



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday 9.00am to 12 noon. Tuesday & Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm

Third Sunday of Easter – 26th April 2020

First Reading *Acts 2:14, 22-33 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm (R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life. *Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11*

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| <p>1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)</p> | <p>3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)</p> |
| <p>2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)</p> | <p>4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)</p> |

Second Reading *1 Pt 1:17-21 A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel *Lk 24:13-35 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

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PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

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Dear Friends in Jesus

We are called to be witnesses to the redemptive power of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In today's first reading, St Peter, while witnessing on the day of the Pentecost, said that: "God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that". Peter must have remembered what Jesus said: "when the Helper comes, ... the Spirit of truth, ... he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning" (John 15:26-27. ESV). Yes! He must have remembered that Jesus told them: "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). We Christians need to become witnesses before we can witness. But some of us Christians do not know how to become witnesses, hence the lacuna in making Christ present and known. The question, therefore, is: How do we become witnesses to Christ's redemptive suffering, death and resurrection?

Following from the biblical passages above, a Christian becomes a witness by the power of the Holy Spirit – which Christians receive at baptism as a divine deposit of a transforming power in them. But is this power active or dormant in us Christians – you and me? Do we, as individuals and as a community, need to fan it into flame as St Paul instructed Timothy to do in 2 Timothy 1:6? No doubt, there is need to fan it into flame. Jesus said: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!" (Luke 12:49-50).

In that passage, Jesus was talking of the fire of the Holy Spirit which he will pour out, after he has been glorified at God's right hand (see 1st Reading; see also John 7:37-39), on anyone who believes in him. In fact, he was talking about the Holy Spirit fire he will enkindle in hearts of believers – a baptism into his suffering, death and resurrection, a spiritual Pentecostal fire of baptism into new life in Christ. Anyone who desires to be a credible witness has to go to Jesus Christ and drink the Spirit (see John 7:37-39). St Paul says that Jesus is the Spiritual Rock (see 1 Cor. 10:4) that yields the Water of Life - the Holy Spirit. We go to Jesus in the Eucharistic bread, broken and eaten for our salvation, then reserved in the Tabernacles, waiting for our coming, in thanksgiving and adoration, to be filled.

However, the eyes of our minds will not be opened, and we will not be enlightened, unless we drink the Word of God like we drink wine or water. St Paul would tell us as he told the Ephesians to be drunk, not with wine but with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). To drink the Word of God is to drink the Holy Spirit because, Jesus said that his words to us are Spirit and they are life (John 6:63). No one remains the same and complacent, who listens, reads, studies and takes to heart (because that is how to drink) the Word of God. Merely being a member of a group of Jesus' followers – a Church group, for instance – cannot be enough. Christians have to drink the Word until they are well saturated with it and lose control of themselves, exuding the smell of Christ the incarnate Word as people soaked in wine lose control of themselves in drunkenness, and exude the smell of alcohol.

That was the experience of the two disciples in today's Gospel reading, who journeyed to Emmaus with Jesus explaining from Moses through the prophets all the Scripture passages that were about himself. Because they were soaked with the Word of God, because they were fully immersed in it, they wouldn't let Jesus go. They begged him to spend the night with them at Emmaus. And at the breaking of Bread, their eyes were opened, and they recognised Jesus. The eyes of their faith were opened. They were enlightened. They confessed that their hearts were aflame, burning with the fire of the Spirit as they said: 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'. They were never the same again. Drunk with the Word of God and having eaten this Word that took flesh, they did not care again about their comfort, and having travelled all the way from Jerusalem to Emmaus on foot, they felt a renewed energy. They left immediately that night without minding the risk of travelling that lonely and deserted road at night, and went back to Jerusalem, eager to share the good news of Christ's resurrection.

Spending time with the word of God is spending time with Jesus. And this also means understanding him more as to be true witnesses of him.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

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DAVID SEWELL
Principal

MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

Week Day Mass **Cancelled until further notice**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Cancelled	7.00 am
Wednesday	Cancelled	5.45 pm
Saturday Morning	Cancelled	9.00 am

Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the
Third Saturday of next month at **Cancelled** 9.00am

The next Anointing Mass will be to be advised

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	Cancelled	6.00 pm
Sunday	Cancelled	8.30 am

Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am, **Cancelled**
Saturday at 8.30am. **Cancelled**

Divine Mercy Prayer	Thursday	Cancelled	7.30 am
Adoration	Thursday	Cancelled	6.00-7.00pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am **Cancelled**

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church **Cancelled**

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont 4th Sunday of each month **Cancelled**

Next Mass at St John's : **to be advised**



RETURN OF KEYS: During this period while the Church building is closed we would like to take the opportunity of sorting out all the keys that have been issued over the past several years.

Would everyone who has a key marked C, P, MK or N please arrange to return it to the office during office hours. Due to social distancing please call the office number prior to coming to the office. Keys will be reissued once this crisis is passed and we are able to again access the Church building. The keys should be returned to the office by **Friday 8th May**. Thank you for your cooperation

A Home Altar

Last weekend we talked about erecting an Ed: An Altar of Witness for the Lord. Verse 34 of the 22nd Chapter of the Book of Joshua says that the Reubenites and the Gadites after naming it the altar of Witness, said, "it is a witness between us that the LORD is God." So, the altar of Witness is to remind everyone that the Lord is God. In the homes where an Ed is erected, God always remains God for those who live there. And it is a sacred space that sanctifies the entire home if the people so desire it to be sacred. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus the Amen to all of God's promises, the faithful and true witness, says: "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me". So, Jesus desires to come into our hearts as well as our homes.

Imagine, being invited by someone you love remotely, for instance, someone you took as a friend and have been expecting a gesture of love back. Walking in the house, the person takes you to a well decorated room and says, "I have prepared this room for you – it is yours anytime". Or you walked in and found a table decorated with your photo, your mom's photo and other photos of your loved ones who were heroes and heroines. And on that table is a glowing candle and a miniature of a trophy you won some time ago – a trophy you won at the expense of your last breath. Just imagine being treated specially that way. And then, in faith do the same for Christ. whether a room or a space, what's important is that Christ feels special in your home. No need to say that no one can outdo him in generosity, kindness and exaltation.

To set up an altar, one can decorate a room, if possible or a space. The space might be permanent or temporary, which means it is set up each time one wants to pray, meditate and/or spend time with the Lord. Get a crucifix and to make it a sacramental, have it blessed. The crucifix is the miniature image of Christ's trophy – a symbol not only of his victory over sin, sickness, Satan and death, but also of his blessing of liberation, sanctification and glorification. Get a picture of Jesus and an image and/or a picture of Jesus' Mom, whom he has given to us as our Mother also – an image of Blessed Virgin Mary that appeals to you.

Get a candle. Please consider the age of the children in the home and be careful if you are using a wax candle or naked light. There are battery powered candles that one can buy at a cheaper price or tea light candles in a transparent or translucent glass. You might need a table cloth, if possible of the different liturgical colours (**purple/violet/ jacaranda** for Advent and Lent; **white/ gold** for Christmas/Easter/major feast days of Joy; **Red** for Palm Sunday/Good Friday/Pentecost/ feast of martyrs; **green** for the ordinary times of the year. It is not advisable to overly decorate a home altar – an Ed. Always make it simple and beautiful adding with flowers if you can. Remember, you are teaching, not only your children, but others who visit your home, how to give Jesus a special space in their hearts and homes. Other sacramentals and holy pictures can find other suitable spaces in the house.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya.

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIALS as at 12th April 2020

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 163.75 - For Clergy Support (Greatly affected by COVID 19 Crisis)

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 690.75 - For Parish expenses such as administration, and maintenance of all our buildings and properties.

WE STILL HAVE AN OUTSTANDING DEBT OF \$3,000.00 from the installation of the air conditioners. If you feel touched to help, please do. I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Be assured of our prayers, and of your divine rewards.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus

We pray for the recently deceased : John Bayles, Cecil Morgan

We pray for the departed whose anniversaries occur at this time: Maurice Pyke, Karl Schelb

We also remember their families—may they be comforted and supported in their loss by this Community of Faith.

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Adam Smale, Brian Allen, Darren Sandstrom, John Sweeny, Kruze Patfield, Pat Ashton, Elle Rosier, Tony Bertram, Daryl Williams, Ava Mansfield, Shirley Jean Carr, Kath Fisher, Brenda Dale, (Baby) Paris Organ, Maureen Bourke, Jasmine Fay Parada, Patricia Smith, Maureen & Paul Hume, Valda Silvy, Joan Gordon, Amanda Gordon, Shelly Ryan, Sandra Miller, Nona Maguire, Linda Harri.

Our prayers are also offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing Homes.



Celebrate the faith with your community, from home:

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is taking a number of actions to help protect the community and curb the spread of COVID-19. While Masses have been suspended, there are plenty of other ways you can celebrate your faith and connect with the Catholic community.

Watch Mass online. Mass from St. Stephen's Cathedral 8:00am & 12:30pm weekdays, 8am and 10am Sunday at www.archbne.org/bzw.

The online edition of The Catholic Leader newspaper will be extended to all parishioners for free during this time. Keep faith with the Leader at www.catholicleader.com.au.

Our faith will sustain us through challenging times. Please keep helping your parish community by continuing your weekly offering via direct debit. Call the Archdiocesan Development Fund at 07 3324 3777 to find out how.

JOIN OUR SUNDAY MASS AT ST BRIGID'S

We will be live-streaming our Sunday Masses at 8.30am every Sunday via our website for the period of the COVID 19 Lockdown. Please visit our website: www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au and click on the **button** and join us for Mass.

PRAYER WRITTEN BY ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

May the God to whom we turn in this moment listen to the pleading of our heart and answer as he has so often before, so that love may come from fear, hope from despair and joy from sorrow.

Almighty and all-merciful God,
Lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
In whom there is no shadow of death,
Save us in this time of crisis;
Grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
Watch over all medical people
As they tend the sick and work for a cure;
Stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
That hope may never die
And the light of Easter, triumph of life,
May shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

Aid to the Church in Need

The churches are locked but let us offer Masses for our world.

The **coronavirus pandemic** is testing all of us, but as people of faith, we believe in the power of prayer. At this time there is so much to pray for; those who have the virus, those who are losing their jobs, those who are scared, those who lead us, those who we love, and those who have died as a result of the virus.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is arranging a spiritual bouquet of Masses imploring graces that each of us will need during this time. For over 50 years, CAN has passed on the Mass offerings of the Catholic people to poor priests, who have no other means of material support. In return these priests offer a Mass for the intentions of the benefactor.

We are arranging this bouquet because the **Mass is the most perfect prayer and prayer is multiplied when united**. It is as if each person brings a single rose, yet when combined, the beauty is shared by all. **Especially when we are deprived the grace to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist**, this bouquet unites the participants in a particular way to a Mass that is offered for their intentions. Please visit, www.aidtochurch.org/coronavirus for more details.