



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Prayer during the coronavirus pandemic

God of Salvation,
We turn to you with a prayer for protection and healing as the coronavirus is spreading. Help those who are affected and have become sick.
Grant patience to those who live in quarantine.
Give strength to those who care for the sick.
Inspire scientists in their research.
Strengthen between us the sense of togetherness.
Let no one be abandoned, make everyone feel safe together and with You, because You are compassionate.
Through the intercession of Blessed Mary of the Apostles and Fr. Francis Jordan, we thank you, present and faithful God, You who live and love for ever and ever.

Amen.

Salvatorians



Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

Whatever the hour, pour out prayer to the Lord. Always be content with whatever God may dispose for you and in whatever manner He does it.



8 May 2020

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend in Australia we celebrate Mother's Day. As with many events celebrated in the last few weeks such as Easter and ANZAC Day, Mother's Day is another day we will be celebrating a little differently this year.

In my letter last week, I mentioned that May is a month traditionally dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Mary is a model for all of us. She is our model of faith who adhered to God's word throughout her life, accepting and trusting of God's will at her annunciation. She is our model of charity who went in haste to visit and help her cousin Elizabeth. She is our model of hope who stood firm at the foot of the cross. Her maternal love for her Son extends to us, her spiritual children. God has entrusted to her the role of maternal intercession for us. She is Our Mother of Perpetual Help; she sees our needs and is ready to come to our aid.

continued next page...

There are many devotions that the Church recommends for honouring Our Lady. As I mentioned last weekend, Pope Francis has encouraged all the faithful to pray the Rosary this month. He has also shared two prayers to Our Lady to pray during this time. You can find these in this weekend's bulletin. He will be praying in spiritual union with all of us throughout this month for an end to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

It is very fitting that we celebrate Mother's Day during the Marian month. As we honour the Mother of God, our spiritual mother, we also honour our earthly mothers. On Mother's Day, we remember with gratitude and affection our mothers, not only through material gifts, flowers, or cards, but also, and more importantly, by our prayers for them. We thank God for the gift of our mothers who conceived and gave birth to us, who cared for us, protected us, taught us, and loved us. Many passed on the precious gift of faith to us. We remember all our mothers, living and deceased. We thank them for their generosity and self-giving love. We also pray for those mothers that have lost their children.

Even if we are unable to physically meet with our mothers this weekend, we can spiritually connect through prayer and use this different perspective as an opportunity to reflect on the wonderful role of the mother in our families and the importance of the mothers in our lives.

Fr Richard and myself will give a special blessing for all mothers at both of our livestreamed Masses this weekend. To join the livestreaming at 5pm on Saturday or 10am on Sunday, please visit our parish website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/news-events/parish-news>

I invite you to join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Bishop Bernard who celebrates 25 years as a Bishop next Friday 15 May 2020. Please keep him in your prayers.

Following the announcements from our Prime Minister today, we are still hopeful that restrictions in our state will ease to allow public worship very soon and we will be able to reunite in our churches, even if it is in small groups. We are waiting for directions from Bishop Anthony of our Diocese to be given, following these announcements. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the parish staff for support, assistance, to arrange a time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick or to offer a Mass intention.

As always, some pastoral resources for you and your family can be found in this weekend's bulletin. Printed copies of the bulletin are available outside our Maria Regina Church, Avalon or the front of the parish office, Mona Vale and are available on our parish website.

Mass on Demand can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews> The Catholic Weekly can be read online at www.catholicweekly.com.au For those of you who don't have access to the internet, "Mass for You at Home" continues to be broadcast on Channel 10 each Sunday from 6am.

On Mother's Day, let us pray for all our mothers. And let us remember that we have a Mother in heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary. We continue to rejoice with her during this Easter season.

May the Mother given to us by Christ on the cross be ever at our side



Fr Bronek Pietrusewicz SDS
Parish Priest



Vinnies

Vinnies changes lives everyday.

Show your support and
give to our annual appeal

For the needy, help is
available by contacting
the Brookvale Centre
9905 0424 during
business hours.

Did you know that if you are new to
our parish you can register your
details through our website or if
your contact details have changed
you can update them.
Simply go to
www.pittwaterparish.org, click on
the "Welcome" menu item and
select "Parishioner Registration"
from the dropdown menu.
If you have any problems, please
contact the parish office on
9157 0999.

LIBRARY

"Due to our Church being closed because
of the Coronavirus pandemic, we do not
have access to the Library books,
however you can still browse our full
collection of books and DVDs on the
website. Go to Resources>
Library>Our books and they can be
purchased through Amazon. Books and
DVDs will still be reviewed in the
Bulletin."

if you have an inquiry you may phone
me on 99183973 (Home) 0401613643
(mobile).

Trish Newman



BOOK REVIEW

The Monastery of the Heart By Joan Chittister

This book is an invitation to a
meaningful life. The author
explains the Benedictine Rule
and how it can
apply to our
everyday lives -
basic tenets of
prayer,
meaningful work
and service to
uplift us all.



We Pray for

Recently Deceased
Ljubica Marija Rusév
Janice Mason
Wendy Grant

If you would like the names of your
relatives or friends and offerings
included, please drop the envelope in
to the Parish Office by Midday on
Wednesdays. Thank You.

**Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them
O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light
Shine Upon Them.**

**May they Rest in Peace. Amen.
May Their Souls And The Souls
Of The Faithful Departed,
Through The Mercy Of God,
Rest In Peace. Amen.**

Deceased Anniversary

**Joseph Calleia
Barry Farrell
Barbara Cincotta
Vera & Edward Ragen
May & Roy Tully
Pam & Ray Halls
Margaret & Simon Gleeson
Ron Fisher
Pat Barry
Sean Barry
David Barry
Souls in Purgatory**

Prayers for the Sick

Tayla Riddle
Giovanni Returra
Bill Eyre
Manny Zarb
Philip Maddrell
Gail Reiter
Imelda Vince
Eric Domagas
Vicky Villaluz
Ben Castillo
Moira Howie
Carol Brennan
Jomar
Christine Hills
Donald McRae
Mary O'Connor
Sara Zofrea
Beryl Peo-Duncan
Joe Romeo

The names on this list will be
removed after four weeks unless
otherwise requested or advised.
Thank you

Join us on our live
stream weekend
Masses on 10 May
2020, as we celebrate
Mother's Day. Receive a
special blessing for
Mother's Day.



Weekend Masses from our parish will be live-streamed :

**Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm and
Sunday Morning Mass 10am**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCBpLC9Gn8yp4qW-TU0GDzsw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpLC9Gn8yp4qW-TU0GDzsw/videos)
or search **Pittwater Parish**
on Youtube

or follow the link on our Parish
Website

Please check our website for
links to the other celebrations
www.pittwaterparish.org or
our facebook page
for updates.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

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,
come at least spiritually into
my heart.

I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite
myself wholly to You. Never
permit me to be separated
from You.

Amen.



SOUL
PITTWATER

[instagram.com/soul_pittwater](https://www.instagram.com/soul_pittwater)

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions 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.

Watch the daily Mass on Demand at

[https://www.youtube
.com/user/cathnews](https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews)

We hope that this will
help the faithful to
celebrate the Holy Mass
online wherever they are



If you are experiencing Domestic Violence.

**Ring 1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732**

PLANNED GIVING

The money contributed to
our parish via our second
collection helps us to meet
the running costs which our
Parish incurs, including wages,
electricity, telephones,
insurances, rates, building and
equipment repairs and
maintenance, to name but a few.
As we are unable to donate via
our second collection at present,
our parish will not receive the
funds which are truly needed to
cover our relentless stream of
expenses. Whilst you are unable
to attend Mass, if you are able to
make your regular donation by
way of automatic direct debit
from your credit card, please
complete the form included in
this bulletin. **Or donations can
be made on our website:
www.pittwaterparish.org
through the donations and
giving tile.** If you would prefer
not to give by credit card, please
contact the parish office,
9157 0999 for other ways that
you can contribute.



SAFEGUARDING

We the people of the Catholic Diocese
of Broken Bay and the Catholic Parish
of Pittwater are committed to
fostering communities of safety and
care for all people, especially for
children and others in the community
who are vulnerable. Our commitment
is underscored by our faith in Jesus
Christ.



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Planned Giving Direct Debit Agreement Form for Contributions Via Credit Card

☐ I am an existing Planned Giving contributor

☐ I am new to Planned Giving

Or Donate at
www.pittwater-parish.org
Donations and
Giving Tile

Full Name			
Address:			
Telephone:		Email:	

Payment Agreement

<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
Debit Amount:	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Until Further Notice

Debit from Credit Card

Card Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Card Holder Name:					<input type="checkbox"/> Visa				<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard						
Expiry Date:					/				CCV:				<input type="text"/>		

This authorisation is to remain in force until notice is received in writing for it to be changed.

Signatory of Nominated Account:		Date:	/	/
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Thank you for supporting our planned giving programme.

Please return the completed form to the parish office or email to office@pittwaterparish.org

Terms and Conditions

I/We hereby authorise The Catholic Parish of Pittwater to debit my/our credit card account. Monthly debits occur on the 15th day of each month or the next business day. Weekly and fortnightly debits occur on the Monday of each week or fortnight accordingly.

The administration of this agreement is conducted by The Catholic Parish of Pittwater. The Catholic Parish of Pittwater will not change the amount or frequency of drawing arrangements without my prior approval. It is my responsibility to ensure that I/We have sufficient clear funds in our nominated account to enable the direct debit to be honoured by our financial institution. If the Debit request falls on a weekend or public holiday, it will be processed on the next working day.

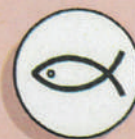
I/We are advised to verify account details against a recent bank statement and if uncertain to contact our financial institution or The Catholic Parish of Pittwater. If our Direct Debit is dishonoured or returned by our financial institution, for any reason, The Catholic Parish of Pittwater reserves the right to re-present the Direct Debit for processing again on the next business day. The Catholic Parish of Pittwater will keep the information about our nominated account at the financial institution private and confidential unless this information is required to investigate a claim made in relation to an alleged incorrect or wrongful debt, or otherwise required by law. I/We may stop, cancel, alter or defer your Direct Debit Request at any time, by contacting The Catholic Parish of Pittwater I/we agree to notify The Catholic Parish of Pittwater if the account is closed.

Sunday 10 May 2020



WELCOME TO THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In times of trouble and doubt Jesus calls us to trust in him and surrender to him all our concerns and anxieties. He continually invites us to follow him and shows us the path to a joyful life, as he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Should we wish to follow and accept his invitation Jesus promises to take care of us and prepares a place for each of us, with the Father.



GOSPEL READING: JOHN 14: 1, 6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me...I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"

Read the full text at

<https://www.universalis.com/Australia/mass.htm>

REFLECTION:

"[Jesus] knows their hearts, and so he speaks heart to heart."

<https://fatherhanly.com/journey-with-father/5th-sunday-of-easter-year-a/>

RESOURCES TO CELEBRATE WOMEN
THIS MOTHER'S DAY:

The Feminine Genius – This Catholic Life Podcast:
<https://www.thiscatholiclife.com.au/e/the-feminine-genius-s2ep38-1584339787/>

Amazing Mothers who are also Catholic Saints –
Catholic Talk Show Podcast
<https://catholictalkshow.com/6-amazing-mothers-who-are-also-catholic-saints/>



PRAYER:

Jesus, you are the Way,
the Truth and the Life,
and You call us to follow you,
so that we may have life and
have it to the full.
Thank you for the gift of your
mother, Mary,
who gives us a pure example
of trust in the Father
and illustrates to us the
self-sacrificial love of a mother
for all her children.
May we look to her as an
example of true surrender
and love. Amen



SAINT:

13 May - Feast of Our Lady of Fatima: celebrates the apparitions of Our Lady to three Portuguese children in 1917 where Mary revealed three secrets and asked the children to tell everyone to pray the Rosary every day for world peace. Mary also asked the children to add another prayer to the end of each decade of the Rosary, now known as the Fatima Prayer.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2020-05-13>



THIS WEEK:

Mary is celebrated during the month of May and traditionally the Rosary is prayed during this time. Join with your family this week to pray the Rosary for an end to the pandemic.

<https://www.rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary/>

SONG:

In Christ Alone – Virtual Choir:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RY4CW5pte98>

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES:

Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquets – Catholic Icing:
<https://www.catholicicing.com/spiritual-bouquets-for-mothers-day/>

The Rosary – Catholic Central:

<https://www.catholiccentral.com/catholic-central-episodes/rosary>

E	I	E	E	E	R	A	P	E	R	P	R	H	R
S	W	H	R	L	U	T	W	R	S	E	E	A	E
E	U	S	I	L	U	T	A	R	E	L	R	R	R
R	W	F	I	T	R	T	I	A	R	D	S	S	S
R	E	D	T	T	O	U	P	E	A	S	O	W	R
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Y	H	I	H	E	P	F	H	H	T	U	L	T	L
J	E	S	U	S	E	R	E	T	O	I	R	H	E
E	E	R	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	U	V	F	B
T	R	U	S	T	E	V	L	O	I	S	S	P	T
R	U	R	F	A	T	H	E	R	F	E	V	E	T
Y	F	L	J	E	W	A	Y	O	H	U	A	E	L

Believe
Jesus
Way

House
Truth
Follow

Trust
Father
Prepare

Bread
Life

<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1108785/i-am/downloadable/>

MORE RESOURCES AT:
bbcatholic.org.au/connected



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

How is Mary the greatest role model for Christian mothers?



Mother's Day has a deep spiritual dimension. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the greatest of all mothers. Motherhood has always been a sacred and noble vocation, but Mary raised it to even greater stature when she became the Mother of God. As the mother who is "blessed among women" (Lk 1:42), Mary gives us the clearest and most inspiring picture of what the ideal mother should look like, and every Christian mother would be wise to take her cues from the one who excelled at motherhood like none other.

Mary was "full of grace," or put more simply, God lived within her. This came naturally because of her upbringing. St. Ann was Mary's mother, and the elder Ann taught her young daughter to be loving and kind, attentive to God's Word, and obedient to God's will. With such a firm foundation, Mary was so favourably disposed to God that when the archangel Gabriel appeared to her and said, "You will bear a son," with deep faith she trustingly replied, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:31,38). Every Christian mother loves God with all her heart and responds favourably whenever God calls.

Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:35); it was by the grace of God that she conceived. Every conception is a miracle, and every Christian mother knows that she is a partner with God in the ongoing work of creation, deeply aware that her child is a gift from God. As a result, when a Christian woman is blessed with a pregnancy, she rejoices in her child as Mary rejoiced in Jesus, she completes her pregnancy rather than end it in abortion, and cares for her unborn child with good nutrition, medical check ups, and the avoidance of smoking, alcohol, or any drugs that could have a harmful effect.

Once Mary became pregnant, she immediately went to visit Elizabeth, her relative, who also was pregnant (Lk 1:39-45). Christian mothers do not focus solely on themselves and their own families. Instead, they have the marvelous ability to assist relatives and friends who are in need.

Not long after Mary became pregnant, she offered a magnificent prayer to God, one of the most beautiful prayers in all of Scripture, the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55). Mothers who follow Mary's example are deeply prayerful, and speak to God from their hearts day-by-day.

On the first Christmas Mary gave birth to her Son, and she immediately wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes (Lk 2:7), and thereby cared for his physical needs. Christian mothers care for their children's physical needs as they feed them, clothe them, change their diapers, rock them to sleep, take them to doctor's appointments, and nurse them through illness.

Several weeks after Jesus was born, Mary, along with her husband Joseph, presented their newborn Son Jesus to the priest in the Temple (Lk 2:22-38). By doing this, Mary consecrated Jesus to God, she acknowledged that God had a plan for her Son and agreed to do everything in her power to cooperate with God's intended purpose for him. Likewise, Christian mothers consecrate their children to God in the Sacrament of Baptism, and promise to do everything possible to help their children do what God wants in their lives.

Next, evil King Herod tried to kill Jesus, so Mary fled to Egypt to protect her son (Mt 2:13-15). Christian mothers keep their children away from evil forces that could harm them: violent or abusive adults, undisciplined playmates, and bad television programs, to name a few.

Mary and Joseph took their son Jesus to the synagogue in Nazareth each week in observance of the Sabbath (Lk 4:16), and they took him to the Temple in Jerusalem once a year for Passover (Lk 2:41). For Mary, regular church attendance was automatic. Mothers who follow Mary's example go to Mass each week, and they take their children with them, because it is so important to pray with others and be connected to other faith-filled families.

The gospel says that Jesus was obedient to Mary (Lk 2:51), which implies that Mary was firm and demanding with her Son. Christian mothers do not let their children do whatever they want, but

have high standards for Christian conduct, have a set of house rules, and insist upon them.

When Jesus was crucified, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross and suffered with him (Jn 19:25). She never abandoned her child, even during adulthood, particularly when things were at their worst. This sort of enduring love is exemplary for Christian mothers. Children get into trouble, sometimes for the right reasons, sometimes not, as children or as adults. Mothers like Mary stand with their children throughout life, especially when things go bad, even if they are unable to alter the course of tragic events, to offer love and support in whatever way they can.

© 2003, Rev. Michael A. Van Sloun

A Prayer in Gratitude for Our 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.***

- Author Unknown



Parish Pastoral Council
Matthew Hyland
 matthyland100@yahoo.com.au

Pittwater Parish Ministries

Catechists
 Co-Directors
 Maureen Wooldridge - 9997 4694
 Veronica Thomas -
 veronicathomas2009@gmail.com

Evangelisation Ministry
 Erich Ott (Coordinator RCIA)
 0409 124 840
 Sr Margaret Collis - 9974 4116
 Sue Berg - 0419 991 781
 (Coordinators Adult Faith Education/
 Formation)

Legion of Mary
 Connie Robinson - Director
 0458 007 706

Little Hearts Playgroup
 Co-Directors-Marie Bockman -
 mbockman@hotmail.com
 Maureen Wooldridge - 9997 4694

Media & Communication Ministry
 Laura Ee - Director
 media@pittwaterparish.org

Music Ministry
 Josh Willard - Director
 9157 0999 ext 17

**Pastoral Care and
 Communion to the Sick Ministry**
 Co-Directors
 Denise Bottero - 9997 6904
 Marie Bockman -
 mbockman@hotmail.com

Parish Library
 Trish Newman - Director
 9918 3973

Sacramental Program Ministry
 Suzy Caruso
 9157 0999 ext 0
 sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

Social Justice Ministry
 Tamara Harding - Director
 0403 226 699
 www.facebook.com/pages/Pittwater-Friends-Of-Soibada/162612300466694

Youth Ministry
 soul@pittwaterparish.org or
 Josh Willard (Soul Youth)
 music@pittwaterparish.org

All our Ministries comply with Working With
 Children Check requirements



**CATHOLIC
 DIOCESE OF
 BROKEN BAY**

Director, Office for Evangelisation

- Full time, 38 hours per week
- Pennant Hills based

The Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, under the leadership of Bishop Anthony Randazzo, serves the People of God in the northern regions of the city of Sydney, the North Shore, Peninsula and NSW Central Coast. Home to more than 223,000 Catholics, and covering an area of 2,763 square kilometres, the Diocese comprises 26 Parishes, 36 Primary Schools, 8 Secondary Schools, 4 Early Learning Centres, and 5 Family Centres.

We are seeking a Director, Office for Evangelisation (Evangelisation Director) to support the Bishop to achieve his pastoral priorities. As the Evangelisation Director, you will provide strategic direction and lead the Office for Evangelisation to meet present and future opportunities for Christian mission. The Office for Evangelisation across the areas of Pastoral Planning, Sacramental Life, Liturgy and RCIA, Life, Marriage and Family; Catholic Life, Mission, and Faith Formation; Catholic Youth and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

The Office for Evangelisation works closely with the parishes of the Diocese and provides significant support as they carry out the mission of the Catholic Church.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants are required to provide a written statement which addresses each of the selection criteria listed below.

Suitability for the position will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. A personal commitment to Catholic teachings, faith, ethos, values and mission of the Catholic Church;
2. Tertiary qualifications in theology and in particular Catholic theology or a related discipline;
3. A thorough understanding of the Catholic Church, its mission and its unique challenges and opportunities;
4. Proven experience in planning and implementation of evangelising practices in Diocesan and Parish contexts;
5. A strong understanding of current issues in the Church in Australia and abroad in relation to evangelisation, Parish life and ministry, and outreach to the unengaged;
6. A proven ability to provide leadership in a large, complex and diverse organisation;
7. An ability to work with, distill and explain pastoral research and statistics;
8. Experience working in close collaboration with Parishes and agencies of the Catholic Church;
9. Previous responsibility for an evangelisation function and demonstrated success in evangelisation outcomes;
10. Ability to sustain effective, positive and influential relationships across a broad range of stakeholders.

For an information pack or enquiries, please contact recruitment@bb-catholic.org.au. Applications close: Sunday, 24 May 2020.

The successful applicant must be eligible to work in Australia; hold a current unrestricted drivers licence; and will be required to undertake a pre-employment National Police History Check.

The Other Side of the Virus, An Opportunity to Awaken...

*Yes there is panic buying.
 Yes there is sickness.
 Yes there is even death.*

*But,
 They say that in Wuhan after
 so many years of noise
 You can hear the birds again.
 They say that after just a few weeks
 of quiet
 The sky is no longer thick with fumes
 But blue and grey and clear.*

*They say that in the streets of Assisi
 People are singing to each other
 across the empty squares, keeping
 their windows open so that those who are
 alone may hear the sounds of family
 around them.*

*They say that a hotel in the West of
 Ireland is offering free meals and delivery
 to the housebound.*

*Today a young woman I know
 is busy spreading fliers with her
 number through the neighbourhood
 so that the elders may have someone
 to call on.*

*Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques
 and Temples are preparing to welcome
 and shelter the homeless, the sick,
 the weary.*

*All over the world people are slowing
 down and reflecting.*

*All over the world people are looking at
 their neighbours in a new way.*

*All over the world people are
 waking up to a new reality
 To how big we really are.
 To how little control we really have.
 To what really matters.
 To Love.*

*So we pray and we remember that
 Yes there is fear.
 But there does not have to be hate.
 Yes there is isolation.
 But there does not have to be loneliness.
 Yes there is panic buying.
 But there does not have to be meanness.
 Yes there is sickness.
 But there does not have to be disease
 of the soul
 Yes there is even death.
 But there can always be a rebirth of
 love.*

*Wake to the choices you make as to how
 to live now.*

*Today, breathe.
 Listen, behind the factory noises
 of your panic-
 The birds are singing again
 The sky is clearing,
 Spring is coming,
 And we are always encompassed by Love.*

*Open the windows of your soul
 And though you may not be able
 to touch across the empty square,*

Sing.

- Written by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM,
 March 13th 2020



Letter and Prayers of the Holy Father

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist
FRANCIS

First Prayer

O Mary,
You shine continuously
on our journey as a sign of salvation
and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the people”,
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy
and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the
will of the Father and to do
what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself
our suffering, and burdened
himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions in
our necessities, but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.



Second Prayer

**“We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God”.**

In the present tragic situation, when
the whole world is prey to suffering
and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of
God and our Mother, and seek refuge
under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes
towards us amid this coronavirus
pandemic. Comfort those who are
distracted and mourn their loved
ones who have died, and at times are
buried in a way that grieves them

deeply. Be close to those who are
concerned for their loved ones who
are sick and who, in order to prevent
the spread of the disease, cannot be
close to them. Fill with hope those
who are troubled by the uncertainty
of the future and the consequences
for the economy and employment.
Mother of God and our Mother, pray
for us to God, the Father of mercies,
that this great suffering may end and
that hope and peace may dawn
anew. Plead with your divine Son,

as you did at Cana, so that the
families of the sick and the victims
be comforted, and their hearts be
opened to confidence and trust.
Protect those doctors, nurses, health
workers and volunteers who are on
the frontline of this emergency, and
are risking their lives to save others.

Support their heroic effort and
grant them strength, generosity
and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick
night and day, and to priests who, in
their pastoral concern and fidelity to
the Gospel, are trying to help and
support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds
of men and women engaged in
scientific research, that they may
find effective solutions to
overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that
with wisdom, solicitude and
generosity they may come to the
aid of those lacking the basic
necessities of life and may devise
social and economic solutions
inspired by farsightedness and
solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences,
so that the enormous funds invested
in developing and stockpiling arms
will instead be spent on promoting
effective research on how to prevent
similar tragedies from occurring in
the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that
we are all members of one great
family and to recognise the bond
that unites us, so that, in a spirit of
fraternity and solidarity, we can help
to alleviate countless situations
of poverty and need. Make us strong
in faith, persevering in service,
constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted,
embrace all your children in distress
and pray that God will stretch out his
all-powerful hand and free us from
this terrible pandemic, so that life
can serenely resume its normal
course.

To you, who shine on our journey as
a sign of salvation and hope, do we
entrust ourselves, O Clement,
O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.
Amen.



Congratulations Bishop Bernard on the anniversary of your Episcopal Ordination on 15 May 1995



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The *Living* Word

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.

The word of the Lord

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!

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)**

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)**

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.

The word of the Lord

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

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.



The Charitable Works Fund

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We are so grateful to our community who demonstrate their love for their neighbours by generously supporting the Charitable Works Fund.

The CWF is still working by providing the funds to ensure our trained CatholicCare Pastoral Care Practitioners are available by mobile phone for those in hospitals in our Diocese. With restrictions on visitors, Pastoral Care Practitioners are needed more than ever for the patients, their families and the staff in the hospitals in our Diocese.

The CWF is still working by providing the funds to create online resources for students in public schools in our Diocese to receive Catholic Special Religious Education Classes. This vital ministry will assist parents at home continue the valuable faith formation to Catholic students in the public schools in our Diocese.

The CWF is still working by assisting St Lucy's School and St Edmund's College care for students with special needs who are still attending providing additional funds to two schools with students with special needs.

The CWF works every day by providing funds to those who are deaf or hard of hearing through the Ephpheta Centre.

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Liturgy for the Week

11/05 **Monday Fifth week of Easter**
Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26


12/05 **Tuesday Fifth week of Easter**
Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31

13/05 **Wednesday Fifth week of Easter**
Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

14/05 **Thursday St Matthias, apostle**
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17

15/05 **Friday Fifth week of Easter**
Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

16/05 **Saturday Fifth week of Easter**
Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21



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