

Trinity Sunday (Year A) 7 June 2020

A God of Tenderness. God did not wreak vengeance on the Israelites in the wilderness when they began to worship a golden calf. Rather, God came among them in tenderness and compassion, forgave their sin and restored the covenant. This God became incarnate in Jesus and dwells among us in the Spirit. As we marvel at the unconditional love of God we exclaim: Glory and praise forever!

Responsorial Psalm:

Glory and praise for ever!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

To God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

'Open Our Churches' national petition

While it is pleasing to see progress made on the easing of restrictions on churches in NSW, our fellow Catholics in some other states and territories are still struggling to practice their faith under unfair restrictions at this time. You can voice your concerns directly with all the premiers and chief ministers by signing the Open Our Churches petition at this address: www.openourchurches.com.au

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.



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Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online & receive the Spiritual Communion.

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Saturday 8.30am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday 9am Mass

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.

2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our First Reconciliation Sacrament will go ahead as planned – however there will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

First Reconciliation- Saturday 8, 15 and 22 August at 2pm

First Holy Communion- Sunday 1, 8 and 15 November at 11am

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information
– sacraments@stambrose.org.au



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



Recently Deceased: Bill Young Snr, Stephano Calautti, Frances Good, Michael Taffa, Gwen Kennedy, Terry Tully, Elvira Bonanno, Fr Peter Morrissey, Fr Paddy McAuliffe, Saniora Antouny

Anniversaries: John Kennedy, Doris Cammilleri, Eleanor Williams, Margaret Bouke, Anthony Zovaro, Nadie Isgro, Santor Rizzo, Harry Dah Dah, Charlie DiSomma, Lauren Hew, Fr John Pearce, Caterina Lorizio, Carmen Cullinan

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Anwar Ghraiche, 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, 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, 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, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guisepe & 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:

Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, 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, 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 Weinfroe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan



Congratulations to **Jensen Gomez** who we recently welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep Jensen and family in your prayers.

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/>

Room available in retired professional's home with verandah and garden. Close to Concord Hospital and transport. Suit mature working lady or pensioner. Dog OK. Terms Negotiable. Please see or ring Fr Brian.

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. CCareline is here to help. Call 131819 Monday - Friday 8am to 6pm.

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“Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life.” John 3, 16-20

Well over 50 years ago, my fellow novices and I had to read and study a book written by a German systematic theologian, Ludwig Ott. His book (published in 1952) was entitled *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*, with the sub-title *Crucial Truths to Save Your Soul*. As well as listing “unchangeable” Church dogmas, Ott provided a categorical list of God’s distinguishing qualities. God was described as being omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent - in plain English: present everywhere, all-knowing and all-powerful. The book was promoted as a complete list of every dogma that Catholics were expected to believe. Anyone who did not believe what was set down was regarded as cursed or worthy of excommunication. Just one example of the dogmas listed in the book’s more than 500 pages was: “If anyone shall say that baptism is optional, that is, not necessary for salvation, *anathema sit* - let him(*sic*) be anathema – worthy of excommunication. Ott attributed this statement to The Council of Trent, Session VII, Canon 5, 3rd March, 1547.

Fortunately, our Church has become less dogmatic, & together with other Christians around the world, next Sunday we will celebrate God as a God of unconditional love. Countless Christians have rediscovered the meaning of the gospel verse heading this reflection. In fact, one often sees large banners at sporting events & on T-shirts worn by marathon runners inscribed with nothing more than “John 3, 16”, displayed in the hope that those who don’t already know its reference will go back home & find the verse in their bibles.

Thankfully, the God we encounter in Scripture is the essence of love - a very long way from the God described by Ott. Mind you, Ott was not alone. Countless philosophers & theologians of his era, & before, described God as “first cause” or “unmoved mover” or “the source of all created matter”. Yet, again & again, Scripture presents God as personal & loving, as one who pursues us endlessly out of love. The God who loved us into life wants us to know that we are always beloved, no matter how far we drift away from letting ourselves experience that love.

Repeatedly, John’s Gospel & Letters remind us that God is love, & that we, made in the image of God, are made for love. As Christians, we have come to believe that God is love in its fullness & best, & that we are created to reflect that love to our world, to everyone we encounter.

Today’s gospel reading is the last part of the conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus, a Pharisee & member of the Jewish Council of Elders(Sanhedrin).

Nicodemus had heard about Jesus & his teaching &, for the sake of anonymity, had come under the cover of darkness to get first-hand experience of Jesus & his teaching. In the course of their conversation, Jesus challenged Nicodemus to let go of simplistic, one-dimensional images of God & to embrace a mature, adult approach to God. Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of a God whose Spirit of boundless love is alive in the world, of a God who is always taking the initiative to be with us human beings, despite our fragility & failings, of a God who is constantly present to us in the whole of creation, a God who longs for us to be at peace with one another rather than estranged because of difference & division, a God who is present in every expression of compassion, forgiveness & love that we make. In speaking of being “reborn from above” Jesus was inviting Nicodemus (& us) to be open to the God who created us out of love, who sent Jesus to embrace our humanity so that we might grow to become like him, & who breathed into us & our world the fullness of love in the sustaining Spirit.

Philosophers & theologians somehow lost the message of Chapter 3 of John’s Gospel, & replaced it with lifeless & loveless dogmas. Across centuries, there have been people who seem to have sought the comfort that comes from certainty. Ludwig Ott compiled a long list of “beliefs” which would give Catholics who adhered to them the security of knowing they were on the right track. A little after he published his book, an educationist by the name of Benjamin Bloom produced a book entitled *A Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*, which suggested that a person could claim to be educated once he or she had progressed through six levels of educational achievement. For Bloom, education was a process of progressing along a continuum, beginning with knowledge & moving from there to comprehension & then on to application, analysis, synthesis & finally to evaluation. So the search for certainty was not confined to religion. But certainty in religion eliminates the need for faith, & in education, it seems to ignore the reality of individual differences in personality & in our varying capacities to assimilate life experience.

In the latter part of the last century, the great German, Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner (1904-1984) described modern, western culture as having lapsed into a “wintry season” in which Christianity was no longer dominant. He proceeded to describe God as “holy mystery”, a living, loving being who provides warmth & sustenance in winter. While we human beings, according to Rahner, will never fully grasp this holy mystery, it has touched us through the person of Jesus who came among us as one like us, & who reflected in his life the boundless love of God.

Even more recently, another distinguished theologian & writer, Sr Elizabeth Johnson in her book, *Gracious Mystery*, states that the compelling reason for the incarnation, for God becoming one of us in the person of Jesus, was love: “The Word became flesh so that God who is love could enter into deep personal union

with the world, the beloved. This would have happened even if human beings had not sinned” (Elizabeth Johnson, p.40, Bloomsbury, N.Y. 2007).

However well or inadequately we understand the mystery we call God, we know that we were created for love & that there is something within us that draws us beyond ourselves in the direction of transcendence. Our faith assures us that it is only God who will satisfy that thirst or desire. In our limited understanding we know that God’s love is expressed in three different but interconnected ways - in creation, seen in all its beauty, in ourselves & in our efforts to reach out in love; in the person of Jesus, the perfect expression of God’s love in human shape; & in an intangible Spirit that breathes inspiration, creativity, imagination into us, into those around us & into the ever-evolving universe which envelops us. Trinity Sunday invites us to celebrate the mystery of Divine love let loose in our lives, our world, human history & all of creation. Moreover, let’s not forget that one of the best & closest experiences of Divine love is reflected to us through the struggles of human love, & that the arms of God embrace us through the human arms & hearts that hold & nurture us.



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.

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)

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.

