



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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Office hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Thu 9am-3pm on Friday

Administrator/Priest Director STM: Fr. Michael O'Brien
Associate Pastors: Fr Hal Ranger & Fr. Thomas Duncan

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1555)

St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal peoples.



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER [Year A]

Sunday 10th May, 2020

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7 They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you [Psalm 32]

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9 You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Gospel Acclamation: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! *I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;*

No one comes to the Father, except through me ALLELUIA!

Gospel: John 14:1-12 I am the way, the truth, and the life.

I HAVE RISEN AND I AM WITH YOU STILL ALLELUIA!! TOO WONDERFUL THIS KNOWLEDGE ALLELLIA!

Some Reflections on John 14

I grew up in a mixed marriage. My father was a shearer, my mother a grazier's daughter. My father was uneducated, my mother went to university. In the time of Longreach in western Queensland in the 1950's and 60's however, what was most criticised was that my father was a protestant and my mother a Catholic. Sadly, the comments were not kept private and even sadder still, were often aired on a Sunday in Church by our Parish Priest who openly condemned "the protestant filth amongst us". My father, a proud man, suffered this humiliation for years. Yet it was John 14:1-12 "I am the way, the truth and the life"

that finally broke him. I was eight, and it was the 5th Sunday of Easter 1963 when he openly challenged this aggressive and insensitive fundamentalist understanding of Jesus' statement, that "no one comes to the Father except through me". Without fuss, without creating a scene, when this scripture was being pointedly used to marginalise and denigrate anyone not Catholic, my father quietly stood, ushered us all out and, on finally leaving (never to return), he said to the Priest, "And you call yourself a Christian? Jesus would be ashamed of you". Me? I was simply embarrassed beyond belief. It was only much later that I came to understand the totality of this scripture. That in the house of the Father, there is always room. His life is welcoming – a life lived for others. Jesus is telling us that there will always be room in his life for others, for all.

My father taught me that the essence of a Christian is not in the rhetoric of words, but in the "whoever believes in me will do the works that I do." He demonstrated all his life that it is the actions of a person in mirroring the values and inclusivity of Jesus, that determines who we really are.

In today's world of political correctness, it is almost inconceivable that such prejudice should have existed and particularly in such a setting. The Church's teaching of today clearly states that people who have no knowledge of Jesus, or who have never been baptised, are not deprived of the possibility of eternity with God. And, yet, those who know in their lives the effect of living with and in Jesus know the need to share their experience with those who have not known him. What is non-negotiable is that they seek to do so with sensitive respect, illumined by love and wisdom, knowing that their own comprehension of truth is incomplete and always a work in progress.

Thank you to Mr. Ken Avenell for contributing this reflection for us today. Each month we will invite a community member to offer a reflection on the gospel. Ken is a member of the Parish Council and works with the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office as Director of Formation and Identity.



✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Brian Phelan, Local Aboriginal Elder Darby McCarthy, and those who have died from Covid 19 in Australia and beyond. *May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.*

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Sadie Moses, Fr. Michael Herbert (1970), Fr. Vincent Maher (1979), Fr. Patrick McMorrow (1999), Fr. Thomas Isaac (1992).

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Leona Parker, Helen Hoddle, Matt Gleeson, Kim Ireland, Fr. Don Murray, Christine [Faus] Barron, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Jean Denison, Jo Tuite, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Rita Berry, Juanita Umipig, Maria Brown, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, George Pardon, Tina Hobson, Bev Boundy, Roslyn Pardon [nee Kearney], Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Morgan O'Brien, Teresita Pamulaklakin, and all those suffering the effects of Covid-19.

Unit for Rent One bedroom unit for an elderly person at St Patrick's Community Village is available for rent. To register an expression of interest, please contact Celia Waters at the Parish Office on 07 46371500.

Thomas Merton (New Seeds of Contemplation)



"In practice the way to contemplation is an obscurity so obscure that it is no longer even dramatic. There is nothing left in it that can be grasped and cherished as heroic or even unusual. And so, for a contemplative there is a supreme value in the ordinary routine of work and poverty and hardship and monotony that characterize the lives of all the poor and uninteresting and forgotten people in the world."

"Before enlightenment, chop wood and carry water.
After enlightenment, chop wood and carry water. "

"*After the Ecstasy, the Laundry.*" (Book title by Jack Kornfeld)

Authentic contemplative engagement is a way of living that can be practised with each breath that we take. No matter what our life circumstances are, at any moment we can send the energy of love into the universe and that energy of love contributes to the transformation of all creation. It is how the Holy One is "doing something new." There is no more important activity in which we can engage than contributing to this flow of love in the universe. Moreover, this can be done anywhere, anytime, under any circumstances—it is quite simply about being deeply present to the moment, doing whatever we are doing in love.

In the silence of our hearts, may we surrender to the Mystery of Love which sets us free from the tyranny of fear.

Elaine

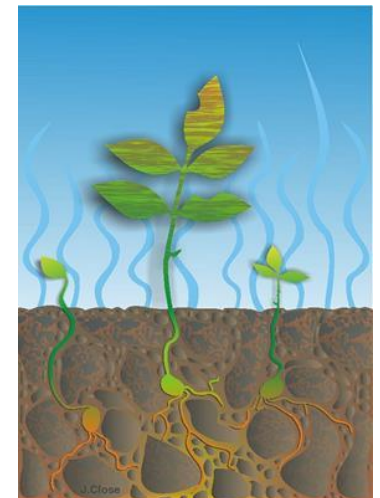
(Courtesy of Sr. Elaine Morzone MFIC | SYCHAR Coordinator – House of Spirituality, Toowoomba)

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

When a seed grows it doesn't need to be taught how to grow: the new shoot 'knows' how to find the light and the roots 'know' where to go for moisture. This kind of knowing is somehow built into the genetic structure of the plant. Our relationship with God is like that too, it is part of the fabric of our being. Built into our human structure is the knowledge of God, but in the coming and going of life we lose the ability to access that knowledge easily. In the Gospel, Jesus names himself 'the Way, the Truth and the Life'. To us he says 'you know the way' and this is our challenge, to rediscover our organic knowledge of God by looking at Jesus.

Dr Jennifer Close has qualifications in Fine Arts and education. She gained her PhD in Theology from Griffith University. She has extensive experience creating liturgical art, and teaching theology. Her particular interests are in Liturgy and Sacramental Theology.



HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S LIVE STREAMING: (feel free to sing along!!)

Opening Hymn: Sing a New Song

Refrain: Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia.

1. Yahweh's people dance for joy!
O come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound.
2. Rise, O children, from your sleep;
Your Saviour now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
And filled your soul with song.

Psalm: (Sung) Lord, Let Your Mercy Be On Us,
As We Place Our Trust In You.

Alleluia Verse (sung) I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Reflection Hymn: A Trusting Psalm

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

1. The word of the Lord is faithfulness and love.
His love can never be measured.
His beauty is like nothing we have ever seen,
so let us place our trust in him.
2. The word of the Lord means a patient, gentle God.
His love can never grow weary.
His mercy is as though our sins have never been,
if we can place our trust in him.
3. The word of the Lord is fire burning strong
his love can never grow weary.
He will seek and save the lost until we all return
so let us place our trust in him.

Recessional Hymn: City of God

1. Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

Refrain: Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned in to dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
has turned the night into day!

2. We are sons of the morning, we are daughters of day,
The one who has loved us has brightened our way,
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
a light for his people to set their hearts free.

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GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to
people of good will. We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks
for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O
God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away
the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take
away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the
Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father.

AMEN.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father
almighty, Creator of heaven and
earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only
Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
and was buried; he descended into
hell; on the third day he rose
again from the dead; he ascended
into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of God the Father
almighty; from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and life
everlasting.
AMEN.