

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A) 10 May 2020



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2020 Sacraments Program
Our Sacramental Program has been suspended until further notice.

Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm
Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm
Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm
Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,
Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am
Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am
Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.
Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

From Fr B

We are into May now. May has traditionally been the month dedicated to Mary, Our Lady.



The second Sunday of May is always dedicated to our mothers. It's mother's day. It's a bit different this year.



We always buy our mothers a present or give her flowers.

We give thanks for our mothers alive and in heaven.

For most of us our mother was the most important person in our growing years. Mums kept us healthy, looked after our daily needs. Mums keep us safe. It's great to see Mum, Dad and children, all walking or riding together in this Covid time.

God's loving blessings dear mothers for you on Mother's Day.

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**Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.**

Recently Deceased: Gwen Kennedy, Terry Tully, Elvira Bonanno, Fr Peter Morrissey, Fr Paddy McAuliffe, Saniora Antouny, Maureen Gleeson, Pedro Espado, Tony McLeod

Anniversaries: Charlie Di Somma, Lauren Hew, Fr John Pearce, Caterina Lorizio, Carmen Cullinan, Rema Flannery, Caterina Lorizio, George Crvenkovic, L A Fernandez, Ron & Ruby Tolhurst, Lidia Merlino, Julia Georges, Jack Cucina

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pulosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickanickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Nino Restuccia, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Imogen Warner, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Veronica Rutherford, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, , Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

Thank you to those who have donated to the parish via our 'support us' tab on our website. MasterCard or Visa donations can be made securely via BPoint Secure Payment Service.

To make a payment to the Parish click on the drop-down box and select a payment type (Biller code). This will enable us to allocate your donation. (1st collection, 2nd collection, general donation etc)

You may also opt for a monthly debit to your credit card. Please call or email the parish office for an authority form to have this option set up for you.

Urgent appeal

Donations of personal hygiene products are urgently sought for Care Packages being put together for the thousands of seafarers trapped on ships coming into Sydney waters.

Chaplain to the Seafarers, Sr Mary Leahy, said donations of shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, knitted beanies and chocolates are desperately needed for the thousands of seamen currently stranded on ships on our waterfront due to the Coronavirus.

Sr Mary has spent the past 20 years helping those who earn a living on the seas and said she has never seen conditions so dire.

Parishes including St Andrew Malabar, St Charles Borromeo Ryde/Gladesville and Our Lady Star of the Sea Miranda have agreed to be drop-off points for the donations however if you would like to support the appeal and collect donations please contact journalist Debbie Cramsie at the Sydney Archdiocese on debbie.cramsie@sydneycatholic.org

CWL Silver Circle Results Week 8

1 st Prize	No. 15	\$20.00	Trish Ambrose
2 nd Prize	No 22	\$10.00	Maria Di Giantomaso

Mass Intentions / Offerings (Effective 25 March 2020)

Mass intentions/offerings are welcome. Please email Fr Chaminda on mcrwanigasena@gmail.com

Information Required: Intention and the date intention to be offered. eg, kindly offer Mass for the soul of _____, on date. Please indicate if it for a special reason please eg, anniversary of death, recently deceased.

If your intention is related to recovery of illness, please supply name of the sick person and the date you would like the Mass offered.

For all other intentions please state basic intentions and the requested date.

If you or anyone you know within the Parish is experiencing distress or anxiety during this current situation, our priests are available to have a chat over the phone (parish office 9743 1023, please leave a message if unattended) or alternatively you can email Fr Chaminda on mcrwanigasena@gmail.com so that he may contact you.

In the event that you or someone you know is experiencing problems with lack of food please contact CatholicCare on 131819.

Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here- <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

ST AMBROSE CHURCH IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Your intentions will be offered to God by us
in our private masses.

Fr. Brian Egan (Parish priest)
Fr. Chaminda Wanigasena (Assistant Priest)

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

DO YOU HAVE PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND CASH TO HAND IN?

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at 'lent.caritas.org.au' and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney, NSW 2001. Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash please call our friendly team on 1800 024 413.

Br Julian's Reflection: Fifth Sunday of Easter 10 May 2020



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me...I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

John 14, 1-14

Many of us have had the privilege and the pain of being present at the death of someone whom we loved dearly and who, in turn, had loved us dearly. While we may or may not have remembered that person's dying words, we will long remember the experience of pain, loss, grief, confusion, anger, gratitude or some or even all of those feelings. It is a decidedly different experience when someone we know in the prime of life gathers those he or she knows and loves and announces that death by violence for him or her is imminent.

Today's gospel reading gives us an account of Jesus doing something like that in the presence of those who were near and dear to him. What he said left them very upset, and, probably, experiencing a whole range of feelings - confusion, fear, disappointment, panic, grief, emptiness, just to name a few of the possibilities. If they were shaken by the revelation that he was soon to die a violent death at the hands of those they all knew were intent on getting rid of him, they must have been shaken to the core at his announcement that he would be betrayed by one of the twelve whom he himself had selected to work with him, and that the one whom he had appointed to succeed him would soon disown him. Yet, without any hint of recrimination, blame or hostility, he calmly encouraged them to quell their fears and to trust in the goodness, compassion and love of the God about whom he had taught them so much.

All this is in the early part of Jesus' long farewell address that John has brought together in chapters 13-17 of his Gospel. I suggest that, in appealing to his friends to remain calm, it is very significant that he urges them, at the outset, to trust - "Trust in God still and trust in me" (John 14, 1). After all, trust in God, in Jesus and in one another is the very cement of every worthwhile relationship we have. Our relationships are the building blocks of our lives, and they would dissolve into dust without genuine trust.

In his efforts to quell their anxiety and to reassure them, Jesus explains that he is returning to God and that, in so doing, he is going to prepare a place there for them, too. The responses he gets from both Philip and Thomas serve to highlight that, even at this late stage, the apostles have still not grasped that he, Jesus, is the revelation, the sacrament of God. The most complete reflection and revelation of God that the apostles, we and our world will ever experience is Jesus himself. Thomas looks for a map and compass to plot the way to God, while Philip requests a special revelation of God, without realising that Jesus has been in the process of revealing every possible facet of God through his miracles (signs in John's language) and preaching. John restrains himself by refusing to have Jesus mutter under his breath: "Dear God, will they ever get the message?"

Having assured them that they already know the way to the place where he is going, Jesus patiently responds in words of one syllable to Thomas' request for a map and compass: **"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me"** (John 14, 6). Similarly, his response to Philip is all but in words of one syllable: **"To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say: 'Let us see the Father?'"** (John 14, 9). For three whole years, everything Jesus had said and done was dedicated to revealing to everyone he encountered, especially those closest to him, who God really is. His words and actions were God's words and actions. Moreover, he takes his message another step, explaining to the disciples that by imitating him, by expressing in their lives the relationship they have with him, they, in their

turn, will take to their world the goodness, mercy, compassion and love of God. That, in our turn, is the privilege and responsibility with which we, too, have been entrusted. Today's gospel is a clear reminder of that.

April 30 last week was the fifth anniversary of the death of the controversial Jesuit priest, Daniel Berrigan. He was controversial because he was an outspoken anti-war activist and a non-violent protester. He lived the Gospel with integrity and passion, and went to prison because of it. Berrigan also had a great way with words, writing and speaking with eloquence. One of his often-repeated pieces of advice to fellow Christians was "Know where you stand, and stand there." He stood in vigorous opposition to the Vietnam War, and every war since then. Yet he was a man whose humanity went deep and whose affinity with the poor found very practical expression. He knew where he stood, stood there with determination, and paid the price, even the price of being disowned by many fellow Catholics. He once said: "If you are a Christian, you had better look good on wood", and at another time: "Root yourself in Christ, and do the work that needs to be done with love, grace, courage and creativity day after Christian day." He knew what Jesus meant when he said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" and he reflected that in the way he lived life and gave it to others. In his book entitled *Ten Commandments for the Long Haul* he offers some guidelines for managing when things get tough. They might help us at this time when many of our tried and true supports are just not available:

- Call on Jesus when all else fails. Call on Him when all else succeeds (except that never happens).
- Don't be afraid to be afraid or appalled to be appalled. How do you think the trees feel these days, or the whales, or, for that matter, most humans?
- Keep your soul to yourself. Soul is a possession worth paying for, they're growing rarer. Learn from monks, they have secrets worth knowing.
- About practically everything in the world, there's nothing you can do. This is Socratic wisdom. However, about a few things you can do something. Do it, with a good heart.
- On a long drive, there's bound to be a dull stretch or two. Don't go anywhere with someone who expects you to be interesting all the time. And don't be hard on your fellow travellers. Try to smile after a coffee stop.
- Practically no one has the stomach to love you, if you don't love yourself. They just endure. So do you.
- About healing: The gospels tell us that this was Jesus' specialty and he was heard to say: "Take up your couch and walk!"
- When travelling on an airplane, watch the movie, but don't use the earphones. Then you'll be able to see what's going on, but not understand what's happening, and so you'll feel right at home,

little different than you do on the ground. (*Well, that one's out for most of us during these times.*)

- Know that sometimes the only writing material you have is your own blood.
- Start with the impossible. Proceed calmly towards the improbable. No worry, there are at least five exits.



JRS FOODBANK

During these unprecedented times people seeking asylum in the community need your help now more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated.

Food items:	Toiletries:
- Basmati Rice	- Nappies (large sizes)
- Cooking Oil	- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Long life milk	- Shampoo
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit	- Sanitary pads and napkins
- Biscuits and muesli bars	- Razors and shaving foam
- Oats and cereal	- Deodorant (male & female)
	- Soap

Thank you for walking with us at this critical time! We provide emergency payments and food to hundreds of individuals, including children to pay for rent and life-saving medications. These individuals do not have access to Centrelink, Medicare, the pharmaceutical benefits scheme so your support is critical.

Please contact Amelia.Savage@jrs.org.au to donate.

 **JRS** AUSTRALIA
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

