

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A) 17 May 2020



2020 Sacraments Program

Our Sacramental Program has been suspended until further notice.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK:

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics ninety per cent of households with children under 15 years have access to the Internet, with an average number of seven devices per household; ninety-nine percent of young people aged 15 – 17 years are online averaging 18 hours per week of online activity.

As this is Child Protection Week, the Archdiocese has developed a 5 minute Cyber Safety Survey for adults and children. This survey is made up of 26 questions, 13 of these questions are to be answered by adults and the other 11 are to be answered by children and young people.

The survey is anonymous and will take only 5 minutes to complete. The Archdiocese has asked us if we could please promote this following link as one way of protecting our children and young adults.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TC7CYO3>



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Stuart St, Concord West
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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.

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



Recently Deceased: Michael Taffa, Gwen Kennedy, Terry Tully, Elvira Bonanno, Fr Peter Morrissey, Fr Paddy McAuliffe, Saniora Antouny

Anniversaries: Harry Dah Dah, Charlie DiSomma, Lauren Hew, Fr John Pearce, Caterina Lorizio, Carmen Cullinan, Rema Flannery, Caterina Lorizio

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 Leonardo Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & 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, Vladimir Susic, Nino Restuccia, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppa & 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 Vitezniak, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

Parish Giving - 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.

CWL Silver Circle Week 9 Results

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| 1 st Prize | No. 27 | \$20.00 | Jay Turner |
| 2 nd Prize | No. 17 | \$10.00 | Trish Leckie |

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/>

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.

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)



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.

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.

Br Julian's Reflection:
Sixth Sunday of Easter
17 May 2020



"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 forever, 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."
John 14, 15-21

Recently, at a ZOOM meeting in which I participated, our Congregation Leader led us in the following prayer. It took me back more than thirty years to a time when this prayer was a significant part of the youth retreats in which I had a part. However, it is a prayer that echoes the message that Jesus gave his disciples before he left them, and which has been central to the gospel readings of the Easter cycle. The prayer was written by the great Jesuit palaeontologist, Teilhard de Chardin, and provides us all with material for personal reflection:

"Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability — and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete."

Teilhard highlights the fact that change and growth for most of us are slow, and, at times, painful, especially during the progression from adolescence to adulthood. But we know from experience that the older we get the more difficult change can be. We all like the comfort of

stability. In his long Last-Supper discourse to his disciples, Jesus names for them the anxiety that accompanies the prospect that life will soon be very different for them once they lose the comfort of having him nearby. However, he proceeds to point out that their greatest resource will be their readiness to rely on God's Spirit, who will be their support, their inspiration and their advocate. He highlights the difference between accompanying them, walking beside them and living within them: "In a short time, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. Then you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you" (John 14, 19-20). This is what the theology books call *indwelling* or God's Spirit alive and active in each of us.

At this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, we're all becoming increasingly aware of the challenges that are created by having to live in uncertainty. We are beginning to see that, when we emerge from this uncertainty, our world and the way in which we will need to live in it will be significantly different. We will probably be expected to undergo the transition from being in control to an awareness of being dependent. So, I dare to suggest that close reflection on today's gospel reading is timely. We, too, may be being asked to make space in our lives for God's Spirit to be given greater reign.

Today's gospel reading opens with a simple, clear, direct and unqualified statement from Jesus: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." The only way in which we can demonstrate our love for God and Jesus in a world filled with billions of people, all loved into life by God and all created in the image of God, is to love without reservation every person we encounter. Jesus himself proclaimed that the greatest commandment is to love. And that is a theme that runs all through John's Gospel and Letters. In fact he goes so far as to say that anyone who claims to love God and hates his or her neighbour is a liar: "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen" (1 John 4, 20).

Without love in their early years, children shrivel and die. Without love and affirmation in our adult years, we struggle with relationships, we fail to find self-acceptance and we don't find lasting, inner peace. I am still haunted by the plea of an adolescent boy who expressed in public his

hope that a family would adopt him. He had lived nearly the whole of his short life in foster care and had learned how precarious that could be, not knowing when he might be handed back to the government-run agency that had fostered him out. He wanted to feel part of a family in which he would find stability, acceptance and love. He had grown weary of being passed around like a parcel, and wanted to leave behind a succession of experiences that had left him feeling lonely and unwanted.

Irrespective of our age and personal maturity, we all know how much we need to be loved, accepted, affirmed, encouraged and wanted. And occasionally we know the pain and loneliness that fill our lives when those experiences are missing. Jesus knew the confusion, disorientation and depression that awaited his disciples once he had left them, and promised that he would not leave them to fend for themselves, to know the experience of being orphaned. So he promised them the support of an Advocate who could not be any closer - the Spirit of God who would dwell with them. And that same Spirit is alive and well, dwelling in each of us.

I suggest that there is something to be gained by taking time with that opening sentence of today's gospel reading: *If you love me, all I'm asking is that you keep my commandments, that you do your level best to love one another, for no other reason than that you love me. And, remember that I love everyone else as much as I love you.*

Later in Chapter 21 (the appendix of John's Gospel), there is an echo of this sentence when Jesus says to Peter: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" And when Simon Peter assures Jesus that he does, the response he receives is: "Feed my sheep" - get out there among them, smell their earthiness, and love them as proof of your love for me! When challenges come, instead of asking "What would Jesus do?", we might ask, instead, "What does love require of me?" But let's hasten slowly, knowing that learning to love sometimes requires us to be patient and to trust in the work of God, which, incidentally, can sometimes take longer than we would like.

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:

- Basmati Rice
- Cooking Oil
- Long life milk
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit
- Biscuits and muesli bars
- Oats and cereal

Toiletries:

- Nappies (large sizes)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Sanitary pads and napkins
- Razors and shaving foam
- 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.



