

5th Sunday of Easter, Year A 9th - 10th May 2020

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:1-2,4-5,18-19

R/ Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform ever greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

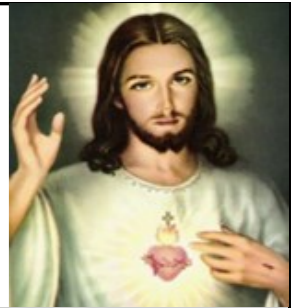
The many 'rooms' or 'dwelling places' which he is going away to prepare are in fact the separate instances of God's 'indwelling' in the heart of each and every believer. As he will say later, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them' (14:23)



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5th SUNDAY OF EASTER, Year A 9th - 10th May 2020

Do not let your Hearts be Troubled

by Angela Maynard, Creighton University's Student Health Services

For some, today is Mother's Day. In the Catholic faith tradition, we honour the mother of Jesus Christ, Mary. I see her as a fierce protector of her son, Jesus. As a Catholic I believe that Mary is my spiritual mother, and protector. I frequently find myself praying to her for guidance as I travel my own journey as a mother. The excursion known as motherhood can be exciting, scary, bumpy, joyful and full of awe, sometimes all in the same day! I'm blessed to have a mother who modelled the importance of faith through her life. I'm grateful every day to be celebrating another Mother's Day with her.

In the Gospel Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." As a nurse, I find the navigation of this global pandemic to be full of challenges. I've had the opportunity to accompany many as they manage the impacts of COVID-19. I hear voices wrought with fear as my patients battle illness or care for family members who are sick. I hear criticism of many decision makers and I hear critics who maintain that this is all a hoax. People are unkind to each other over decisions that are made without remembering that this is a novel situation. Nobody has encountered a global pandemic in over 100 years!



If I think about this very long, I can go down some really dark holes. I've had to be very intentional about remaining positive, graceful, and hopeful. The one thing that I've leaned on the most is my faith. I'm continually practicing gratitude and at night I tell myself to "Give it to God and go to sleep." I pray the rosary frequently because it really helps me manage the anxiety that can come with the unknown. I find comfort in knowing that Mary asks that we pray the rosary for peace. I need some peace as I witness the current chaos around me. So, I urge us all to take some time and remember Jesus' words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Really think about these words. Trust in God's love for me. Try to "give it to God and go to sleep."

Like me, it seems that Jesus learned a lesson or two from his mother. He affords protection and calm to his followers. His mother, Mary, offers protection and peace. My hope is that we can all experience times of peace as we renew trust in the words of Jesus and his mother during this turbulent time. Is it a coincidence that Jesus teaches this lesson on Mother's Day during a global pandemic? I think not.

Office Hours:
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD
Priest in Residence:
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Child Safety Officers:
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Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:
Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:
Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),
Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,
Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,
Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,
Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solomon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:
Peter Constable (Chair)
0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:
Pauline O'Day (President)
Ph: 9484 2445

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Live Streaming at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday-Friday: 1pm
Saturday: 9am
Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Mass

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday mornings at 6am.
RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday mornings at 8:30am

07 May 2020

STATEMENT

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne**



We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Cor12:3

It is good that all the material from Case 35 of the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has now been made fully available. There was never any question that the redacted information should remain closed to the public.

I again offer my unreserved apology for the failure of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to responsibly care for and protect our young people and vulnerable adults.

I wish also to commend the work of all involved in the Royal Commission, particularly the survivors who took part, and for those many voices they represented. The Royal Commission was extremely difficult and painful and has been a critical catalyst for important and necessary change.

While the passage of time can never obscure the systemic failings of leadership, process and culture of that period, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has acted upon the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Much has changed as a result.

Rigorous policies, procedures and practices to ensure safety for children and young people are now in place, and principally regulated through the Commission for Children and Young People. New governance structures for Catholic education in relation to Parish Priests as employers has also been announced, and is intended to be implemented by 1 Jan 2021.

Child safety and care is not a project with an end date. It requires life-long vigilance. My commitment, and that of our leadership in the Archdiocese, is to listen attentively and honestly to those who have experienced abuse, and to find pathways of justice and healing for them.

As the current Archbishop of Melbourne, I now have the responsibility to consider the details of the material released today, and to determine what further steps may need to be addressed as a result.

For media enquiries please contact:

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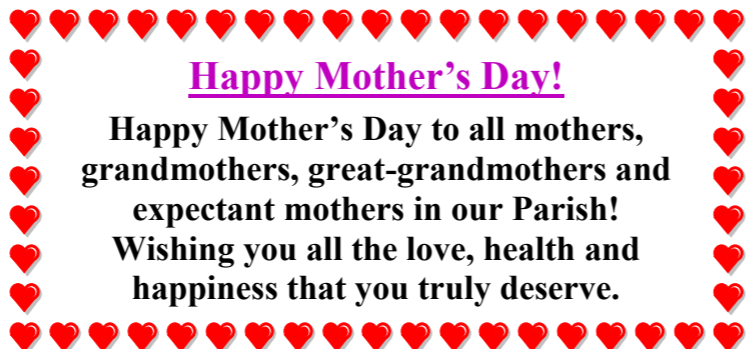
Virtual Pentecost Pilgrimage 2020

When the disciples left Jerusalem some might enquire 'what did they do?' 'where did they go?'. Our pilgrimage to the upper room in many ways will resemble the disciples'.

Whether we are in a real pilgrimage or a virtual pilgrimage what's important is not so much the 'where' and the 'how' it's about 'who'.


Or time together on this pilgrimage is about to 'who' we are moving towards, with each step and each talk. Just as the disciples did, we will encounter our risen Jesus on our pilgrimage many times before we arrive in the upper room for Pentecost.

Register NOW for FREE at www.pentecostpilgrimage.com and get unlimited access to talks provided twice per week.



Happy Mother's Day!

**Happy Mother's Day to all mothers,
grandmothers, great-grandmothers and
expectant mothers in our Parish!
Wishing you all the love, health and
happiness that you truly deserve.**

 **Australian Bishops to hold Plenary by Video Conference**

For the first time in their history Australian Bishops will not be together in person during their plenary gathering, which runs from the 7th to 14th May. Instead they will work from home with the aid of video conferencing.

The Covid-19 pandemic is set to be high on the Bishops' agenda. Archbishop Coleridge, the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, noted that "there is a great desire in all parts of the Church to resume public worship, and we will consider how and when that might happen." Over the course of the meeting the Bishops will be looking at how the Church can support families, individuals and communities that have been seriously affected by the pandemic. Archbishop Coleridge acknowledged "the recovery will be long."

Another key theme of the plenary meeting will be to discuss a more collaborative approach to safeguarding and the handling of sexual abuse complaints and other misconduct. "We've made good progress in devising even more robust structures and practices to respond to allegations and to create and maintain Church environments that are safe for children and vulnerable adults," the Archbishop said.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Vocations

LORD of the Harvest,
BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving - for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.


INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.


Collections

1st Collection: \$90.00
2nd Collection: \$110.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



Gratitude for my Mother



Dear Lord, today I turn to you to give you thanks for my mother. With your own gift of life, she bore me in her womb and gave me life. She tenderly, patiently cared for me and taught me to walk and talk. She read to me and made me laugh. No one delighted in my successes more; no one could comfort me better in my failures. I am so grateful for how she mothered me and mentored me, and even disciplined me.

Please bless her, Lord, and comfort her. Help her loving heart to continue to love and give of herself to others. Strengthen her when she is down and give her hope when she is discouraged.

Most of all, Lord, on this Mother's Day, give my mother the graces she most needs and desires today. I ask you this, in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour forever and ever.

For a Mother who has died

Dear Lord, relying on your promises to us, I turn to you in trust that my mother is with you and that she is enjoying your loving embrace. You alone know how she loved the best she could and how she faithfully endured the struggles that she faced. You know the graces you gave her and you know the grace she was for me and for so many. For all the ways she truly loved the way you loved her, please reward her, Lord. May she enjoy the communion of all her family and friends who are with you.

Lord, I know my mother still loves us who are still here on earth. I ask you that you might listen to her fervent prayers for us. Help me to grow into a new and deeper relationship with my mother now, as I long for the day when we will both meet in your embrace - freed from all that might have hindered our relationship on earth, knowing and understanding everything we did not know or understand on this earth.

I ask you this with faith in the resurrection, trusting my mother's love, and desiring that she knows my love for her. Amen.

Other prayers for or by mothers

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>



Resources for the Fifth Sunday of Easter


Please share these online resources for the preparation of the Fifth Sunday of Easter with your families.

The first resource contains the [Sunday readings](#). It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together.

The [second resource](#) is designed for families with young children.

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
Lopisoni Amato, Alan Castles,
Nicola D'Orazio, Valerie McGuire &
Vincent Sievers



May – a Month Devoted to Mary

Pope Francis asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. "Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary, our mother, will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial," the pope said in a letter addressed to all Catholics and released by the Vatican April 25th.

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already are in the habit of praying the rosary at home during the month, he noted. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view." "You can decide according to your own situations" whether to pray individually or in groups, he said, noting that "it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow."

The Legion of Mary invites those of you who would like to pray the Rosary with them every Thursday at 8 pm. For more information, please contact Janice on 0422320708.

SmartLoving - Breakthrough



All marriages go through periods of stress and disillusionment, especially when we in isolation. Every husband and wife needs to be proactive in keeping our marriages healthy by addressing the hurts we have accumulated and resolving any resentment. SmartLoving BreakThrough Online will teach you how conflict arises in intimate relationships and show you how to take simple steps to heal any wounds, dissolve resentment and restore hope.

For information and to learn more, visit:
<https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>

Praying during the COVID-19 lockdown

I invite you to a meditation prayer with Father Richard Shortall SJ. It takes about 24 minutes. You will find it here: <https://email.jesuitcommunications.com/t/d-l-mijytk-qituddttu-p/>

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