



PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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16-17 May 2020, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

Recently Deceased: Sr Mary Agnes (Carmelite Convent, Red Hill), Alec Reynolds, Cecil Wagstaff, Denis Hogan Victims of the Corona virus, Noel Bissett, Bruce Fuller, Fr Peter Morrissey, Kathleen Rennie (parishioner since 1967), Four Victorian Police Officers, Sheila Rohan, Malcolm Allison, Shirley Evans, Keith Mc Laughlin, Victims of Corona virus, Hilda Quinones, Gloria Tin, Joyce Ryan, Maureen Boyle, Don Furner, Richard Arnel, Rod Frazer, Mary-Anne McGrath,
Anniversaries of Death: Brian Lacey, Vonnie Beath, Margaret Joyce, Wendy Egan, Cecily Howden, Frank Williams, Kathleen Rowe, John Frawley, Doris Falzon and Falzon family members, Hartung and Marlow family members, Richard Pugh, Rosario Suazo, Gary Woods, Jack Perry, George Pugh, Desmond Lilley, Sylvia Cronin, Policarpio Barawid.

MAY THE SICK BE COMFORTED BY OUR PRAYERS

Emma Lowe, Maria Phan, Hilary Halpin, Margaret Wilson, Rose Winstanley, Joseph Garside, Carol Wightman, those afflicted with Corona virus, Bella Davison, Leah Yaxley, John Kololo, Frederick Schinkel, Maree Peters, Witlock family, Timothy Francis Roberts, Rosa B Nguyen, Lourdes A Bautista, David Sandground, Kathleen Stuart, Dick Barry, Luke Ward, Eric Reiher, John Vincent, David Parker, Mark Shepherd, Violet Webster, Lucy Duncan, Rod Duncan, Edith Schumann, Kevin Cains, Stephen Evans, Dermott Cummins.

AN INCLUSIVE VISION

Times change. So too our perspective, even daily. Our mood in response to a minus morning is often in sharp contrast to enjoyment of later autumn sun. Today's readings reflect a developing perspective as the Gospel message is taken beyond Jerusalem under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The distinction in the First Reading between the baptised and the coming of the Holy Spirit, which we now appropriate as the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, originated in the distinction between the initial reception of the Holy Spirit and *"a more (existential) 'Pentecostal' awareness of the gift"* (Brendan Byrne SJ). Again, the continuing farewell discourse from John's Gospel contrasts the immediate and longer-term understanding of Jesus *'going away'* (in death and later return to the Father) and his *'return'* (in resurrection and at the end of time). Further, John contrasts those who cannot see him after he goes away ('the world' or non-believers) and those who will 'see' him and experience his risen presence in community. To assist them, he promises to send 'another Paraclete' or one to comfort, support and challenge them. In that experience love is foundational. ***"What the Gospel is saying is that when the community is indeed one where love prevails, the atmosphere of love that it experiences is nothing other than a sharing in the communion of love that is the Godhead"*** (Byrne).

A challenge for the early Church was to see that sharing in the communion with the Godhead called one beyond the confines of one's own mob. All are called to experience *'the communion of love that is the Godhead'*.

Two millennia later and we ask whether our vision is big enough? Are we still too exclusive? 'The Universal Christ' is the title of a recent book by Franciscan Fr Richard Rohr (2019). Surely the ongoing challenge of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic affirm the connectedness of *all* creation. **Salvation in Christ is both a material and metaphysical reality.** Three quotes at the beginning of Rohr's book can both challenge and comfort us in the search for an inclusive worldview:

"The only really absolute mysteries in Christianity are the self-communication of God in the depths of existence – which we call grace, and in history – which we call Christ" (Fr. Karl Rahner, Jesuit priest and theologian, 1904-1984). Again, ***"I do not worship matter. I worship the God of matter, who became matter for my sake and deigned to inhabit matter, who worked out my salvation through matter. I will not cease from honouring that matter which works my***

salvation” (St John Damascene, 675-753). And, “No despair of ours can alter the reality of things, nor stain the joy of the cosmic dance, which is always there” (Thomas Merton, 1915-1968).

Finally, as if to summarise his thought and experience, Rohr dedicates his book thus: ***“I dedicate this book to my beloved fifteen-year-old black Lab, Venus, whom I had to release to God while beginning to write this book. Without any apology, lightweight theology, or fear of heresy, I can appropriately say that Venus was also Christ for me.”***

Fr John

ONLINE LIVE STREAMING OF DAILY MASS: Mass is now live streamed from the chapel of St Christopher’s Cathedral at 12.15pm, Monday-Friday, 9.00am Saturday and 11.00am Sunday. **NB: Being a live stream, you will need to access the Mass at the specific time by going to www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au.**

SIGNIFICANT DATES: As we look forward to gathering again for the celebration of Mass, it is worth remembering that on 15 May 1803 the first Mass was celebrated in Australia at Port Jackson, followed by Mass at Parramatta on 22 May and at Hawkesbury on 29 May with Father Dixon presiding at all three.

AUSTRALIA ENTRUSTED TO THE CARE OF MARY: The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference during their recent online entrusted Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic to Mary, Mother of God and our mother. Archbishop Christopher will dedicate our archdiocese to Mary under the title of ‘Our Lady Help of Christians’ at the 11am, Sunday 24 May Cathedral chapel Mass. The entrustment prayer endorsed by the bishops is”:

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us Mother of God and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign in triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

St Joseph, Pray for us

CLIMATE CHANGE BANNERS: During the week to mark the fifth anniversary of ‘Laudato Si’, the encyclical of Pope Francis calling for an ‘integral ecology’ beyond mere environmental ecology, a banner was placed outside Holy Trinity. It read: *‘Pope Francis to Greta Thunberg – God bless you. Continue to work. Continue’*. A banner outside Ss Peter and Paul’s read: *‘Called To Care For Our Common Home’*, the subtitle of Pope Francis’s encyclical.

TWO WEBINAIRS on Pope Francis’s 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Our Common Home*, hosted on Zoom by South Belconnen Parish, 6 - 7 pm, Tues 19 and Thurs 21 May and presented by Jacqui Remond. Information and registration, belconnensouth@cg.org.au / 0428 625 110.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: In lieu of the First Collection, you can support the clergy of the Archdiocese by making an electronic contribution to BSB: 062-786, ACC: 000029248, ‘Central Presbytery Fund’. NB: Make sure you enter the reference: NORTHWODEN SMITH (ie the parish name and your surname). **Support for the Second Collection** will continue via direct debits, unless notified by the parishioner. Planned Giving Envelopes can be dropped through the front door of the presbytery or parishioners may choose to arrange direct debit payments by contacting our Parish Secretary, Catherine, 6281 3999 or wodennorth@cg.org.au. **I thank those who have already contributed to the support of the clergy and the parish.**

PARISH MEDITATION GROUP will continue to meet online. Details from Vikki McDonough, 0437 876 487 / mulvaney@netspeed.com.au

WEEKLY ONLINE CATHOLIC VOICE: A copy is attached. If you would like to receive subsequent copies directly, enter your details at <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/weekly-voice/>.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please drop envelopes through the front door of the presbytery any time. Boxes can be delivered to the presbytery from 9-11am Mon, Wed or Fri.

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE: Early days but check it out at 'North Woden Parish Transfiguration'. Comments, thoughts?

Prayer Circle Support: Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

Readings for the Ascension of the Lord (A): Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1: 17-23; Matthew 28: 16-20.