



Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley

PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO BULLETIN

Waverley Parish will be a sign of God's love for all people by being a welcoming and caring community which embraces the Gospel of Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We walk on a land once occupied by the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. May we continue to love and respect the land as they have.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

25 - 26 APRIL 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14, 22-33

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know- this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.'

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
and the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

RESPONSE AT MORNING MASS ONLY:

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:17-21

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. Christ was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And Jesus said to them, "*What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?*" They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" Jesus asked them, "*What things?*" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that Jesus was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus."

Then Jesus said to them, "*Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?*" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So Jesus went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. The two disciples said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. These were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples told what had happened on the road, and how the Lord had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.



The Road to Emmaus

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people
of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated
at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,*
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day
he rose again from the dead,
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

25 - 26 APRIL 2020

REFLECTIONS

The Emmaus story is like a gospel within the gospel. It is so rich a lesson that it serves as a summary of our own recognising and loyal bonding with Jesus Christ. For the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Cleopas and his wife, perhaps?) the future looked grim and uncertain. For the previous few years, life had been exciting and full of hope, since they were captivated by the Gospel message of Jesus. But it now becomes clear that they hadn't grasped some unwelcome parts of what he had said to them. His passion and death came as a brutal shock, which they could not connect with the healing, inspirational figure they had known. "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." How well we can empathize with this disappointed pair, because mostly we too tend to pick and choose the parts of his message that please us, and fail to take seriously other words of the Lord.

After his death on the cross, they felt all was lost. But Jesus used the Jewish scriptures to enlighten them and help them see his passion as part of a process that led to glory. The prophecies repeat the divine promises and reveal the saving plan of God. When read with faith, they have power like an electric current, inspired by the Spirit of God. When the unrecognised stranger opened the meaning of God's Word to them, they began to understand events in a totally new light. They saw the cross of Christ not as a total disaster but as opening up a new age of grace.

Once they arrived in Emmaus, they made him stay with them for supper. "Stay with us," they said, and during the meal they recognised him in the breaking of bread. Jesus can best be known by those who want to be in his presence. Later, they realised what an impact his presence and his conversation made on each of them. "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Today we pray that each of us can personally share in that experience, that our hearts too may be *burning within us...* The sharing of a meal among friends was a living symbol of friendship and trust. What was special about just *how* Jesus broke the bread is an intriguing question. Perhaps it was the spirit of love and sharing he invested in the act that showed them who he really was. There was a level of focus, of self-giving and sacredness unique to Jesus, something they had experienced previously, before his passion. His presence and his personality touched their hearts, and the bread he broke was not just physical. It was the food of revelation and of new horizons that they opened their hearts to receive.

The Emmaus story speaks to people of all ages. We can see ourselves in these two despondent travellers on their journey, the faith and hope they have lost, the future they have hoped for fallen apart. And yet they met an unknown friend walking the road with them, who gave them fresh insight, and connected their challenging present situation with what they had known in the past. And, of course, Jesus reveals himself powerfully and creatively in the Eucharist, in the breaking of bread, full of the many meanings that breaking bread had for Jesus himself, both during his ministry and after the resurrection. Having dined with him, they were filled with new energy and enthusiasm, to share with others what they now knew about him. "That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem" where "they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread."

A WORD FROM FR BERNIE

Dear Parishioners.

Greetings and blessings from myself, Fr Oscar and Fr Charlie (*who is still stuck in Lebanon – but is keeping in contact with me*). It is 5 weeks now since we last met as a "real" community in prayer. However, I see this as a time for a renewal of our own prayer life either as a family or on our own. We Catholics say that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the whole Christian life." (Second Vatican Council [1964], *Lumen Gentium* III.11.1. In Latin the words are *totius vitae christianae fons et culmen* — those words are a lot richer than they come across in English: *fons* is the *fount* from which the blessings of our faith flow; *culmen* means the very *peak*, the *summit*, the *apex*, the *culmination*). But is our over-reliance on the Eucharist detrimental to our actual prayer life. As a priest, celebrating Mass with a community of faithful people is the highlight of my day. It is a truly community experience but that is not the only prayer I pray during the day. The Divine Office (or Prayer of the Church) is rich in scripture and psalms and nourishes me in my prayer life. Reading and praying with the Sunday scriptures as a way of preparing for my homily is an essential part of my week. Pope Francis, just last week, shared his own concerns regarding virtual Mass. "But the ideal of the church is always the people and with the sacraments – always. Although a number of faith-based initiatives, Masses and prayers are available online... *this is not the church*'. *One's relationship with Jesus, is intimate, it is personal, but it is in a community,*" he stressed.

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. When this is not the case, how do we remain spiritually nourished – through the Scriptures and through personal prayer. So I encourage you to read a Gospel per week. Taking time to reflect. We could learn from the way our brothers and sisters in faith from the Orthodox tradition who use icons to reflect upon and also when "writing" the icon they do so in prayer. You never look at an icon – you pray with it as you "read" it. We can do the same with scripture. Anyone can read the Gospel of Mark in less than an hour if they read it like a novel, but if you "pray" the Gospel, it may take you a whole week. Listen to the stories, stop when something doesn't make sense and reread and then stop and let God's Spirit inspire you. The following link offers guidelines how to pray with the Scriptures. <https://www.catholicaustralia.com.au/the-scripture/lectio-divina> Please continue to pray for each other and keep in touch with neighbours and parishioners.

Fr Bernie

