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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YR A

**9TH & 10TH MAY,
2020**

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

The gospel readings for the Sundays just before the feast of Pentecost are all taken from Jesus' last discourse in the Gospel of John. In them, Jesus prepares his followers for his death and resurrection and his ultimate exaltation.



This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him.

Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers.

Living the Gospel – The Way, the Truth and the Life

When Thomas asks, 'we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answers by saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The reader of the gospel has known this truth all along from the opening line of the gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' Our aim, as Christian people, is to be one with God, not only by sharing in the resurrection but also in the way we live. Jesus makes clear that the way to be with God is by following his example.

Greg Sunter

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES

**Masses & Adoration
have been suspended
until further notice.**

**Fr Christopher is privately
celebrating Mass each day
and will continue to pray
for all parishioners.**

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Parish Priest

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Deacon Owen Rogers
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Mrs Marie Cottey - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
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Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College – ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10th May 2020

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

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

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. 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. **(R.)**
2. 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. **(R.)**

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. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 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

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

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 now going 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.' he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'



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REFLECTION *by Fr Michael Tate*

Mutual Indwelling

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to *share* in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to *share* in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!

Scriptural context – The gospel of John

The gospel of John is very different from the other three 'synoptic' gospels. The other three have a very narrative style and can be seen together as different recounts of the same events. Whilst the gospel of John also has some beautifully narrated stories, it is better known as a more theologically reflective piece of writing. It assumes that the readers of this gospel are already familiar with one or more of the others, so it doesn't need to tell the story again. Rather, it presents a sweeping image of God, through Jesus, reaching out, in, through, and with love to the people.

Mother's Prayer

*I said a Mother's Day prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tender hearted love.*

*I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years,
for the closeness we've enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.*

*And so, I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me
and bless the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be!*



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May

For Deacons



We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.



Mother's Day Remembrance...

*We especially remember all mothers who
have gone from this life and give thanks
for their influence of faith and love.*

*May the Lord reward all of our loved mums
who have gone from this life with peace and joy.*



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * What is it that Jesus wants the disciples to trust in God about?
- * What do we learn about the disciples from the questions asked by Thomas and Philip?
- * What truth does Jesus make clear to the disciples about himself and the Father?
- * What message can young people today take from this gospel passage?

Questions for Adults

- * Why does this passage work as both a Last Supper speech and a pre-Ascension discourse?
- * What does the image of the many rooms in the Father's house seek to convey?
- * How might Jesus have felt in reaction to the disciples' questions?
- * Why does Jesus need to return to the Father for the disciples to live out their potential?

***This is an opportunity for parents to
discuss today's Gospel with your children.
The following questions and worksheet
are a beginning point to assist
with the discussion.***

- ◇ What are some really precious things you have?
- ◇ What makes them precious?
- ◇ Jesus says that we are precious in his eyes.
- ◇ How are we precious in God's sight? (God lives in us)
- ◇ We can do good works because Jesus lives in us.
- ◇ What good works can we do this week?



Jesus is always with us

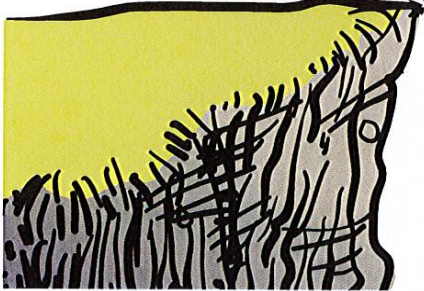
3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A



Life is like being on a journey of faith, but sometimes we encounter obstacles along the way. What are some of the toughest obstacles on your path of life?



How does Jesus help you and guide you along that path?



Jesus is always with us, even when we don't realise he is there. Where or when can we recognise Jesus in our everyday life?



Colour the shapes that contain a white dot ◦ in red. Colour the remaining shapes in colours that you find in a loaf of bread.

Thank You dear parishioners for your ongoing financial support to the parish. Your generosity is helping with the ongoing running expenses of our parish.

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Mass Intentions:

James Vella (02/05), Maryann Azzopardi (14/05/16), Kevin McCormack (04/05/19)

Recently Deceased:

Barry (grandfather of Brittany Vella, who passed away in New-march Nursing Home on 28th April).

If any parishioner would like Fr Chris to offer Mass for someone who is recently deceased, a loved one's anniversary or if someone is sick, please email the Parish Office. We can also include the person in The Net so everyone can pray for them.

Pastoral Support

During this challenging time of isolation many are struggling to cope. If you are in need of pastoral support or care please contact Fr Chris on 0415 505 594.

Project Compassion

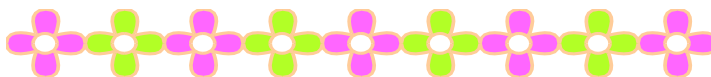
Please call Caritas directly on 1800 024 413 or visit <https://lent.caritas.org.au/> for information on returning your Project Compassion boxes or making a credit card donation. Or you can hold on to your boxes until the Diocese advises how donations can be collected.

Parish Office Hours

During this time of church closure the Parish Office will remain open. You are welcome to telephone or email. At this stage, our operating hours have not been formalised, so please leave a message if we don't answer the phone and we'll get back to you. In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

Corpus Christi Facebook Page

Our parish Facebook page continues to be updated with relevant information at:
www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook



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PADRE PIO PARISH	Glenmore Park Parish	Streaming through Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH	Granville East Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA) example - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	Granville Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA) example - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0
ST JOSEPHS CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjp15JI6H8TrHkEB6lSdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
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THE GOOD SHEPHERD	Plumpton Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/ https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/
OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS	Rouse Hill Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/150713848317487/videos/835921950226114/
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	Seven Hills Parish	Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

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,
please come spiritually into my heart.*

I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



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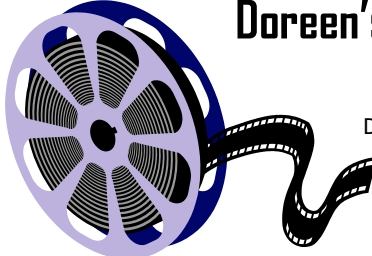
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