

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A – 9/10 MAY 2020



Parish Office: 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

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For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.

1st Collection

Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account Presbytery

Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 666017079

2nd Collection

Account name: St Bede's Church Account Church

Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 458706734

Please click on the link below after 5pm on Saturday, 9th May, to watch the 5th Sunday of Easter Online Mass, celebrated by our priests. <https://youtu.be/H2kTI9T5Hcw>

1st Reading - Acts 6:1-7

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 32(33):1-2,4-5,18-19

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

1/ Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord on the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

3/ The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

2/ The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

2nd Reading - 1 Peter 2:4-9

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 - John 14:1-12

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 going now 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 even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.’

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

There was a new ordained priest coming from oversea and wanted to go to the Village Cafe in Balwyn North, arrived at Doncaster Rd. He had no knowledge on how to go there. "Excuse me," he asked a young boy. "I am a priest and I do not know the way to the Village Cafe. Could you please show me the way to get there?"

The boy said, "Ahh, look, go straight, then turn right at the red light, then you will see the Village Cafe right on your right, next to St Bede's school.

"Oh, thank you," said the priest. "Because of your goodness, you have shown me the way to the Village Cafe, if you wish, visit our parish website "parishofstanneandstbede.org.au" to watch Mass Online at 5pm today, 9th May, and I will show you the way to heaven," said the priest again.

The young boy was laughing. "Father, you even don't know the way to the Village Cafe, how do you know the way to heaven.

Well, it's just a story but it has a connection with today's gospel especially on the lesson about trust.

Jesus says: "I am the Way." These are strange words from Jesus, because He is calling Himself "The Way." He doesn't say, "I can show you the way." or, 'here is a guide book to follow.' Rather, Jesus says, "I am the way."

What does 'I am the Way' mean? It means that when we are at the crossroads and we don't know which road to pass but somebody tells us: "Come, I'll show you which road," in this case this person is the way to us. This is what Jesus does for us. Jesus does not only give advice and directions. He takes us by the hand and leads us; He strengthens us and guides personally everyday. He does not tell us about the way because He is the Way."

Our human experience helps us understand Christ as "the Way."

In our families, we learn the way of living as a family. For example, Evening meals were always family meals. At the dinner table, when mother, father and all children share their meal and conversation flowed. The happenings of the day, upcoming events, work and school. Family activities filled the evenings and the weekends. The mother and father were the way, models of a family enjoying each other.

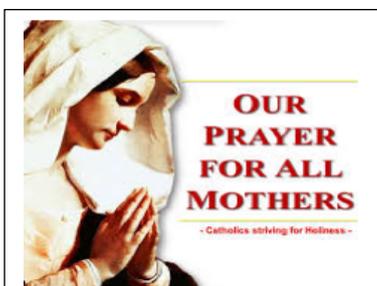
For Jesus to tell us He is "the way," that's not so strange. Most of the time, other people show us how to behave, with family and with strangers. Jesus says, "I am the way." To enter the Father's house, Jesus takes us. Jesus is a kind of companion. He is not only a teacher or the Lord of our lives but also He is our friend because we are His friends.

Also, Jesus tells us, "I am the truth." When Jesus speaks of God, Jesus speaks the truth. The truth that God loves us; the truth that God comes to us through the Sacraments; the truth that what we do to each other, we do to Christ.

The first truth is He teaches us that God is love, because He visits the sick, feeds the hungry and dies on the cross for His love for us.

A second truth, we are loved by God. Within our families, we love our children because they are ours, the fruit of a husband's and a wife's love for each other. God loves us for the same reason. God made us in his own image. God loves us because we are his.

Finally, God loves us, because He is present to us in the Sacraments. In Communion, Jesus tells us this is my Body, this is my Blood. Our firm Catholic belief, God touches us, we touch God, when we received Holy Communion.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MOTHERS

From Fr John Salvano & Fr Toan Nguyen



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered together as people in need, with humble hearts we pray to God the Father, trusting in his great mercy and love.

- 1/ We pray that the church may be a sign of salvation pointing towards Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- 2/ We pray for those who suffering from pain, anxiety, fear and loneliness, that they may find strength in their trials.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- 3/ We commend to you Lord all those who have strayed away from the true pathway that leads to life. Give them the grace to rediscover the joy of walking once more in the footsteps of Christ.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- 4/ On this Mother's Day, we pray for all mothers and particularly those in our parish, that they may experience the love and appreciation of their children.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- 5/ We ask you Lord to help all expectant mothers to choose life. Help them know that you are with them and will help them through any difficulties they may encounter as mothers.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- 6/ We pray for the dead who have gone before us in faith. Especially *Herwig Maxa and Maureen Hartung* who recently deceased, and *Margaret & Michael Smith, Aldo Pieroni, Paul Sexton, Betty Sexton, Graeme Holmes* whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they share the fullness of life Christ has won for them.
Let us pray to the Lord.

Eternal Father, we thank you for your goodness in calling us to new life in your Son. Grant us your guidance and protection in all undertakings. May we always serve you in our caring for one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PLENARY COUNCIL TALKS

There will be 3 virtual lectures on the Plenary Council that are being hosted by the combined parishes of Camberwell, Deepdene & Balwyn.

The talks will be at 7.30 pm on 21st May, 28th May and 4th June.

Details in the attached link.

<https://olgc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8b4edf2149e429f5c9238c92b&id=b8be21b71f&e=9897f41136>



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...