



MANLY FRESHWATER..CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Fifth Sunday of Easter~ 10th May 2020



Dear Friends,

I hope that you are well and adapting positively to these strange times. However, one has a sense that we in Australia have been blessed in the spirit of our communities and nation.

The Gospel reading for the next few Sundays, taken from Jesus's farewell speech to His disciples at the Last Supper in the Gospel of John, invites us on an interior journey into the depths of our hearts.

It is there that Jesus makes His home in us; it is there that the Holy Spirit teaches us all wisdom. As our faith is fed from the well-spring of the Spirit deep within us, so the stronger is our desire to let love loose in the world.

In Easter tide the Church drinks deeply from the wellspring of the Spirit and finds fresh inspiration for its mission in the world. It is in the little things that we say and do that this is most powerfully evident. This weekend we are joyfully celebrating Mother's Day. It is wonderful that many of us can now visit our Mothers or other family members.

Thank you to all of those who have continued to financially support our parish and priests. Please see the notice on Supporting your Parish during COVID-19 - page 5.

We look forward to a time when our Church will be opened, and we can gather together in prayer and worship.

God Bless and be well
Fr David and Fr Paul



Pope Francis: Day of Prayer and Fasting and Works of Charity on May 14, 2020

Pope Francis has accepted the proposal from the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity for May 14, 2020, to be a Day of Prayer and Fasting and Works of Charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic.

The Holy Father made this announcement after praying the Regina Caeli (Queen of Heaven Rejoice Alleluia) from the Library of the Apostolic Vatican Palace on May 3.

"We began May a short while ago, Marian month par excellence, during which the faithful love to visit Shrines dedicated to Our Lady," Pope Francis said. "This year, because of the health situation, we go spiritually to these places of faith and devotion, to place in the Holy Virgin's heart our worries, expectations, and plans for the future.

"And, as prayer is a universal value, I have accepted the proposal of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity so that next May 14 believers of all religions unite spiritually in a Day of Prayer and Fasting and Works of Charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic.

Remember: May 14, all believers together, believers of different traditions, to pray, fast, and do works of charity."



This weekend we will be holding our final CWF Appeal for this Financial Year - more information can be found on Page 5 - Thank You on your ongoing support.



Facebook and YouTube – manlyfreshwaterparish

Youtube – access through playlist Saturday 6pm Mass

Parish Pastoral Council: Paul Pervan (Chair), Ian Press (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dent (Secretary), Ivica Covic; Laurie de Ambrosio; Joanne Druery; Robert Marshall; Michael McGrath
St Mary's Primary School 9977 2225 Principal: Paul McGuire
St John the Baptist Primary School 9939 6699 Principal: Judy Slattery
St Paul's Catholic College 9977 5111 Principal: Chris Browne
Stella Maris College 9977 5144 Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie



Home Delivery – If you know someone who would like a bulletin delivered please call the Parish Office on 9977 5822.

May 2020

Year A

Mon 11/5 – 5th week of Easter	Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
Tue 12/5 – 5th week of Easter	Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31
Wed 13/5 – 5th week of Easter	Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
Thurs 14/5 – 5th week of Easter	Acts 1:15-17,20-26; Jn 15:9-17
Fri 15/5 – 5th week of Easter	Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
Sat 16/5 – 5th week of Easter	Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21
Sun 17/5 – Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 8:5-8,14-17; 1 Pet 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Now available to everyone online at www.catholicweekly.com.au

Visiting sick at home - If you, or if you know of anyone who are unwell and would like a home visit please contact the parish office 9977 5822 to organise for Communion or Anointing.

LET US PRAY FOR

10th May 2020

Recently Deceased: Ann Irvin; Margaret Crowley

Anniversary: Terry Morgan; Lora Mary Cummins; Loreta Pauig; Martina Madut; Ana Iim Sia; Clemintina Yao; Peter Lawler

Prayers for the sick in our parish: Eugenia Cavazzoni, Gavin Greenwood, Zachaeus Emmanuel Joseph Ratnam; Mark Taylor; Kay Flenady; Leon Cochrane; Robina Dwyer; Prionsias Kearney; Brian Davies; Majella McLoughlin; Debbie Vernon; Desmond Connors; Lauren Hannahan; Rosalba Galuis; Vanessa Squirrell; Judith McKenzie; Jonathan Keil; Les Reilly; Wayne Smedley; Margaret Burrige; John Beninati

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays 10am -11am
in the Parish Centre at Manly**

Manly Freshwater Parish promotes **SAFEGUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, common sense and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our community



Pope Francis Being poor in spirit, mourning, meekness, thirsting for holiness, showing mercy, purity of heart, and being a peacemaker can lead to persecution for Christ's sake. But in the end, this persecution is a cause for joy and great reward in heaven.
#Beatitudes



St Vincent De Paul Notice during COVID-19 lockdown

For assistance with food, clothing or other emergencies please call St Vincent de Paul Northern Beaches Regional Office 9905 0424.

Parish Priest: Fr David Taylor
Assistant Priest: Fr Paul Kim
Parish Secretaries: Jenny Beninati & Paula Martin
Pastoral Coordinator: Michelle Ellis

Administration Office:
 After Hours Urgent Sick Calls: 0499 910 010
 Presbytery: 9977 2100
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au
www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater
Reconciliation: Manly Sat 10am – 11am

If you would like to donate non perishable food, it can be dropped off at 684 Pittwater Road, Brookvale– rear entrance (off the carpark)

If you wish to donate clothing it will be accepted at the SVDP Shop Brookvale, Rogers Street, between 9am – 3pm.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook:
facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

YouTube: [Manlyfreshwaterparish](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2EIGEu7)
Or bit.ly/2EIGEu7 or [frpaulkim](https://www.facebook.com/frpaulkim)
 (one word with no space). You can view the YouTube videos thru the parish facebook, click on the link

Parish website:
bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

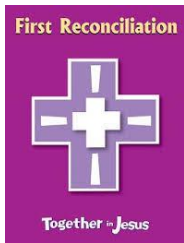
HOLY WATER – Blessed "holy water" is really Easter water, the water of Baptism. Fr David has blessed holy water which is available to anyone who would like to bring a container to collect some. The Urn with the water will be in the foyer of the Parish Centre.



Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

First Reconciliation Program



Over the next few weeks the Children from the Parish who have completed the Preparation program will be invited to make their First Reconciliation individually. We will be contacting the Parents and asking them to make an appointment for their children with Fr David.

Please remember the Children and their Parents in your prayers.

We will also be commencing our First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programs in the near future (dates to be advised).

ARE YOU OK? Are you finding it difficult during these uncertain times of COVID-19?

Would you like to have a chat with someone over the phone? Or someone to help you do your grocery shopping?

Please let us know by contacting the Parish Office manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au 9977822



LAUNDRY BAGS FOR NURSE'S AT NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL.

Our Craft Group have been busily making Laundry Bags for our local Nurses to assist them with transporting their uniforms after their shifts.



Learning from Home SRE Lessons

The Department of Education has approved the continuation of SRE classes during the COVID-19 period via a Learning from Home model.

Our Diocesan CCD team have been working hard to adapt lessons into PowerPoint format so that they can be delivered online. Schools will be able to share a link to the lessons on our website so that students and families can easily access these lessons at home

Catholic SRE lessons are available online at the following link: [Catholic SRE Online](#)



Last week our brave Teachers and Parish Staff including Fr David and Fr Paul had their Flu injections and enjoyed their lollypop afterwards.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING BY ZOOM



We managed to hold a successful Parish Council Meeting by Zoom on Wednesday evening 29th April in the very quick time of 6pm to 6.45pm. We achieved this by keeping everyone's input and responses to controlled limits. Yes, even Fr. David complied.

We covered the PPC's discussions to the Plenary Council's six themes under the headings of **Connection; Engagement; Open, Honest & Safe Church; Prayerful & Eucharist; Joyful Serving Community; Renewal**...Paul McGuire presented our future Strategies.

Finance Committee reported on far less Income (owing to Churches being closed) though with expenses being contained a budgeted smaller surplus is still seen as achievable...John Zemek reported

The Youth group are to also have a Zoom Meeting very soon...Ivica Covic organizing

Our Maintenance work continues with Church Roof repairs the main program now being pushed along. \$3,000 Grant from Northern Beaches Council gratefully received...Laurie de Ambrosio reported.

Sacramental programs continuing and CCD students classes happening on-line...Michelle Ellis reported

Very good feedback from the Easter Masses and special mention for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross...Ian Press

Live Stream Masses being joined by up to 1,000 persons each week...Fr Paul Kim confirmed.

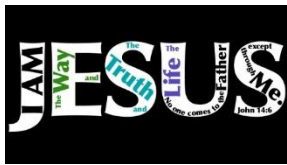
Fr David expressed his hope for all Parishioners to keep safe in this COVID time and he was happy with the response to the Live Stream Masses.

Though we are unable to gather as usual, our Parish life is alive and well.

Anything you wish to learn more about please advise.

Next PPC Meeting 27th May

Paul PervanChair PPC.....May 2020.



REFLECTION

This week's readings speak powerfully of faith, hope and trust in God. His word inspires, sustains and encourages us as

we continue to live with the impacts of current events.

We learn how the early church devised a way to ensure the fair sharing of food and material necessities among all the faithful, so that the apostles could continue preaching and teaching about Jesus (**First Reading**). They accomplished this task with prayer, seeking wisdom from the Holy Spirit in their decision-making.

St Peter (**Second Reading**) speaks of the difficulties of living without faith, and rejoices that those who are believers can be close to Jesus and become a holy people living in the light of God.

We are reminded that our hope is in God who is faithful, who loves justice and right, and who seeks to rescue the people who hope in his love (**Psalms**). I am invited to remember God as the source of my hope in difficulty, and to offer praise and thanksgiving with joy.

The **Gospel** is part of Jesus's farewell to his disciples. Although he will leave them physically, he asks them not to be troubled, to trust in God. He invites us also to trust. We will not be left alone, but will know our Risen Lord as the Way, the Truth and the Life, and be enabled to live the way, truth and life of Jesus for others. *Pathways to God 2020*

Marian Month of May

For centuries the month of May has been dedicated and celebrated as the month of Mary, honouring her as the mother of Christ and mother of us all. During May we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Fatima (13 May) and Our Lady Help of Christians (24 May) and many others.



Mary is the ultimate example of trust in the Lord, she is the one who points us to her Son and leads us to him. She is the example of joy in times of tribulation and true surrender. We venerate her for her 'yes' and ask her to intercede for us.

In 1965 Pope Paul VI wrote an Encyclical *Mense Maio* which focused on prayers during the month of May, for the preservation of peace in the world. In it he recognised the importance of the dedication of the month of May as a "moving tribute of faith and love...to be paid to the Queen of Heaven. This is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration."

In the Encyclical, the Pope encouraged that during this month prayers are offered "whenever the needs of the Church demanded it or *some grave crisis threatened the human race*."

Pope Francis has also called the faithful to rediscover the beauty of this month, dedicated to Mary.

Traditionally during the month of May families unite to pray and meditate upon the Mysteries of the Rosary. Another long-standing tradition is the May Crowning, where a crown of beautiful blossoms are made and placed on the head of a statue of Mary, done in both Churches and homes. Families have also created a special sacred Home May Altar where they come to pray during the month.

Let us all unite this May, in the name of Jesus, to pray for an end to the pandemic, which is currently a *grave crisis*, and ask our Mother, Mary, to intercede for us and the world.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH



DURING COVID-19

Even though we are unable to gather together for Mass on Sundays, much of the

life of the parish is continuing. Most of our parish income comes from your donations given at Mass, either in planned giving envelopes, direct debit or loose on the second collection as well as your generous support of our Priests through the first collection.

As there are no Sunday Masses during the present shutdown our parish income has therefore dropped dramatically. Like many we have reduced our costs in parish and presbytery expenses. We are also accessing assistance from the Governments JobKeeper Program. However, unfortunately most of our costs are fixed, such as insurance, utilities, IT contracts, phone lines and Parish maintenance and repairs.

For those on Planned Giving Program through credit cards and direct debt, we are very grateful for your continued support.

For those who have supported us for many years by placing your donations or envelopes on the collection plate, we couldn't exist without you. In our parish, your contributions make up a major part of our income.

While our two Churches are closed we ask those of you who normally make their offerings in cash or through the envelopes on the plate, to please consider using our Planned Giving Program by **Credit Card**. If you would like to contribute by Credit Card please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822 or manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au.



Alternatively, you can make a donation **directly to our Parish Bank Accounts**. (details below)

Parish Bank Account -2nd collection funds the running of the Parish

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Acc# 13958001
BSB: 062 784 Please include your name as reference or envelope number

Parish Bank Account -1st collection Support of our Priests

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Acc# 13958002
BSB - 062 784

Your regular donation will give the parish a reliable income so that we can be here to support people who are in need right now, and to be ready for you when we can worship and celebrate the Liturgy again together.

I am very grateful for your continued prayers and support. You are in my daily prayers. *Fr David*



A letter to the People of God in the Diocese of Broken Bay

Monday 27 April 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It was my privilege to greet you all through my online video message at Easter. At the time, I spoke about how we do not ignore the sufferings and burdens of others and that we accompany them with love, hope and joy. I mentioned that we are the twenty first century disciples of Jesus and that we share the Easter joy with everyone that we meet.

In times where we are required to protect our loved ones and our communities by staying home, we are challenged as to how we might share the Easter joy.

I would like you to reflect on your Parish communities and our Diocesan Charity, The Diocese of Broken Bay Charitable Works Fund (CWF)

Giving is an act of joy – sharing what we have with our Parish community and people in our Diocese is one way to ensure that the love of Jesus Christ is available to us all. For many in our hospitals, particularly with the restriction on hospital visitors, this can be a time of anxiety and loneliness. While our CatholicCare Pastoral Care Practitioners are not able to sit at the bedsides as they would normally do, they are on the phone to patients, praying with them and providing the support of our faith. Our health care workers in the hospitals are also calling our Pastoral Care Practitioners, as they are on the front line dealing with the consequences of the pandemic on a daily basis. We are grateful that this service, funded by your donations, is available to patients and hospital staff in our community providing this much needed connection and support.

Your donations to our Charitable Works Fund provide financial assistance to five charities in our Diocese. Information can be found here <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/give/charitable-works-fund>

Your Easter Gift to the people in the Diocese of Broken Bay can be made online at www.givenow.com.au/cwf or by contacting your local Parish.

I am deeply grateful for your support and generosity and pray that God may bless you,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD, JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

Thank you for your continued connection

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.

When you give to the CWF, you can be assured that your donation is working for the faith and the people of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

Donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible. Click on this link to give to CWF www.givenow.com.au/cwf or post your cheque into the Parish Office or deposit into our account

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Acc# 13958001
BSB: 062 784 Please include your name and CWF as the reference



May 2020 CWF video <https://youtu.be/NIVvTxTsDTw>

Our Lady of Fatima

Feast day: May 13



The story of Fatima begins in 1916, when, against the backdrop of the First World War which had introduced Europe to the most horrific and powerful forms of warfare yet

seen, and a year before the Communist revolution would plunge Russia and later Eastern Europe into six decades of oppression under militant atheistic governments, a resplendent figure appeared to the three children who were in the field tending the family sheep. "I am the Angel of Peace," said the figure, who appeared to them two more times that year exhorting them to accept the sufferings that the Lord allowed them to undergo as an act of reparation for the sins which offend Him, and to pray constantly for the conversion of sinners.

Then, on the 13th day of the month of Our Lady, May 1917, an apparition of 'a woman all in white, more brilliant than the sun' presented itself to the three children saying "Please don't be afraid of me, I'm not going to harm you." Lucia asked her where she came from and she responded, "I come from Heaven." The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. The woman asked them to pray and devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to "say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war."

She also revealed that the children would suffer, especially from the unbelief of their friends and families, and that the two younger children, Francisco and Jacinta would be taken to Heaven very soon but Lucia would live longer in order to spread her message and devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

In the last apparition the woman revealed her name in response to Lucia's question: "I am the Lady of the Rosary."

That same day, 70,000 people had turned out to witness the apparition, following a promise by the woman that she would show the people that the apparitions were true. They saw the sun make three circles and move around the sky in an incredible zigzag movement in a manner which left no doubt in their minds about the veracity of the apparitions. By 1930 the Bishop had approved of the apparitions and they have been approved by the Church as authentic.

The messages Our Lady imparted during the apparitions to the children concerned the violent trials that would afflict the world by means of war, starvation, and the persecution of the Church and the Holy Father in the twentieth century if the world did not make reparation for sins. She exhorted the Church to pray and offer sacrifices to God in order that peace may come upon the world, and that the trials may be averted.

Our Lady of Fatima revealed three prophetic "secrets," the first two of which were revealed earlier and refer to the vision of hell and the souls languishing there, the request for an ardent devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the prediction of the Second World War, and finally the prediction of the immense damage that Russia would do to humanity by abandoning the Christian faith and embracing Communist totalitarianism. The third "secret" was not revealed until the year 2000, and referred to the persecutions that humanity would undergo in the last century: "The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated". The suffering of the popes of the 20th century has been interpreted to include the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II in 1981, which took place on May 13, the 64th anniversary of the apparitions. The Holy Father attributed his escape from certain death to the intervention of Our Lady: "... it was a mother's hand that guided the bullet's path and in his throes the Pope halted at the threshold of death."

What is the central meaning of the message of Fatima? Nothing different from what the Church has always taught: it is, as Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict the XVI, has put it, "the exhortation to prayer as the path of "salvation for souls" and, likewise, the summons to penance and conversion."

Perhaps the most well-known utterance of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima was her confident declaration that "My Immaculate Heart will triumph". Cardinal Ratzinger has interpreted this utterance as follows: "The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world—because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: "In the world you will have tribulation but take heart; I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise



PIETY STORE MANLY HAS A SELECTION OF FATIMA STATUES AND PLAQUES.

If you would like to purchase any items, please call into the Parish Office during working hours. The Piety Store has a wide range of goods including Bibles, Divine Mercy items, rosaries, CD's and much more



**PLEASE NOTE: TO ACCESS PROGRAMS RIGHT
CLICK ON THE UNDERLINED COLOURED HYPERLINK
AND THEN CLICK ON OPEN HYPERLINK**

ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES

Ascension Press Facebook page has a couple of Bible Studies available. These studies can be used individually or in a small group setting to allow for sharing and reflection. *Bible in a Month with Jeff Cavins* is a four session series, looking at the overall big picture of the Bible. *Walking Towards Eternity with Jeff Cavins* is an 8-session virtual study all about hope amid suffering.

Hyperlink - [Ascension Facebook Page](#)

ONLINE CONFERENCES

The Catholic Family Conference



The virtual Catholic Family Conference, hosted by Ignatian Press, will take place this weekend, aimed at *enlightening and fortifying families to engage the culture with truths of the Faith*.

Speakers will include Dr Janet Smith, Lila Rose, Patrick Madrid, Michael & Alicia Herson, Danielle Bean and many more. Conference commences 9am Saturday 2 May and is suitable for the entire family.

Hyperlink - [To register or for more information](#)

<https://catholicfamilyconference.com/>

Theology of the Body Virtual Catholic Conference

St John Paul II delivered 129 Wednesday audiences dedicated to Theology of the Body (TOB) between 1979 and 1984.



Learn more about this beautiful teaching of the Church in a virtual conference hosted by the Theology of the Body Institute. Over a couple of days delve deep into the understanding of TOB and how it applies to every day life and how transformative it can be.

Conference speakers will include Australia's Matt Fradd, Christopher West, Jason Evert and many more!

The conference videos will be available in Australia between: **2am Saturday 9 May - 2pm Monday 11 May**

Hyperlink - [To register or for more information](#)

Laudate (App) This free App has a large number of resources at hand, including the day's Readings; the Liturgy of the Hours; the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Prayers. Download for Apple and Android.

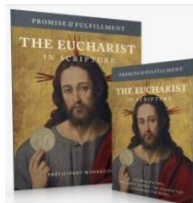
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference information online about streamed Masses and prayers on ACBC website in coronavirus portal: www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus

Pray As You Go Start the day with a reflection on the day's Reading, with music, Scripture reading, and guided reflection.. <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> or download App on Apple or Android

Heart to Heart eSeminar -Join Archbishop Prowse from the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn as he presents the Heart to Heart eSeminar each **Tuesday and Thursday at 2pm**.

The eSeminar will be drawn from one of the Archbishop's favourite verses, Psalm 42 verse 7, "deep calling unto deep" and will explore "the depths of God speaking to the depths of humanity" especially during this time.

Hyperlink - [Heart to Heart eSeminar](#)



The Eucharist In Scripture

For a limited time, during this isolation period, the St Paul Centre has made available for free a study on the Eucharist in Scripture presented by Dr Scott Hahn. This 8-part series is Dr Scott Hahn's most popular study and will increase devotion and understanding of the Blessed Sacrament, preparing the heart of each person for when we will gather once again for the celebration of Mass.

Hyperlink - [The Eucharist in Scripture-](#)



Sharing the Word eLibrary

Sharing the Word eLibrary is an extensive resource compiled and maintained by Catholic Mission (Australia).

This rich resource gives access to over 12000 free books, articles, journals, Church documents, theses, podcasts etc. Every item in this eLibrary is fully catalogued and can be easily found in multiple ways via subject headings, tags, keywords, contents lists, abstracts, etc.

Hyperlink - [Sharing the Word eLibrary](#)



Strong in the Face of Tribulation

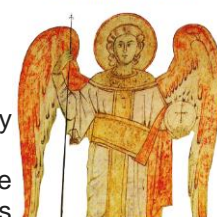
Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See

The Holy See has collated a downloadable book containing prayers, supplications and the Pope's homilies as a resource to support the People of God during this time of trial.

The book contains three sections in which the first section focuses on prayers, rituals and supplications, including blessings for the sick. The second section provides indications on how people can live a sacramental life without physical participation, and the final section provides the Pope's words to the people during this pandemic.

Hyperlink - [Read Strong in the Face of Tribulation](#)

STRONG IN THE FACE
OF TRIBULATION



The Mary Month of May

Catholic Momcast

Join Danielle Bean and Fr Jim Phalan CSC, to talk about devotion to Mary for the month of May. Discussion will include a look at the history of honouring Mary in May and why this continues to be fitting for us today.

Hyperlink - [Download and listen to Podcast](#)



The Chosen

VidAngel

the Chosen is the first multi-season, television show which was crowd-funded and is about the life of Christ. This is a not-to-be-missed series.

This highly acclaimed series has been credited with having fantastic scriptural representation of Christ and depicts Jesus' life of ministry.

Hyperlink - [Watch here](#)



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay
Message for BBNeighbourhoods
5 May 2020

My dear people, my particular prayer intention this week is for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, because in our community of the Church, this week is dedicated to the discernment of vocations. I invite you to join me in prayer for this intention because we have a need for generous people to serve the community of the Church.

The Church needs more priests and consecrated women and men if its ministry is to have the fullness that its apostolate to the world demands. As well as prayer, the Church needs action. We need to encourage all baptised people to discover their personal vocation in life. Most people will find their vocation in the world as laity. However, many will consider the Church's need for priests to shepherd the flock of Christ, and for consecrated women and men to give witness to Kingdom values by a life of service to others. Living out our Christian vocation each day demands that we commit ourselves to becoming holy.

As each man and woman, boy and girl responds to their vocation in life, they take up the special role:

1. of preaching the Word of God to the world,
2. of the enrichment of the Christian family and
3. ultimately of the building up of the Kingdom of God.

This week, I would like to invite you to listen to what God is asking you to do with your life. I encourage you to step up and to meet the challenge of living your faith! To that end, I offer you some guidance from the Sacred Scripture. I hope that you might find inspiration and direction as you say "yes" to God in your life and in the Church.

In the greeting from the letter to the Galatians, Paul boldly attributes his *vocation* unconditionally to the will of God: *Paul an apostle – sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead* (Galatians 1:1). There are many examples in Sacred Scripture of people who, like Paul, have received a personal call from God. This call always has a similar pattern.

- God's call is always personal, made to men or women in a given place and time.
- While the call is to an individual, it is always in response to the needs of the People of God (e.g. Moses Ex 3:7-12).
- In this regard, God forever looks to the community, calling people to leadership and service within it.

The reaction is not always placid; in fact, the initial response is one of shock to the one who is called (e.g. Jeremiah 1:4-6).

- More often than not the one called will not reject the proposal, but will question, *how can this come about?* (e.g. Mary in Lk 1:34).

After grappling with God's call for some time, the individual often discovers his or her life is changed.

- The initial shock shakes the entire foundation of life to the point where the response is one of freedom (e.g. Paul Acts 9:1-20), and the one called is prepared to leave behind family, friends, in sum, the familiar life (e.g. Abraham Gen 12:1-4).

God's call is charged with a task.

- The person is called to do something, to lead, to guide, to teach, to go on a *mission* (e.g. Isaiah 6:6-9).
- But, they are never sent alone. God promises to be with them (e.g. David 1Sam 16:13).
- God pledges fidelity, and the one called is often surprised that with God, all things are possible.

With these words of encouragement, I hope that the Holy Spirit will animate everyone throughout our diocese to live the Christian faith joyfully.

If God is calling you to be a priest, a deacon, or a consecrated woman or man, then know that you are not alone. Don't be afraid because when God asks us to do something, the Holy Spirit gives us the gifts necessary to do it.

Please visit our vocations team

www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/vocations

Every blessing in the Lord, Bishop Anthony

Prayer for Vocation by Pope Francis

Lord of Harvest,
Bless young people with the gift of
courage to respond to your call.
Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.
Inspire all of your disciples to mutual love
and giving-for vocations blossom
in the good soil of faithful people
Instil those in religious life, parish ministries,
and families with the confidence and
grace to invite others to embrace
the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.
Unite us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament,
so that we may cooperate with you in building your
reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen



If you want kids to be happy, try religion

The Drum / By Michael Jensen
Posted 24 September 2015

There's been a lot of alarmist stuff written recently about the potential detrimental effects of religious teaching on young people. But the research suggests religious faith can lead to greater levels of wellbeing, writes Michael Jensen.

If you want to get a snapshot of contemporary parental anxieties, then you need only look at a few school websites.

Years ago, schools pitched themselves to mum and dad as places where John and Joanne would fulfil their potential, and become successful. Achievement was the emphasis.

But we live in more disturbed and anxious times. The mention of achievement is always there, of course, but a new theme has emerged. We now want our kids to be resilient and happy. We want them to experience wellbeing. We want John and Joanne not simply to know how to succeed, but how to fail and come back.

A few years ago, my own kids came home talking about some characters they'd been introduced to: Connie Confidence, Gabby Get Along, Pete Persistence, Oscar Organisation, and Ricky Resilience. I was intrigued. We had nothing like that in the 1970s! It is all part of teaching children to manage their emotions and thought patterns well.

This training in resilience and wellbeing is all soundly research-based. But what is fascinating is how prominent in all the studies religious faith and spirituality are as a key indicator of wellbeing and overall happiness.

In April 2015, the NSW Department of Education and Communities released its "Wellbeing Framework for Schools". The document encourages schools to consider the wellbeing of their students holistically, including fostering what it calls "spiritual wellbeing". It says:

Spiritual wellbeing relates to our sense of meaning and purpose. It can include our connection to culture, religion or community and includes the beliefs, values and ethics we hold.

While this is all expressed in a suitably neutral way as a government document, it also tells us what the studies show: that having a spiritual belief system is strongly related to a sense of wellbeing in young people.

The WHO report from 2002 entitled "Broadening the Horizon: Balancing protection and risk for adolescents" found that having spiritual beliefs was a consistent

protective factor, across cultures, against early sex, substance abuse and depression.

The word "spiritual" is the preferred term in these documents as a catch-all for whatever beliefs a person may have in a higher power, or whatever. A do-it-yourself spirituality could have that effect. But let's be real about this: it is in the religions, basic ordinary religions, that there are ready-made stories of meaning and purpose.

It's hard to believe consistently in a faith that is basically your own invention. But to sink yourself into the richness of one of the great narratives - to learn to pray, to listen to the divine, and to experience that profound inner peace that religious people experience - is to find something bigger than yourself. It becomes something that addresses you, that confronts you, and encloses you.

Professor Martin Seligman, a leading thinker in the field of positive psychology, outlines the claim that it is not just religious people but religious people who hold more orthodox or conservative beliefs who experience greater levels of optimism. Not religious himself, Seligman notes that "religious people congregate with others who form a sympathetic community of friends". But more than that: "Religions instil hope for the future, and create meaning in life."

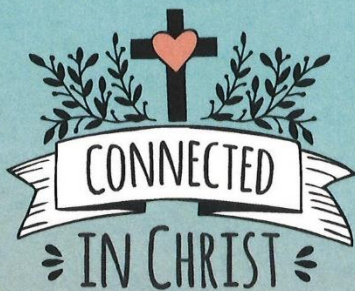
It isn't just young people who benefit: older people have far better mental health outcomes if they share in a religious community. A study of 9000 Europeans by Erasmus MC and the London School of Economics, reported in The Independent, found that the single activity that was an indicator of "sustained happiness" was going to church or another place of worship.

Here's the bottom line. There's been a lot of alarmist stuff written recently about the potential detrimental effects of religious teaching on young people. What the hard data says is otherwise: an active religious faith is much to be desired in young people, and the benefits of such a faith persist into old age.

None of this proves that religious claims are true of course, and they still bear the weight of that scrutiny. But if you want your kids and your parents to be happy - and if you want to know hope and experience peace - then the church, temple, synagogue or mosque is the place to be.

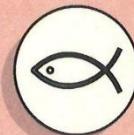
We should want to preserve Special Religious Education in our schools, if we sincerely want our schools to educate children in patterns of thinking that enable them to endure with a positive frame of mind.

Rev Dr Michael Jensen is the rector at St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point.



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"

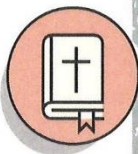
Read the full text at

<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/>



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



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/>



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>



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Y	F	L	J	E	W	A	Y	O	H	U	A	E	L

Believe	House	Trust	Bread
Jesus	Truth	Father	Life
Way	Follow	Prepare	

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

MORE RESOURCES AT:
bbcatholic.org.au/connected



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Fifth Sunday of Easter – 10th May 2020

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7 (JB)

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. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (JB)*

**R. 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. 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 Peter 2:4-9 (JB)

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. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6 (JB)

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 (JB)

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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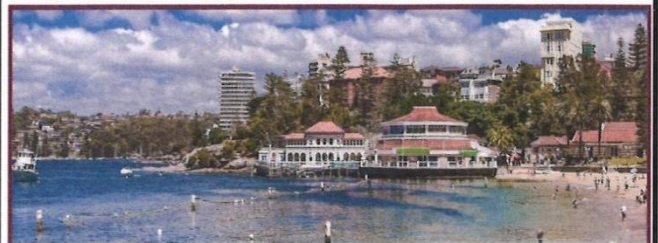
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