



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021
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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

6 & 7 MAY 2023

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Parish Priest & Mission Leader

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Priests in Residence

Fr Joseph Hieu Xuan Nguyen CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P. Meat

MASS TIMES

- ♦ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
- ♦ **Saturday:** 5:00pm
6.30pm Vietnamese
- ♦ **Sunday:** 8:45am, 10:00am,
6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

- 1st & 2nd Sun. Sudanese Mass 3pm
- 3rd Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
- 4th Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

MASS COUNT

The Archdiocese of Melbourne conducts Mass count during this month of May. Collectors/Volunteers and Community Leaders will help with the four weekends in May been selected for the count, which commences on the 6-7 May 2023 Masses, and all other Sunday in May.
Thank you.

BAPTISM - MAY 2023

Just for the month of May, Baptism will be on the 13th May. June - December it will be the 1st Saturday of the month at 10am in English and 11am in Vietnamese. Thank You

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men full of the Holy Spirit

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 (33):1-2,4-5,18-19

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

Christ is the living stone, chosen by God and precious to him

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 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

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 going now 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.'

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

"Take from my heart all painful anxiety" is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is always a possibility. When we don't have any serious concerns in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having concerns and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. If ever there was a time with potential for troubled hearts, it is right now as we deal with extreme weather events, with the divisions in the community over justice for First Nations Peoples, with increasing wealth disparity, with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and with the impact of long Covid.

Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" is Jesus' word to his friends in John's gospel. The verb, here in passive mood ("be troubled"), is used of Jesus' spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience.

Jesus shows the way to an untroubled heart: "Believe into God, believe also into me." The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: "I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself". In this context, Jesus makes three claims: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an over-

ture to the gospel, has introduced the notion of the incarnate Word as "full of grace and truth" and the bringer of "grace and truth" (1:14, 17). The Word is the life that is the light of all (1:4), the bread of life, even the resurrection and the life. Jesus' claim to be "the way" is foreshadowed in the parable of the gate: "I am the gate for the sheep (10:7)."

If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as "Father". If Philip does not believe in their mutual indwelling, then maybe he can believe on account of the "works" of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer at this time of distress and the power of action, no matter how small, to help those whose hearts are troubled.

By Sister Veronica Lawson rsm

DOES GOD REALLY WORK ALL THINGS "TOGETHER FOR GOOD"?

When looking at the world, full of sin and evils that people cannot fathom until they hear about it in the news, it can be difficult to understand the goodness of God. Not only do believers struggle with this apparent contradiction, many walk away from the faith or point to this truth as a reason to not believe in the existence of God. During the days of the early church, when Christians were experiencing persecution, they probably felt the same way sometimes.

The Apostle Paul makes this bold statement in his letter to the church in Rome,

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

This verse, especially once someone understands God's purpose, can bring great comfort. It is possible to know that God works all things out for the good of those He calls to His purposes. Throughout the Bible, God takes evil and uses it for our good, and ultimately, for His glory, the purpose to which all people are called.

What Is Going on in This Verse?

The letter to the Romans is the epistle Paul wrote to a gathering of predominantly Jewish believers, with perhaps a small percentage of Gentiles. They experienced displacement not only as Jews outside of Israel, but both the Jewish and Gentile believers would have been separated from their own culture.

For most of human civilization, religion was an integral aspect of ethnic identity, a facet of culture which can still be observed in counties today. Christianity uniquely calls people to surrender aspects of who they were for who God wants them to be, which can be difficult. In addition, persecution was beginning to mount. People were being disowned by their families, their communities, fleeing their homes, and being violently attacked. Hundreds of Christians died in the early days of the church.

Through the course of the letter, Paul addresses key doctrine, what it means to live in the world as a believer, the future “re-grafting” of the nation of Israel, and so much more. In the passage surrounding this verse, Paul discussed believers being co-heirs with Jesus Christ in His coming kingdom and the future glory in eternity. People who put their faith in Jesus will spend eternity with Him, reigning in Heaven. Paul acknowledges that it can be difficult waiting for that future glory, encouraging believers the Holy Spirit will help them through life.

It is at this point he wrote the verse in question, “*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*” After this statement, Paul goes on to affirm the everlasting love of God.

What Does This Verse Mean?

The full context of this section helps illuminate Paul’s meaning. In this life, there is sin and depravity, but Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead so that people could repent, be transformed and sanctified, and spend eternity in relationship with Him. Not only can people have a relationship with God through the blood of Jesus, but “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:16-18).

In other words, once saved, someone receives the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit testifies that someone is reconciled with God, and therefore His child. Jesus is the begotten Son, Christians are the adopted children, and they will be glorified alongside Jesus. In light of these future glories, Paul encourages believers that suffering on this earth is inconsequential. God will redeem the evils for the good of those who are His children, and have lived according to His purposes, the promise of eternal life.

An important question from this conclusion is, what is the purpose of the life of a believer? The most succinct answer can be found in the Old Testament in the writings of the prophet Isaiah. In one of his writings that has strong Messianic imagery and messaging - meaning it foretold Jesus Christ - declares, “*I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made*” (Isaiah 43:6-7).

The key concept of this passage is that all people were created for His glory. People who live to glorify God and have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ are the ones for whom God works all things out for their good.

Many believers paraphrase this verse to say “God works all things out for our good and for His glory.”

Where Do We See Examples of God Working for Good in the Bible?

God’s Word promises that He loves us, and that He wants to bless us. He even loves people who have not accepted Him, even though they are sinners living in rebellion and sin. Even with these promises and assurances, knowing that God has used evil and abuse of good people for their good and for His glory in life, and not just the promise of future good, can be assuring. The Bible is full of testimonies of how God works in the Bible.

The life of Joseph: In the Book of Genesis, Joseph was a teenager, a young man at the oldest, when his own brothers beat him, considered murdering him, and sold him into slavery. He was falsely accused of assault and imprisoned and spent years in jail, suffering injustice. So how was he able to declare, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today” (Genesis 50:20)? Because God used his time in prison to connect him with Pharaoh, to put him in a position of power, and to save thousands of lives from drought.

The life of Naomi: Naomi and her husband left Israel to live with the Moabites, who had a reputation for indulging in sin, against the will of God. They had two sons. All three of the men in her life died as a result of the very drought from which they left Israel to escape, and she became bitter, even taking on the name Mara - bitterness. God used one of her son’s marriages to bring a loving daughter-in-law whose second marriage brought Naomi joy through an heir. This also continued the line that would lead to the Savior.

David’s sin with Bathsheba: King David was anointed by God and received all of the blessings one could imagine. He was a rich king who succeeded at everything he tried, and God would give him almost anything. Despite this great life, he coveted another man’s wife, committed adultery, and eventually murder. David and Bathsheba would suffer because of this sin, but God used their relationship to bring about the reign of King Solomon, who built the Temple and whose fame helped spread the truth of the God of Israel far and wide.

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ: Perhaps the ultimate story of unnecessary and unwarranted suffering, Jesus lived a life that was in perfect harmony with God the Father and the Spirit, never hurt anyone, and lived His life devoted to preaching repentance, salvation, and the Kingdom of God. As part of God’s plan, He gave up a piece of His glory to live this life, and was killed horrifically on the cross. In God’s plan, however, this death and suffering paid the price for the sins of the world. Jesus rose from the dead, glorified, and because of that one day there will be a bodily resurrection for all believers.

How Can We Carry This into Our Life?

There will be evil in this world until Jesus Christ returns to sit on His throne and rule and reign over all the earth. Until then, there will be people who will rebel against His goodness, committing heinous acts. People will get sick, and there

will be accidents. Injustice will be the rule until that day.

Christians should take comfort in the promises of God, assurance that sometimes suffering is redeemed in this life, and that ultimately, God's justice will prevail. When it is too difficult to see God's hand, pray, and the Holy Spirit will bring comfort and peace.

The letters by Paul that are preserved in the Holy Bible are full of encouraging verses about preserving despite difficulties, trial, and the evils of this world. Take comfort in prayer, God's Word, and the promises of God which are perfect and that He will fulfill.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

By Bethany Verrett

MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

Make your Mother's Day extra special this year with us! Join the Holy Eucharist **Mother's Day Dinner on Friday, May 12, 2023, 6.30pm at the Holy Eucharist Parish Hall**, for a delightful evening of delicious food, fun entertainments, and heartwarming memories with your loved ones and the Church community.

Join us in our efforts to promote the Parish Youth for the World Youth Day and serve the Parish better.

By purchasing a ticket to this memorable event, you will also be supporting a worthy cause.

Can't make it? Buy a raffle ticket for just \$5 and get a chance to win one of many lucky draw prizes.

Don't miss this chance to celebrate motherhood and show your appreciation to your mother. Check the displayed poster in the Church Foyer for more information and secure your spot today. We can't wait to see you there!

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues 9:00 AM, 09-05-23

Reader Xuan Duong

Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 10-05-23

Reader Carmen Camilleri

Eucharistic Min. Carmen Carmilleri

Thurs 9:00 AM, 11-05-23

Reader: Shirley Krizmanic

Eucharistic Shirley Krizmanic

Fri 9:00 AM, 12-05-23

Reader Helen Maddela

Eucharistic Min. Edith Gauci

Sat 5.00 PM, 13-05-23

Lit. Coordinator: Charlie Pace

Commentator: Miriam Vella

Readers: Agatha Saliba

Wendy Forbes-Perera

Eucharistic Min. Alaistair Surrao

Violeta Montoro

Reno Attard

Sun 8.45 AM, 14-05-23

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen

Commentator Helen Maddela

Readers: Mini Eddy

Salve Nidea

Eucharistic Min: Wilma Marmur

Shirley Krizmainc

Monica Lomen

Sun 10:00AM, 14-05-23

Lit. Coordinator: Saua Tufuga

Commentator: Joh Cabla

Reader: St Francis Choir

St Francis Choir

Eucharistic Min. Christine Pedroso

Saua Tufuga

Br. Noel Debono

Sun 6.00PM, 14-05-23

Lit. Coordinator Larnie Mendoza

Commentator Rod Lalunio

Reader Lani Laririt

Xuan Duong

Eucharistic Min. Lani Laririt

Xuan Duong

Rod Lalunio

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 13 May 2023

- ◆ 5pm – Samoan Choir

Sunday 14 May 2023

- ◆ 8.45am - Charlie Schembri
- ◆ 10.00am - St Francis Choir
- ◆ 6pm - Youth For Christ Choir

CLEANING ROSTER

Week starting 10 May 2023 - Group 2 -

Jeff & Jenny Colquhoun, Cherie Surrao, Joe Camilleri & Paul Scerri

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Nguyen Thi San, Diana Moules, Magen Hallorina, James Floros, Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Arnord Fernandez, Toni Antonowicz, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sande, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Deceased

Upul Thevapperuma

Anniversaries

Ignatius Borg, Joseph & Carmen Bayona, Joseph John & Christine Montebello, Joseph & Rita Micallef-Grimaud, David & Adrian Camilleri, Joseph & Rose Sammut, Marlene Farrugia, Tran Thi Huong, Cornelio Maddela, Grazio (Horace) Camilleri, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, Mac-co Ngo Van Thinh, Lucia Huynh Thi Kim Hue, Phero Ngo Minh Truong, Maria Huynh Thi Thanh Kieu, Phero Le Nghia, Mat-ta Le Thi Linh, Phero Le Quang Tuan, Theresa Nguyen Ngoc Giang Thu, Dominico Le Ngoc Son, Mary Camilleri, Richard Curmi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Angela Chircop, Peter Disco, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Duong Family, Do Family, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Michael Alphonsus Schiller, Mollie Rice (Marie), Raymond Abela and All Souls

SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Holy Eucharist parish respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.

VOCATION VIEW

The new ministry of "Deacon" is mentioned in today's Scripture. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to assist with the charitable, educational or liturgical needs of the Lord's People today.

All information used in accordance with the terms of our privacy policy.