



Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley

PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO BULLETIN

TAKE THIS HOME

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

9 - 10 MAY 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING: ACTS 6:1-7

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

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

For 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.

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.

RESPONSE AT MORNING MASS ONLY:

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

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:4-9

Come to the Lord, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight. Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: JOHN 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father."

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



A BLESSING FOR MOTHERS

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings. Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly. Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children. Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most. **Amen**

NOTE: Fr Bernie will be around the church all day Sunday between 9am-4pm. Should you happen to drive by the church during that time with your Mum in the car, text or call him and he'll come out and give Mum a special Mother's Day blessing - Ph: 0415 077 353.

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;
and 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.**

PARISH CENTRE

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Phone: (02) 9369 9399

Office Hours: 9:30am - 2:30pm Tues - Fri

www.waverleycatholic.org.au

Parish Office is contactable by phone or
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REFLECTIONS

These days if we want to find out how to get somewhere, we simply type the address into a map app and up will pop directions on how to get there. Often we are given several options about which way to go. Many people view getting to heaven the same way: Catholics go this way, Protestants go that way, the Orthodox go along a third route, Buddhists another, Muslims their own way, but eventually everyone will end up in the same place. The Gospel of John seems to present some difficulties for holding that view. Jesus is presented as saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life'. If he is the way, is he the only way? The next sentence seems to make that clear that he is the only way: 'No one can come to the Father except through me'. This raises the serious question: can non-Christians be saved? If they can be saved apart from through Jesus, then why do we bother with so much missionary work? If they cannot be saved, then God seems unfair in condemning those who have never had the opportunity of hearing about Jesus. These issues have plagued Christianity for centuries.

Just what does it mean to come to the Father through Jesus? Does it mean that one has to have heard of him? Does it mean that one has to belong to his community of disciples, the church? Could it not mean that Jesus saves through a variety of means or through a variety of communities? At the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s the bishops of the Catholic Church taught definitively in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) that salvation is open to non-Christians if they follow the commands of their conscience, where the Spirit communicates with them. The Decree on Ecumenism (*Unitatis Redintegratio*) also taught that non-Catholic Christians can come to salvation because they are members of Christ's body, the church, however imperfectly. Does this mean everyone will be saved, no matter what? The first letter of Peter tells us that those who reject Jesus, the living stone, will stumble and fall because they do not believe. So it is still possible to reject God and reject Jesus as the way, but we should not automatically think that everyone who is not baptised has therefore explicitly rejected Jesus. It is possible to believe that salvation is only through Jesus and to believe that Jesus can offer that salvation outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church or of Christianity in general. The great Jesuit theologian of the twentieth century, Karl Rahner, described this as anonymous Christianity - a view not without critics of either conservative or liberal inclination. Perhaps Rahner could have found a better term than 'anonymous Christian', for in essence his focus was on the universal love of God made visible through Jesus and communicated through the Spirit without limit. People can only be saved through Jesus, even if they do not know that it is he who is saving them. Once we start dealing with God's will, our ability to know it perfectly is something I would hesitate to assert.

In preaching on this passage of John's Gospel, however, Augustine of Hippo did not dwell on such matters. He was concerned rather with the people in front of him, those who knew Christ and who explicitly followed his way. Augustine's concern is what kind of way it was that Christ calls those of us who are baptised to follow. Augustine said, 'Christ the way is the humble Christ; Christ the truth and the life is Christ exalted and God. If you walk along with the humble Christ, you will arrive at the exalted Christ; if in your sickly health and debility you do not spurn the humble one, you will abide in perfect health and strength with the exalted one'. The way of Jesus is the way of the cross, it is the humble way of dying to oneself that others may live, it is the way of turning away from sin and being faithful to the gospel. We thank God for the living stone, who is Jesus; we thank God for ourselves as the living stones forming his body. We thank God that through baptism we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a consecrated nation. In our eucharist now let us sing the praises of God, who has brought us light and life, the truth and way, through Jesus. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song. By Geoffrey D Dunn

A WORD FROM FR BERNIE

Last night my siblings and I got together on Messenger for a video chat to toast our Mum! Mum was 84 yesterday (7th May). During the day we had all rung Mum – and typical siblings all competing for the Number 1 spot. My sister was claiming to be the first so I decided to be the last, so that Mum would remember who had rung and who was #1 albeit for a few moments before I had to remind her who was talking to her and why I had called. Apparently she hadn't heard from anybody all day!! As many of you are aware, Mum is in the latter stages of Alzheimer's. Mum has been in the Retirement Centre now for 4 and half years and this month "celebrates" two years since going into the Dementia secure unit. On Sunday, not only is it Mother's Day, but it would have also been my parents 62nd wedding anniversary if Dad was still with us. So May is always a busy and nowadays a challenging month for my family. But we still gather to toast our parents, to tell stories, to laugh and yes, to cry.

My Mum was a very active Catholic. She was active in all the usual groups of the early days like the Catholic Woman's League, and other mothers' groups that have come and gone. Was a great promoter and front person for many years with the Passionist Family Group Movement, and in general was a good practical Catholic Mum. So whilst she may not recall any of this, she did leave a lasting impact on my family and still does. Whatever Mum was involved with, she did it with great passion and love. In the latter years in retirement and especially when she and Dad went into a Retirement village, Mum was the secretary for the residents committee and was often hassling the management if things were not being done for the benefit of the residents. Mum also at a late age, began to create beautiful 3D cards that they used to sell to raise funds for the residents committee. Mum was always very creative. She made two beautiful patchwork quilts for me, and many others for the family. When Mum first went to the Ranfurly Retirement Home (where she is now), I got her into knitting Baby Beanies, which she did for about 18 months (before she forgot how to knit). Many of these were given to grandchildren of the residents and staff.

Why do I tell you all this? Because it is a day to celebrate our Mum's and I am very proud of my Mum. I am a product of her devotion to service – to always looking out for others, it was my Mum (and Dad) who inspired and still inspire me to be who I am today. So I ask you today to celebrate your Mum whether she is still with us or not, reflect on the many gifts that she had and most likely passed on to you. And most importantly remember to pray **for** and if possible **with** you Mum on Sunday. And to all you mother's out there who have rung and provided dinners for myself and Fr Oscar over the last two months – a big virtual (social distancing) HUG and blessings. Thank you, Fr Bernie