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Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am–4pm



17th May 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3: 15-18
John 14: 15-21

“In the presence of God, we are continually renewed, rejuvenated and refreshed”

The context of today's Gospel is the human anxiety of the disciples about the absence of Jesus, caused by his foretelling of his departure from the world. Surely, the disciples began to feel abandoned and anxious at his announcement. But Jesus, far from ignoring or making light of such feelings, responds to them with words that warm their hearts and uplift their spirits: 'I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you' and 'you will see me, because I live and you will live' (Jn 14:19). Jesus had no intention of leaving his disciples behind him in a situation where they are left to hope without help. The face of God we see in Jesus is the face of One who wants to be with his people always and who will never desert them.

Most of us are anxious about the lifting of restrictions and the 'would be outcome' of it. No doubt, many are feeling a bit like orphans during these 'lockdown' days. Do we have a reason to hope that we will get over this phase of life caused by the deadly Covid19? Yes, we do. The reason is Jesus Christ who loves us even beyond our imagination and explanation. We have to keep our focus on the reason for our hope. How can we do this? By keeping his commandments. Jesus calls us to look at the commandments through the prism of love and to live them out of our love for God. Mostly we find Jesus alive in the love of others—the energy of love that is connected to the energy of God, for God is love. Other times we find God close to us in prayer; but where we can sense him alive mostly is in the ordinary and extraordinary loves of every day, in marriage, family, friendship and care for others. Love is not simply a nice feeling, a sentiment, or merely a warm emotion. Love becomes real in the decisions we make and in what we do. It is in our actions that result from our choices that love is realized.

Jesus does not deny the anxiety and distress, but offers a promise of presence and a sense of meaning embedded in sharing God's life. The power of the Spirit is the rock of Christian hope. Without the Spirit, the followers of Jesus would be thrown back on their own resources which are clearly inadequate. With the Spirit, however, the disciples can face the future with a power which is much larger than themselves. In this Gospel we are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will come as our advocate, the Spirit of Truth. By giving us the Spirit as an advocate, what does Jesus imply? He wishes us to know that the Spirit, the best gift that God can give us, is the gift of his own presence in our lives. The Spirit will stand beside us, will comfort us when we ask, help us in difficult times, and speak on our behalf when we are in need. Although people with no religious faith comfort one another, our fellowship with the Spirit is deeper and more awesome. His power becomes real only if we let Him work in and through us. St Theresa's prayer captures the essence of God's love in and through us:

*“Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do well.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet.
You are his eyes; you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours”.*

Roald Amundsen, the great Norwegian explorer who discovered the South Pole took a homing pigeon with him on his trip. He told his wife that if he reached the end of the world, he would release the pigeon. His wife sat for hours, all alone in their big house looking up the sky for the promised pigeon. One day she looked out the bedroom window and saw the pigeon circling in the sky above. “He's alive!” she cried, “My husband is alive!” (excerpted and edited from the sharing of Munachi, cssp and Fr. Donal Neary, S.J)

Let us continue to live in the abiding presence of Jesus!

God's blessings, Fr. Vince

First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 8: 5-8, 14-17)

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 32: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22)

(R.) *Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. (R.)



Second Reading (1 Peter 3:15-18)

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel (John 14: 15-21)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

In response to the easing of social distancing restrictions and based on the directives from the Diocese of Parramatta, the following services will be provided for our community beginning 19 May.

Weekday Masses:

•**Morning Mass 9:15am from Tuesday to Friday.** It may be attended by up to 10 persons only, excluding the priest and the ministers such as reader or altar minister. The morning Mass will still be live streamed and kept on the Facebook page until the end of the day. At this stage, we request parishioners to attend the weekday Mass maybe just once a week to allow as many as possible to participate in the Mass within the limit of 10 persons.

As you come for the celebration, you are expected to record your contact details in the book kept at the entry of the church and physical distancing must be observed.

Kindly note that there won't be any evening Mass during the weekdays from next week.

Weekend Masses:

•Saturday evening Mass (Vigil Mass) will be live streamed 5.30 pm. There will be **no attendance** at this mass other than the ministers.

•Sunday morning Mass will be live streamed 10am. There will be **no attendance** at this Mass other than the ministers.

The parish office is open from 10 am to 4 pm from Tuesday to Friday. Please give us a call for other sacraments such as baptism, reconciliation, weddings and funerals.

When the restrictions ease to allow 100 persons to attend Mass, we will reopen for weekend Masses. This is expected in the coming months.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these difficult times. United we pray that we can come together to celebrate our faith as one big family of God soon.

God's blessings, Fr Vince

Social Justice @ St Mads

Catholic Mission has a new Director for Parramatta Diocese. Alan Wedesweiler formerly the REC at St Canice's Katoomba talks about his role. "Catholic Mission wants everyone to know that, in times like this, it is important to stay connected, and that everyone knows they are a part of a larger community on mission."

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies - the Catholic Church's global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ's mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Founded in Sydney in 1847, Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, they form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and take action for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.



Happy Laudato Si' Week 2020: some more resources
www.columban.org.au/7-days-of-creation-reflection
www.mercyworld.org/library/resources-for-engaging-with-laudato-si323/

Make it Happen: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4OoncHLi3Y

~Sue Martin

2020 marks the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si', which was signed on 24 May 2015.

Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home, Laudato Si', is an inspiration during moments of difficulty. It encourages us to reflect on the values we share and create a more just and sustainable future.

The theme of Laudato Si' Week is "everything is connected." During Laudato Si' Week, we come together as one people around the world to prayerfully discern the lessons of this moment. While the world experiences a historical crisis, we reflect and prepare to build a better world. At midday on Sunday May 24, we're invited to join with the rest of the world as we say a common prayer (as attached) together to mark the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'.

Please see attached a video message from Bishop Vincent which marks the occasion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LLWjANWHzc>

~Patrice Moriarty

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$

2nd Collection (for Parish) = \$

Thank you to all who have been sending in their contributions through direct deposits or by dropping off their envelopes at the office. Your contributions are a great help for the maintenance of our parish.

For those who would like to **make donations to the parish**, please select from the options below:

- ♦ **by direct deposit**, please deposit to:
 BSB: 067950
 Account No: 0000388
 Account Name: Kenthurst Catholic Church
 Reference: your envelope number (e.g. Env 120)
 OR your name + collection
 (e.g. E Smith collection)
- ♦ **to organise regular contributions**, please ring or email the office so we can assist you with the necessary forms
- ♦ And of course, we still welcome your donations by **envelopes**. Please feel free to drop your envelopes in the locked box outside the office. We will check it regularly.
Please feel free to ring the office (96542260) on Tuesdays to Fridays (10am—4pm).
Thank you for your generosity!



Welcome to our new Alpha course beginning this Wednesday, 20th May at 7.30pm. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore life and the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. We are using our new talents and doing it using Zoom. It is open to everyone.

For more information or to register, please contact Careyanne Moylan on 0438791813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com

WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking for a cleaner for the presbytery:

- ♦ 8 hours a week
- ♦ Cleaning
- ♦ Washing
- ♦ Ironing

All who are interested are requested to submit their applications to the office or by email to

stmads@yahoo.com.au.

Please include names and contact numbers of 2 references.

Join our live stream Masses during the week on
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish/>

Tues to Fri at 9:15 am

Saturday Vigil at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 10 am

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Alfred Roy Burton

For the dearly departed

Setna Mulvihill, Christy & Breda Sherlock, Antonio Echevarria, Eriberto Adan, Teodora Canseco-Pardo, Antonio & Domenica Scarpin, Giovanni Scarpin, Maria & Giovanni De Santi, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Sandra Catuogno, Giulia & Salvatore Russo, Fulvio & Aldo Russo, Harold Burns, Danilo Jimenez Sr, Paul Cascun, Paula and Ben Dieudonne, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Adelaide & Davide Baldi

For healing of the sick

Aura Krakowski, June Brennen, John Spencer, Keith Dawson, Selina Calleia, Joe Fuda, India, Vince Luca, Kylie Baker, Lara Sawaya, Sheila Cañabano, Candida Irugalbandra, Florence Smith, Gregory Borg, Maria Peach, Paul Byrne, Andy, Patrick Breen, Jacqueline Kelly, Maria, Tricia, Rob, Michael Foley, Samuel Abella, Harper Grace, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Peter Balnaves, Dorothy Green, Pat D, Neil Rogers, Karen Bligh, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Giuseppe Grasso, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Faye Willing, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel

For the special intentions of

Cheryl Burton, Shirley Burton, Mr & Mrs John Addison

**If you would like someone to be included among these requests, please let us know by email, phone call, or by dropping a note in the locked box outside the parish office.*



Courage and confidence!

I cannot repeat this war-cry too often.

We should make it our support in our life of conflict.

-St Madeleine Sophie

Join with others as we create community online to share and grow faith, every Saturday from 11am - 12pm with Saturday Sessions.
Listen to the pre-recorded presentation about a topic of faith before Saturday 11am and then join an online group discussion via Zoom between 11am - 12pm.
Register in advance for this meeting to receive the links for the presentation:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUkduGsqDguEtFasFqi5z5P-fMkZ2SEZftY>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and the links to the presentation.

Dr Carolyn Woo: Thirsting for Justice (2019)

Dr. Woo assumed the position of CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services in January 2012. Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Since then, it has expanded in size to reach more than 100 million people in nearly 100 countries on five continents. Dr. Woo, representing CRS, was featured in Foreign Policy (May/June, 2013) as one of the 500 Most Powerful people on the planet and one of only 33 in the category of "a force for good." In this talk Carolyn shares her experience of working with some of the most vulnerable people in the world and the insights that journey has offered.

Please contact Lisa Bright on lisa.bright@parracatholic.org for further details or questions.



PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

Assistant Priest:

Rev Jessie Balorio

Parish Secretary:

Lisa Echevarria

Sacramental Coordinator

Sally Coppini

St Madeleine's Primary School

Phone: 9654 6751

Principal: Mrs Jeanette Black

Marian College

Phone: 9654 6700

Principal: Mrs Jayne Campbell

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Welcomers Coordinator:

Music Coordinator: Alexandra Mifsud

Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Deb Rankin

Baptism Preparation: Angelique Easton

RCIA Coordinator: Steve Fry

Playgroup Coordinator:

SRE Coordinator: Maureen Jones

Friendship Group: Jenny Puleo

Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator:

Peter Balnaves/Suzanne Kingston-Hunt

Adult Faith Formation: Careyanne Moylan

Property Maintenance Manager: Rick Jones

Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone

Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman

Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle

Finance Committee Chair: Aaron Cauchi