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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YR A

**16TH & 17TH MAY,
2020**

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

We live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.



We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God's love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

Living the Gospel – Live in love

Throughout the gospel of John, we are reminded of the enduring relationship between Jesus and the Father. A number of times, Jesus announces that he and the Father are one. In today's passage, Jesus also says to the disciples that they can share in this relationship of love. When Jesus speaks about anyone who 'loves' him, he speaks about anyone who lives by his message and seeks to be like him. Anyone who does that will share in the love that exists between the Father and the Son. That invitation is open for each of us today as well.

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 TEAM:

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Parish Priest

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Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

17th May 2020

First Reading

Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **(R.)**
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **(R.)**
3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **(R.)**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

or

When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the Second Reading and Gospel assigned to the Seventh Sunday may be read on the Sixth Sunday.

1 Pt 4:13-16

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ.

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

or

See Jn 14:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans.

I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

or

When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the Second Reading and Gospel assigned to the Seventh Sunday may be read on the Sixth Sunday.

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Jn 17:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Father, glorify your Son.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do.

Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was.

I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me.

They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

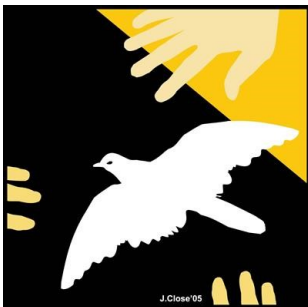
Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified.

I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Mutual Indwelling Parallel Truths

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: '*paraclete*'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you *another Paraclete* to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a *Paraclete*, and he would send *another*.



What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, *para-llel*. They run alongside each other. A *paraclete* is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another *Paraclete* dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This *Paraclete* particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two *Paracletes*, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

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.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * What does the sending of the Spirit say about the relationship between God and the world?
- * Why might Jesus have felt the need to tell the disciples that the Spirit would come to them?
- * How might the disciples have reacted to Jesus' words when they first heard them?
- * What are some of the ways Christians believe the Holy Spirit acts in the world today?
- * How can you be an agent of the Holy Spirit?

Questions for Adults

- * How might this passage have contributed to the teaching of God as Trinity?
- * In what ways did Jesus fulfil the role of a *paraclete* or advocate?
- * What are the commandments that Jesus refers to as 'his commandments'?
- * What does this passage tell us about Jesus' vision of what it is to be a disciple?

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.

- ◇ Who are the people who love you?
- ◇ What do they ask of you in return for their love?
- ◇ Jesus loves us and asks us to keep his commandments.
- ◇ What are some of his commandments?
- ◇ Jesus says the Holy Spirit will help us.
- ◇ Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to help us love others.

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The Holy Spirit will help you and always be with you

6th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Jesus loves us and asks us to keep his commandments. Name some of the commandments?



The Holy Spirit helps us to love God and to love others. Draw a picture of someone you love.



The Spirit will show you what is true

Answer the following questions True or False

Jesus only loves those who do good deeds. _____

The Holy Spirit is always with us. _____

God sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples. _____

Jesus said "You should not love your enemies". _____

The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. _____

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:

Margaret Vella (11/05), Barry (grandfather of Brittany Vella, 28/05).

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.

Prayers and Sympathy

We offer our prayers and sympathy to our parishioners, the Vella family, on the recent passing of their mother, Margaret Vella. Margaret, a long time parishioner of Corpus Christi, passed away last Monday morning. May Margaret be welcomed into the fullness and safety of life with the Risen Lord and may her family be surrounded by love and support during this difficult time.

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 at reduced hours. You are welcome to telephone or email and 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 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/UCIjip15JI6H8TrHkEB6ISdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
ST MARGARET MARYS	Merrylands Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtu-MSyWUSnaAcA
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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/LOLO7Hills/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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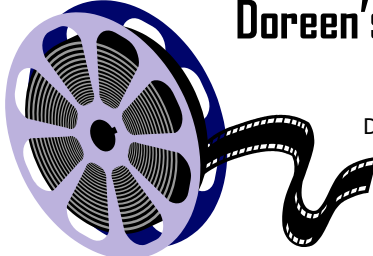
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