



Please pray for: Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

Mass Times: Sunday 17th May 2020 – Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

Sunday, 17 May	No Mass	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 17 May	No Mass	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 18 May	No Mass	St John I, pope, martyr (Optional)
Tuesday, 19 May	No Mass	Tuesday – 6th Week of Easter
Wednesday, 20 May	No Mass	St Bernadine of Siena, priest (Opt)
Thursday, 21 May	No Mass	St Christopher Magallanes (Opt)
Friday, 22 May	No Mass	St Rita of Cascia, religious (Opt)
Saturday, 23 May	No Mass	Saturday – 6th Week of Easter



Regular Confession Times:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass) (*Not available at this time*)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the **Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office** on ph 02 9390 5812.



A VOCATION VIEW: 'God's love is like an ocean – you can see its beginning but not its end.' – Rick Warren – *evangelical pastor and author*

Next Sunday is Ascension Sunday

Federal Government Announcement – re easing of restrictions for Places of Worship

Dear all, as you would undoubtedly be aware, the Federal Government announced a slight easing of restrictions last week, for places of worship, to take effect from Friday 15th May. Aside from the increase in numbers allowed for attendance at weddings (to ten people) and funerals (to twenty people) the Government has also announced that ten people can be inside a church for prayer at any one time. The way in which this may take place whilst coordinating the logistical requirements is still being decided. We will update you as soon as possible in relation to this – thanks for your patience and understanding.

Honouring Mary in May – you are invited to participate in the Archbishop's Rosary Relay. Nominate and pray one decade of the Rosary with your family on a day of your choice this month. To read more and nominate a day in May, please go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney website – www.sydneycatholic.org

Virtual Pentecost Pilgrimage – the Archdiocese is an official sponsor of this *virtual* free pilgrimage which runs until we celebrate Pentecost on Sunday 31st May. The pilgrimage is aimed at helping Catholics nurture their faith in the lead up to Pentecost. Each Wednesday & Sunday, formative videos will be released for registered participants to engage in online. Each set of videos will reflect on the Sunday readings of the week with particular focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in our Church and world. To register, simply go to – www.pentecostpilgrimage.com – and enter your details to receive a link to the videos, as released.

Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St James' Parish, Glebe – 5pm

Sunday Mass is now being celebrated by the Dominican community and streamed from St James' Parish in Glebe (Forest Lodge) at 5pm each Sunday. Here is the link to this Sunday's Mass – Sixth Sunday of Easter (17th May 2020) – <https://youtu.be/SemAYWn3Yv0>

Sunday Mass – is also televised by **Channel Ten**, every Sunday at **6am** – this service is called 'Mass for you at Home' – it is not known which church in Australia the Mass will be televised from and may vary each week.

World Communications Day 2020 – Sunday 24th May – a message from Pope Francis

To celebrate World Communications Day 2020, Pope Francis has delivered an address. Here is an excerpt: **"That you may tell your children and grandchildren."** (*Exodus 10:2*) **Life becomes history.**

'I would like to devote this year's message to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up; not tear down. Stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together. Amid the cacophony of voices and messages that surround us, we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty all around us. A narrative that can regard our world and its happenings with a tender gaze. A narrative that can tell us that we are part of a living and interconnected tapestry. A narrative that can reveal the interweaving of the threads that connect us to one another.' **Pope Francis**

*To read Pope Francis' full address, please Google – World Communications Day 2020 and click on the Vatican website link, entitled – LIV World Communications Day 2020.

Laudato Si' Week – Saturday 16th – Sunday 24th May

It is 5 years since Pope Francis' encyclical letter on ecology and climate, *Laudato Si'* (*On Care for our Common Home*) was released. Pope Francis has issued a call to action to celebrate this with activities during May. Please go to the Laudato Si' Week website for information about these activities and how to become involved – <https://laudatosiweek.org/activities/>

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Emergency Cash Appeal

During COVID-19, many refugees and people seeking asylum in Sydney need help to prevent them from becoming homeless and destitute. For many of these men, women and children, the Jesuit Refugee Service is their only safety net. To donate to the Jesuit Refugee Service Emergency Cash Appeal, please call – (02) 9356 3888 or email – jrsreception@jrs.org.au.

*Alternatively, **JRS are also seeking essential items and (new) Winter blankets.** In this area, these items can be dropped off at – **Two Wolves Community Cantina** at Broadway – No. 2 Broadway (Cnr Broadway & City Road) Mon-Fri – 11am-2pm. Please contact Ramesh Richards, SJ to arrange – Ramesh.Richards@thecardonerproject.org – or 0426 366 544 – thank you.

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Parish Safeguarding Volunteer Online Induction Training, Working With Children Check & Code of Conduct – St Benedict's Parish, Chippendale (Broadway) requires all of our volunteers to complete the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer online training, obtain a Working With Children Check and sign a Code of Conduct. It is MANDATORY that volunteers in all parishes comply with the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office training. Please contact Amanda or Brooke at St James' Parish, Forest Lodge on 9660 1407 or email info@stjames-stbede.org.au to obtain the link to the online training and required forms which will be sent to you via email. Thank you.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

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

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

17 MAY 2020

'AT HOME' WITH GOD

In last week's Gospel Jesus reflected on two understandings of his 'going away' and 'return': first, his going away in death and his re-appearance three days later as risen Lord; second, his more final departure to the Father, to return only at the end of time. The section from Jesus' instruction that we hear today focuses upon that second, much longer period of absence.

As far as the non-believing world is concerned, Jesus will simply have ceased to exist. Believers, however, will continue to 'see' him with the eyes of faith and experience his presence in this way.

In loving him and keeping his commandments, they will participate in the mutual love that unites Father and Son, both of whom will 'make their home' within them. Though deprived of Jesus' physical presence, they and God will be mutually 'at home' in this sense.

In this connection Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' whom he will ask the Father to give. A 'paraclete' is someone who stands beside a person in time of difficulty, a supportive and encouraging presence. We might think, for example, of a highly respected person whom we might ask to go to court with us to act as a character witness. Though Jesus will no longer be physically present to carry out this role, the community will have 'another paraclete' in the shape of the Holy Spirit.

In the face of the world's hostility and doubt, the 'Spirit of truth' will offer reassurance that what they believe and seek to live by is the most profound truth.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

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

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

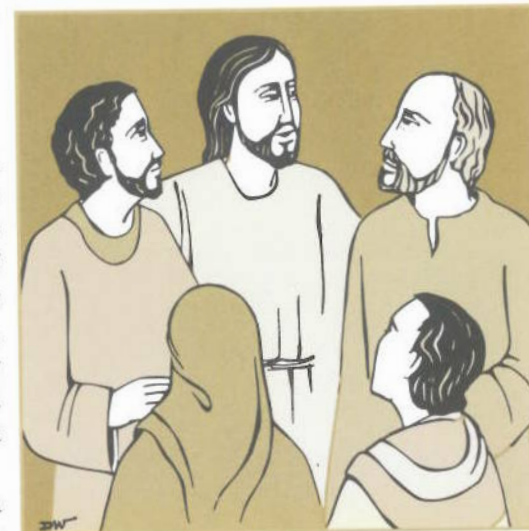
Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. cf. v. 2

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

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, / O sing to the glory of his name. / O render him glorious praise. / Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; / shall sing to you, sing to your name!' / Come and see the works of God, / tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

3. He turned the sea into dry land, / they passed through the river dry-shod. / Let our joy then be in him; / he rules for ever by his might. **R.**



4. Come and hear, all who fear God. / I will tell what he did for my soul: / Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer / nor withhold his love for me. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

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

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

■ The word of the Lord.