

6th Sunday of Easter, Year A 16th - 17th May 2020

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 65:1-7. 16,20. R. see v.1

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 14:23

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

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

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Jesus promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who is a gift from the Father and the Son to us, so that we are never alone.

The Holy Spirit offers us gifts or signs of his presence: counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

And when the Holy Spirit is present in our lives we see it in the fruits of: charity, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

We know that when we lack these in our lives, when we are unkind, not at ease, impatient, jealous, angry, etc...we need only ask God for the grace to see the Holy Spirit, and invite the Holy Spirit back into our lives.



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6th SUNDAY OF EASTER, Year A 16th - 17th May 2020

The Spirit is in You

Jesus said to his disciples: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you". These words are directed also to us today in the midst of suffering of the sick throughout the world, the disorientation of those who may not attend Church, the fear of those put out of work, the anger of those who feel that they have lost control over their own lives and in the confusion of students trying to understand how to learn in a new environment. In the midst of all this, the Advocate, God's Spirit, is with us.

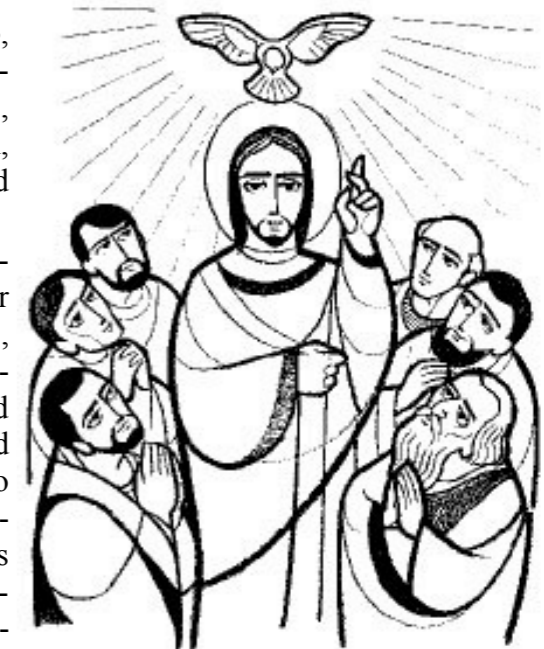
So we may ask: can we have hope? Hope not understood as optimism that "things will get back to normal," or that it is "safe to go back to work" or that "everything will be alright, just as it always has been." That could be a denial of reality, refusal to see or understand the scope of suffering all around us. But hope that St Peter talks about in the second reading from his first letter. Hope that sees reality in some measure that God sees reality.

In his time, Peter saw a pandemic or two, wars of human extermination, terrible leadership in both religious and civil settings, ignorance, greed, violence and oppression, even suffered his own crucifixion. He had many reasons to despair.

But Peter invites us to remember what happened to him on the seashore shortly after the Resurrection – he encountered Jesus, his best friend, alive after he had been crucified for telling the truth about God and God's immeasurable love. The best friend whom he had denied even knowing two days before, just after Jesus had demonstrated his love for Peter by washing his feet. Peter failed Jesus in a way so complete and so total, that in a less God-centred human he might have destroyed His hope. But Jesus' hope was, and remains, every bit as total and intact as his love.

The hope that Peter is talking about is grounded in the experience of encountering Jesus face-to-face. When we look into Jesus' eyes then we cannot lose hope. There we see His love tenderly dawning on us. His gaze penetrates our soul and tells us that we are his hope, just as he is our hope. When we know how that implacable love is counting on us to give a reason for our hope, we become hope itself. And that gaze remains in the Person of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate in our heart.

We have every reason for our hope. We are like a tree planted close to the spring that wells up from the deepest water course of all – God's being. We are alive and are companions in the life and work of Jesus. We always have a reason for your hope that God's life, God's way, God's truth wins, both here and now and forever. We must be willing to engage the challenge to be both a sign and a voice of the victory.



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

Parish Priest:
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD
Priest in Residence:
Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD
Parish Office: Cristina Agius
School Principal: Mark Tierney
School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:
Ylenia Useli
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Child Safety Officers:
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and
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: 8am
Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

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

TV Mass

Channel 44 (31): Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday 11am

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday mornings at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday mornings at 8:30am



Wednesday 13 May 2020

Members of the Catholic community in Victoria,
The Catholic Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Throughout this situation of the Coronavirus pandemic our prayers and solidarity have been with you all, and will continue to guide the challenging decisions we have been called to make.

Despite the many weeks of worry and social restrictions, we are delighted that as of 11.59pm yesterday, Tuesday 12 May 2020, churches in Victoria may now be open in certain circumstances.

This opportunity for small gatherings and for some quiet moments of prayer in the sacramental presence of Our Lord is a gentle first step in the right direction, and rightly a moment of rejoicing for God's people. We are pleased to work constructively with our communities to make appropriate adjustments. Strict restrictions still govern our actions due to the risks of COVID-19 and we are all being asked to show patience and fortitude.

Each Diocese is communicating with their parishes about how various ministries, including sacramental care, will be conducted in this first stage of the easing of social restrictions. We wish to be fully compliant with the directives that apply across Victoria, so that we ensure the protection of elderly and vulnerable people, and work together for the common good of our communities.

The conditions under which a church can be open include a collection of contact details (for the purposes of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary), strict monitoring of numbers, ongoing hygiene requirements, publicising the scheduled times for private worship, and public worship limited to ten people at a time.

Arrangements for liturgies and access to churches while ensuring these conditions are met will vary, depending on the facilities and resources that are available in each particular community. We recognise that deciding on these arrangements and putting them in place is not straightforward, and we ask for patience and understanding during this time.

This new stage of restrictions is subject to changing guidance that we receive from the State Government authorities, and we are advised this will be reviewed at the end of May.

After a difficult time for all of us, including many new pressures on families and great challenges for healthcare and emergency workers, we share in the disappointment that social restrictions are likely to continue for some time.

Nevertheless, we act with one accord in doing what is most prudent and loving for the sake of those most susceptible to the virus. We rejoice that Christ is with us and will walk with us as we begin the long journey out of the current stage of restrictions.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR MA, DD
BISHOP OF BALLARAT

Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
BISHOP OF SANDHURST

Rev Peter Slater
DELEGATE OF DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR,
SALE

Archbishop Coleridge re-elected President of Bishops Conference

At their recent (7-14 May) Plenary Meeting the Catholic Bishops of Australia have elected Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane to a second two-year term as president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Archbishop Coleridge was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne in 2002 and later became Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn. Since 2012, he has served as Archbishop of Brisbane.

He was elected president of the Conference at its plenary meeting in May 2018 after previously serving as its vice-president for two years.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP was re-elected Conference vice-president, a role he also took on in May 2018.

Four members of the Permanent Committee of the Bishops Conference were also elected:

Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB; Toowoomba Bishop Robert McGuckin; Adelaide

Archbishop-Designate Patrick O'Regan; and Maronite Bishop of Australia Antoine-Charbel Tarabay.

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli of Melbourne and Port Pirie Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ, elected in May 2019, are continuing members of the Permanent Committee.

Re-opening of Sacred Heart Church

Our church will re-open for public Masses next week. The Government has ruled that only 10 people are allowed to attend at one time. I still encourage you, especially senior parishioners and those who are not well, to stay home at this time.

Those who would like to attend Masses **must register** by calling Fr Jan on 0400 469 540 or 9480 3398 to be admitted. **Please do not leave a voicemail!!**

Masses will be Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd May at 9.10am and 5.30pm, and Saturday 23rd May at 9.10am.

The church will be opened at 8.45am and 5pm.

Only those who have registered and been admitted may enter.

I ask for your continued understanding; please do not enter the church if you have not registered for a particular time. Thank you, Fr Jan.



Meditation & Mindfulness Reflection event via Zoom

Saturday 30th May 2020, 10am-1pm.

Facilitated by Carol Dyer, this event offers participants theory and practice in meditation and mindfulness. Join us for an opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time.

Cost \$20. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BJNSJ>.

For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or phone 9890 1101.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Good morning Father Jan Szweda,

I am not sure if you are checking emails during this very difficult and challenging time.

Father I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that you, your staff and all your parishioners are in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless you all.



Margaret Lea

Parish Liaison Officer

margaret.lea@marymackilloptoday.org.au

The new flagship ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph, in the spirit of Australia's first saint

Resources for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Please share these online resources for the preparation of the Sixth 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*



Those who have died recently
Maria Spanu

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen.

A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at the time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us grow in faith and pray to the Father, *thy will be done.*

Amen



Collections

1st Collection: \$175.00

2nd Collection: \$25.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



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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