

17th May 2020 (Year A)

NEWSLETTER

◆ TOM ELICH parish priest ◆ GERRY CROOKS pastoral associate ◆ HELEN PRICE and HELEN COLE parish secretaries ◆ ANN-MAREE NICHOLLS SGS school principal ◆

Sixth Sunday of Easter

WHERE TO NEXT?

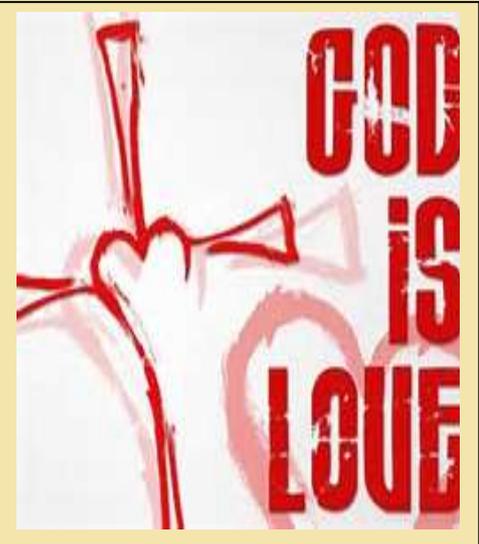
Today's gospel sees Jesus preparing for change. His talk takes place at the Last Supper and is an intimate farewell message for his disciples. He didn't know exactly what was going to happen, but he could see the writing on the wall. He gives a reassuring message that God's Spirit would be with them in an uncertain future to give them strength and guidance.

We are also at a threshold of change. The lockdown happened with surprising speed. The opening up will take place much more slowly and in small steps. From this weekend, we can have up to 10 people



in the church. In a month it will be 20 and then in July 100.
Palm Sunday at St Peter's Basilica, Rome.

Maybe this works in cafes but it is difficult in churches. How do we decide who can come and who can't? Do we need a booking system? ...but then that presumes there is someone at the door to check names. Once we're in the church, what will the rules be? Obviously everyone will need to use hand sanitiser before and after. Do we mark seats where people can sit? Will people have to wear masks? Probably the church will need to be cleaned after each Mass. Holy



Please pray for our departed loved ones, especially Tom Killian, Sr Patrica Comerford SGS, Mary Miller, Sr Janet Colbourne SGS, Peter Perring and Felino Zamora **recently deceased and also for** Colin McMahon, John Fletcher, Gary Fletcher, Patrick O'Connell, Patricia O'Connell, Mary O'Connell, Ross Saffiotti, the Jarrett family, Aunty Joan Hendriks, Annie Saunders, Vince Long, Patrick Long, Eve Long, Arthur Wilson and Mavis Wilson.



Please remember the sick in your prayers –

James Bates, Jan Low (nee Stefano), Carmen Turner, Rob Stonier, Marlyn and John Chester, Maureen O'Connor, John Clarke, Anna Harkin, Yvonne Reich, Jennifer Tuck (nee Moss), Oliver Zhu.

water and the collection basket will not reappear for some time.

It would be great if we could have a big 'normal' full-scale celebration of Masses to welcome everyone back. But this is not going to happen. It will require patience and understanding to work our way back.

However, even with the limit of 10 people in the church, things can start up gradually. The gate at the back of the church also allows people to make a visit at any time of the day or night. In addition, starting from this week, the church will be open for private prayer Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8am and 9am. You will need to record your name and phone number, and use hand sanitiser at the door. Limit of 10 people only. This will enable us to gauge interest and to adapt as time goes on.

In particular, the hour on Friday will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as we have been accustomed to do in the parish.

In June, we are hoping to have meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council and the Liturgy Committee to plan for the opening up of parish life and worship and the coming of a new parish priest.

Finally, we are at last in a position to complete the first reconciliation of those children who completed their preparation before Easter. This introduction to the sacrament of individual reconciliation will take place at staggered times in the week beginning 8 June. The parish office will communicate with the families involved.

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we move towards Ascension and Pentecost and begin the delicate work of 'getting back to normal'.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Elich', written in a cursive style.

Tom Elich
Parish Priest

EASING THE LOCKDOWN

- We cannot yet celebrate Mass in the church, but the church will be open for private prayer. This week Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8am-9am.
- Friday will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Limit of 10 people, who need to record their name and phone number and use hand sanitiser.

Meanwhile, continue to use the Sunday Readings and Family Prayer with your family at home. Read the texts aloud, talk about them and pray together.

Other suggestions:

- Watch Mass online – www.archbne.org/bzw (12:30pm weekdays, 8am and 10am Sundays)
- Read the latest news from “**The Catholic Leader**” – www.catholicleader.com.au
- Background reading: LITed from Liturgy Brisbane <https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/>.

LITURGY 18 May – 24 May 2020

Wednesday 20 May – St Bernardine

Thursday 21 May – St Christopher Magallanes

Friday 22 May – St Rita of Cascia

The ASCENSION of the LORD

Readings – Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23 Matthew 28:16-20

YOUR PARISH is here to support you. The office will remain open five mornings per week. Please note for the next couple of TUESDAYS we will not be open. If the office is unattended when you call, please leave a message for us and we will make contact as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEERS MISSED, BUT CONTRIBUTION VALUED:

This week is National Volunteer Week. Right now, some of you are courageously serving our community from the frontline. Some of you have adapted the way you work and communicate and are helping people from your own home. And many of you are standing ready to resume your vital role when life returns to normal. THANK YOU for your commitment to seeing us through, in whatever way you can.

A sense of humour is a gift from God. Laughter unites us.



CHECK OUT THE PARISH WEBSITE

www.bulimbacatholic.com

GET THE PARISH NEWSLETTER ONLINE

School newsletter: www.stspp.qld.edu.au

S.U.P.P. Step Up Parish Project

Over the last few weeks, S.U.P.P. has gone from an idea, which was supported enthusiastically by the parish, to a real and immediate need. This week saw the official financial launch of the project and we are now hoping the parish can commit to resettling two Iranian Kurdish refugees in Canada. With two application slots available in the sponsorship scheme, our aim is to raise the approximately \$31,000 needed. \$16,510 has already been donated. By stepping up **NOW**, we can make a difference to these men's lives.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

There are two ways to give:

1. **DIRECT DEPOSIT** (*preferred*)
Account Name: Refugee Support
BSB: 064 786 A/C 100026385
(please use your name as reference)
2. **CASH or CHEQUE** (*direct to parish office*)
Please identify as 'REFUGEE SUPPORT'
and use your name as reference.

Please look at the website moving forward to see how we are reaching our goal!

A NEW WAY TO CONTRIBUTE

The collection basket is unlikely to return to the church in the next year. There is now a way to support the parish: use the New Diocesan App.



<http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au>

You can still contribute in other ways:

- Drop off your donation - *parish office or via our locked letterbox at the end of the driveway.*
- Give via direct debit - *please call the parish office and we can email a form or you can find it on the parish website under Quick Links – Contribute to parish*
- Credit card donation - (*per above*)
- Direct deposit donation to our bank account
BSB – 064 786 A/C - 006 031 500
(Ref: surname)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PARISH

SUNDAY READINGS

READ AT HOME

Sixth Sunday of Easter
17 May 2020



Collect

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Readings and Commentaries

For the past five weeks we, the long baptised and the newly baptised, have been relishing life in the Spirit. The gift of the Spirit is made more explicit today. We hear of an unexpected outpouring of the Spirit as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, and we are reminded of Jesus promising the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, to his disciples on the night before he died. There's even a passing reference in 1 Peter to the Spirit in whom Christ "was raised to life."

All this helps make us more aware of the work of the Spirit in each one of us and in the Church at large. For too long in the Western Church the Holy Spirit was the "forgotten person" of the Trinity. More and more these days we are rediscovering the Spirit in dialogue with the Eastern Churches; their rich tradition is steeped in the Spirit. We in the West now have the opportunity to come to a new level of Spirit-awareness, not just during the Easter season but throughout the year.

A reading from the 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 65:1–7, 16, 20

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

or

R. Alleluia.

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.

'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.

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.

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.

First Reading

Last week we heard the story of the election of seven men from the Jerusalem community to wait on tables. Nowhere after that is there any record of them ever doing so. Instead one of them – Stephen – becomes the first Christian martyr because of his provocative preaching. His stoning gives rise to a persecution that drove Christians out of Jerusalem – an event that is mentioned in the text from the NRSV but not in the standard lectionary.

Today's reading presents us with Philip, the only other member of the seven that we hear of again. Like Stephen he has become a preacher of the word, not a servant at table. In an episode that paves the way for the mission to the Gentiles, Philip preaches to the Samaritans. His work among these "hostile cousins" of the Jews reproduces that of Jesus; he preaches, exorcises and heals.

The whole story is one of vigorous activity and success. Readers will readily see that their task is to proclaim the text with positive energy. It is truly a "good news story".

The latter part of the text may seem to provide some justification for Churches that see baptism and confirmation as chronologically and theologically distinct. The Samaritans had been "baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus" but the Spirit "had not come down on any of them" until the apostles "laid hands on them". In fact the interconnection between water baptism, laying on of hands, and the giving of the Holy Spirit is quite complex in the Acts. The contemporary debate about the meaning and timing of confirmation shows no signs of letting up.

Responsorial Psalm

The source of today's responsorial psalm is Psalm 65/66, most of which is a joyous song of praise in memory of God's deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt. About half way through it becomes a personal hymn of thanksgiving from an individual who has experienced help from God. This shift is evident in the transition from the third to the fourth verse of the responsorial psalm.

The change from a collective voice to a single voice should be evident to the congregation. The first three verses are proclaimed in the name of the whole assembly; the fourth verse is as invitation to everyone to hear of a more personal experience.

The response is based on the opening lines of the psalm; it should be delivered with enthusiasm.

A reading from the first letter of St 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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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 your 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.'

Second Reading

The communities to whom the first letter of Peter is sent appear to have an uneasy relationship with the Greco-Roman society which surrounds them. On the one hand they are advised not to be confrontational with their neighbours, so as not to give them grounds for taking offence. On the other they are encouraged to be true to their convictions.

In today's text they are told to "have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have", but to "give it with courtesy and respect". And in a verse that harks back to the advice given to slaves two Sundays ago, they are instructed that "it is better to suffer for doing what is right than for doing wrong".

This practical advice gives rise to a short confession of faith. It declares that the innocent Christ died for the guilty to open their way to God. Even more briefly, "In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life".

The reading thus begins with an exhortation but finishes with grounds for courage. Listeners should be able to hear both the challenge and the encouragement of this short text. It is the last excerpt we hear from 1 Peter this season because of Ascension and Pentecost.

Gospel

The gospel for today invites us into two intimate relationships. The first is that between Jesus and his disciples, the second is that shared between Jesus, his Father, and the Spirit.

Throughout this farewell discourse we have the sense of eavesdropping on an intimate conversation. The atmosphere is intense. The disciples have gathered with Jesus as the darkness deepens around them. They have been profoundly moved by Jesus' extraordinary gesture of washing their feet. They are troubled by his talk of treachery and desertion. This is the setting in which Jesus opens his heart in words of boundless affection.

In doing so he invites them – and us – into the communion of love that he shares with the Father and with the Spirit. He and the Spirit will not leave his chosen ones orphans; the disciples will come to know "that I am in the Father and you in me and I in you"; they will be loved by Father and Son and Jesus will make himself known to them.

This "loving out loud" does not proceed in a straight line. It spirals around as one idea suggests another by association. We are invited to let Jesus' words wrap us around with love that knows no bounds. This is the final extract we have from the farewell discourse this season.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty and all-merciful God,
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
in whom there is no shadow of death,
save us in this time of crisis;
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
watch over all medical people
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
that hope may never die
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,
may shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

(Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane)

or

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain
all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment
amidst the many choices and decisions
facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do
to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,
with all that is on our hearts,
we gather now and pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches. We have been invited to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.)

FAMILY PRAYER

WEEK BY WEEK



Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year A

17 May 2020

"I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate."

Something to Think About

Even though we cannot see Jesus, we can experience his presence in many different ways. The Spirit is at work in the world, bringing love, joy, kindness, patience and gentleness. The main message in today's gospel is to love Jesus and to do as he commands. What does love look like.... feel like.... and sound like?

The Story

Jesus reminds the disciples that the way to show their love for him is to keep his commandments. However, the disciples are still fearful and anxious so Jesus promises them a comforter and helper – the Holy Spirit. They are not to feel alone or like orphans. The Holy Spirit will help them to know Jesus as the one sent by the Father.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

14:15-17, 19-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you love me, you will do as I command.

Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you.

The Spirit will show you what is true.

In a little while the people of this world won't be able to see me, but you will see me.

And because I live, you will live.

Then you will know that I am one with the Father.

You will know that you are one with me, and I am one with you."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

Click to watch the video.

[What is Love?](#)



THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Mealtime Prayer



Family Discussion

Begin by talking about activities we need help with before we can do them on our own, e.g. riding a bike, swimming, tying shoelaces.

Now talk about activities that we still need help with e.g. learning a new language, baking a new recipe.

Help is something we need all through our lives!! This is true for us as disciples of Jesus. Talk about times when you have needed help to show your love for Jesus by keeping his commandments.

Family Activity

In the gospel, Jesus reminded the disciples that they show their love for him when they keep his commandments.

Imagine you are responsible for writing some rules for the 21st century.

What would some of these be?

Put a copy of your 21st century commandments on your fridge door.



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**JESUS SAID:
'MY FATHER WILL
LOVE YOU AND
I WILL LOVE YOU'**



**SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE
WORD 'LOVE' TWELVE
TIMES IN THIS PUZZLE**

L	Y	U	G	H	E	E	E	S	L	O	V	E
O	P	L	O	V	E	E	E	4	O	H	R	E
V	O	L	L	O	V	E	T	V	O	T	E	
E	T	U	E	#	Y	H	U	E	9	L	R	
W	R	O	K	J	J	#	G	K	6	L	L	
3	5	P	6	L	O	V	E	P	W	O	P	
F	G	U	O	O	O	E	V	4	Q	V	Y	
F	P	L	O	V	E	N	L	O	V	E	2	
L	L	L	X	Z	5	7	O	#	2	F	8	
O	#	G	*	8	H	J	V	A	R	T	6	
V	D	F	R	S	S	T	E	#	N	K	J	
E	Q	L	O	V	E	Q	*	G	H	L	B	



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