

## Homily **Ascension of the Lord** - Year C (30.5.19)

We have to wait for the spirit now. Jesus has gone.

[Easter Candle extinguished]

You know, in the Old Testament, you get lots of references to clouds being a sign of the presence of God. Ezekiel saw a vision of the cloud of light descending into the temple. And there are many other examples, but of course, the most obvious one is the pillar of cloud that accompanied the Israelites by day as they fled Egypt towards the Promised Land. The spirit of God being with them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Because this was so long established, it was called 'The Shekinah' in Hebrew, the hidden veiled presence of God among His people.

So when this incident happened, in the Gospel, when the cloud surrounded Jesus, all the apostles would have made the connection that here was the divine presence with Jesus that took him to the divinity. Saint John prefers to use the word glorification rather than Ascension. He sees the total saving effect of the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension, as the glorification of Jesus. And the glorification of Jesus being, as it were, being assumed into the Godhead, is our promise of glory too.