come;  
and let all who wish take  
the free gift of the water of life.

Jesus continues to offer us living water, the water of life.

### Mallaig Sprinkling Song

Spirit of God, come dwell within me.  
Open my heart, O come set me free.  
Fill me with love for Jesus, my Lord.  
O fill me with living water.

*Jesus is living, Jesus is here.  
Jesus, my Lord, come closer to me.  
Jesus, our Saviour, dying for me,  
and rising to save his people*

Lord, how I thirst, O Lord, I am weak.  
Lord, come to me, you alone do I seek.  
Lord, you are life, and love and hope,  
O fill me with living water. *Jesus is living ...*

Lord, I am blind. O Lord, I can't see!  
Stretch out your hand, O Lord, comfort me.  
Lead me your way in truth and in light,  
O fill me with living water. *Jesus is living ...*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUhUDiIgwDE>

