

7th Sunday of Easter 2026

Acts 1:12-14; Ps 26; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11

In today's Gospel we hear a part of what is referred to as the 'High Priestly Prayer' of Jesus. It is the longest prayer in all the Gospels and it is directed by Jesus to God the Father. In it he prays this:

'I am not praying for the world, but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.'

The serious question that faces us between Ascension, just past, when Jesus takes his human body up to heaven to sit beside His Father in Glory, and Pentecost when he sends the Holy Spirit upon his disciples is this:

Are we to be counted among those whom Jesus is praying and giving to the Father, or those who Jesus is not praying for, and by implication, not giving to the Father?

Another way of asking the question is this:

Are we people simply made to die and destined for mere dust, or are we people now made of spirit and destined for life?

There is a woman named Samantha Niblett. She is the MP for South Derbyshire and she is behind a project she is calling it the "Summer of Sex." Niblett says her plan will teach people "of all ages" to derive

pleasure from their own bodies and the bodies of others, in what she calls a "positive way." While admitting that children are being exposed to explicit material online, Niblett's "solution" is to expose them to it again, this time inside the classroom, with the state's blessing and the so called adult industry's branding.¹ One of her supporters is Cindy Gallop, who is the owner of an adult entertainment platform, makelovenotporn, which translates as being, well, hard core pornography. The whole effort is to reduce the most private and intimate moments between a man and a woman into crass exploitation, intoxicate society with cheap pleasure and reduce the person to an animal.² A recent Guardian article makes light of it, as if it were only naughty school children telling dirty jokes and adding additional ones, has nothing to add. The Venerable Fulton Sheen identifies the love of the naked as one of the signs of the diabolical, and so it is. Samantha is dust seeking only dust, and that is all she will find.

(If you wish to read more you can look up my homily on line and look at the references.)

On May 23, 2026, Deacon Scott Borba will be ordained a priest in the Diocese of Fresno, California.³

Deacon Borba spent over 20 years working in the health and beauty industry, and was e.l.f Cosmetics co-founder. After finally answering a

¹ <https://www.politicshome.com/news/article/labour-mp-launches-summer-sex-campaign-overhaul-sex-education>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/apr/16/blue-labour-mp-samantha-niblett-summer-of-sex>
<https://metro.co.uk/video/samantha-niblett-mp-going-make-2026-summer-sex-parliament-3635631/>

² <https://www.politicshome.com/news/article/labour-mp-launches-summer-sex-campaign-overhaul-sex-education>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/apr/16/blue-labour-mp-samantha-niblett-summer-of-sex>

<https://metro.co.uk/video/samantha-niblett-mp-going-make-2026-summer-sex-parliament-3635631/>

³ <https://ewtn.co.uk/chpop-e-l-f-cosmetics-co-founder-is-becoming-a-catholic-priest-heres-his-incredible-conversion-story/> accessed 14 May 2026

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lifelong call to the priesthood at the age of 42, he has donated all of his wealth - reported to be a 3 billion dollar net worth - to charity.

He has the following to say for himself:

God “not only blessed me with money, and awareness, and just every business I had, he allowed me to have success with it,” “Then I decided, ... I was vapid. I had a perverse life. It was almost to a point where I was trying to sell my soul.” “I was living for myself. I was idolizing myself,” he explained. “I was idolizing everything else out there that was luxury. I was a poster boy for luxury.” He eventually realized this worldly life is “not where we’re supposed to be. We’re supposed to be living for Heaven.”

Scott Borba is dust seeking grace.

Jesus is glorified before the Father by the lives of his disciples: those who respond to Jesus, those who follow him, and His glory. If you are Jesus’ disciples – if you obey his commands - you are already loved by the Father. This is the call to life. Ask Jesus to help you lay down what hinders you from responding to His love. Ask for help to shed sin, your lack of trust, your lack of Christian commitment, your cynicism, your idolising stuff and actions and people you think you cannot live without or cannot move out from under. This is what the Holy Spirit is sent for, to breath upon you, and with your ‘yes’, to lift the burden and give eternal life to dust. Ask for Him.