

Easter Eve 2026

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you” – John 14.18

Like many things Jesus said to his disciples, the real meaning behind them only became apparent later: “I will rebuild this temple in three days” is a good example.

The words “I am coming to you” sounded strange and disembodied to the disciples. After all he was physically with them at the moment he said it. Yet here he was saying he was going away, after which he was intending to return, or rather it was the Holy Spirit who would come to them in the Name of Jesus. All very confusing.

Shortly after his crucifixion he appears to them several times, resurrected, and they begin to see what he meant; so this was the second coming he was referring to ! Then, later on, after Jesus had stopped appearing in their midst, they were all gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem. There was wind and flame and suddenly their lives were changed, again, for ever, by the gift of the Holy Spirit working away inside them, in their hearts and minds. This was it. There was no stopping them then, and now they understood one of his final messages to them “I am with you always, to the end of time”.

This is the gift that we too inherit, two thousand years on, and the gift that is available to all who believe in Jesus Christ. As we go through life, trying to make sense of everything and everyone we come across, and all the things that happen to us, this task is made so much easier for us by the presence of Jesus, of God’s Holy Spirit, within us.

The idea of being orphaned is familiar to those who have lost their parents, especially if they were young when they died. Many of us are not children any longer, but we still need the reassurance that we are doing the right thing and following the example of Jesus in our daily behaviour and thinking. Whether we acknowledge him or not, he – the Holy Spirit – is with us always, prompting, guiding, teaching us.

So let us be grateful for this gift of incredible value, bequeathed to us by our Lord and Saviour who suffered and died so that we might have life, and have it in abundance.

Amen