

## LITURGY OF THE WORD 6th Sunday of Easter

### FIRST READING the Acts of the Apostles

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.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. Alleluia.

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!

'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.

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.

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 from me.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. Alleluia.

### SECOND READING from the first letter of St Peter

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 14:23

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

### GOSPEL reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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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## GOSPEL FOCUS

### Paraclete

The Greek word, *paraklētos*, is translated into a number of different terms in English translations of the gospel. Its technical use was for a lawyer or attorney. However, its use in scripture is like the broader meaning of advocate that we use today: someone who stands up for another; someone who speaks up for another; someone who intercedes on behalf of another. An advocate is one who lends strength and support to someone who is disempowered. That is exactly what Jesus did for many people during his ministry and it is also what the Holy Spirit is sent to do.

## ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

**Priest:** Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

**Parish Secretary:** Glenda Klabbbers

**Parish Council Chair:** Michelle Haeusler

**Parish Safeguarding Officers:**

Karen & Damien Kelly

**St Mary's School Principal:** Greg Lane

**St Mary MacKillop Principal:** Michelle Haeusler

**Parish Office:** Tuesday 10.00am - 2.00pm  
Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm



## 6th Sunday of Easter Year A 21st May 2017

**Presbytery:** 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

**Phone:** 50324144

**Email:** swanhill@ballarat.catholic.org.au

The Parish of Swan Hill comprises of the faith Communities of:

St Marys Swan Hill,

St Joseph's Lake Boga

### Mass Next Weekend:

Saturday 6.30 pm Vigil Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30 am Lake Boga 10.30 am Swan Hill

### Mass this Week:

Tuesday: 5.30 pm

Wed: 10.00 am

Thursday: 10.00 am

Friday: 11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

NO MASS

Mass Intentions:

Tuesday : Lucy Jose



### Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Laura Mollo

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Teresa Sydes, John O'Bree, Maureen Brennan, Mary Howley, Clem Kelly, Theresa Maher, Patrick Hogan, John Maher, Laurie Scala, Orazio Ganci, Lucy Jose.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Joy Parsons, Jarrod Crimmins,

*If you would like a sick person prayed for, please ask for their permission. After one month names will be deleted from the list unless otherwise advised.*

**NEXT SUNDAY AT THE 10.30am MASS, CHILDREN FROM THE PARISH WILL BE CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. Please remember the children in your prayers.**

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)

ACYF is in Sydney December 7-9, 2017. A joyful 3 day immersion in faith with 15,000 other young Australians. Young people (yr 9-30yo) are encouraged to go. Information is on the diocesan website Youth and Young Adult pages: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Lucy Kerr, daughter of Jonathan and Amanda, Aiden Noonan son of Sean and Julie and Fynn McDougall son of Ben and Hayley. May they grow in faith in their loving family and our Catholic Community.

**Mass Count** continues over the next 2 weekends of May.

CWL ladies thank you for your support last week at the Mother's Day Cake and produce stall with \$643.50 raised. Winner of the raffle was Margaret Hoare .

**To celebrate Catholic Education Week**, Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Primary School with St Mary MacKillop College at 12 noon **THIS** Friday.

### Family Matters - Forum! With guest speaker, Fr Frank Brennan (CEO of CSSA).

Hosted by the Diocese of Ballarat through the Social Justice Commission, all are welcome to attend this free event organised for Saturday, June 24 in Ballarat. Further forums will be held in Warrnambool on Saturday, July 22 and Mildura on Saturday, August 26. Details about workshops and how to register will be released soon.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017: 28 May – 4 June 2017

"Reconciliation - The Love of Christ Compels Us" (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-20). The Diocesan Commission for Ecumenism and Inter Religious Relations invites all to an active participation in this week of prayer. Resources are available [<http://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/wopcu/item/1006-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2017>]. here. Rev Gregory Tait, Chair.

**NEW ROSTERS FOR MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST AND READERS ARE AVAILABLE AT BACK OF CHURCH**

**ST MARY'S MINISTRIES for 28th May 2017**

**Ministers of the Word:**

**Vigil:** Teresa McRae, Helen Hogan

**10.30am:** CONFIRMATION

**Ministers of Communion:**

**Vigil:** Ursula Phyland, Josh Klabbers, Michelle Haeusler.

Marilyn Foley

**10.30 am:** Sam Colombo, Robert Jager, Josie Renda

Margaret Foott, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson,

**Presentation of Gifts:**

**Vigil:** Helen Lewis, Margaret Magee

**10.30am :** CONFIRMATION

**Music Ministry:**

**Vigil:** Bernice Murray & Brenda Grace

**10.30am:** Confirmation

**Counters:** Ralph Hoare, Felicity Power

**STATE OF THE NATION**

**Presbytery Account:** (1st Basket) \$ 904.20

(Support of Priests & Bishop)

**Parish Account:** (2nd Basket) Envelopes \$ 1,136.10

(Support of the Parish) Credit Card \$ 0.00

Direct Debit \$ 0.00

Loose Plate \$ 50.10

\$ 1,186.20

**Project Compassion:** to date \$ 2,469.90

Thank-You!

**READINGS NEXT WEEK 28th May Year A**

1st Reading : Acts 1:1-11

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

**Car Park** Just a friendly reminder that the car park in the church grounds is for those with a Disabled sticker, or people being dropped off and picked up. We ask that you do not park on the grass, as we have had to replace the sprinklers a couple of times. Thanks for your assistance with this.

**Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – new study opportunities**

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers.

Registration for the May study cycle closes on May 22, 2017 - or you can start in July or later in the year. See the details on the diocesan website,

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) then contact

Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or

email [amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship – applications now open**

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offer scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Applications close 17 July 2017. Details and application;

<http://www.pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>

**120 years of Catholic Education in Charlton**

On October 20 & 21 21, 2017 we will be celebrating 120 years of Catholic Education in Charlton – this is also Charlton Show weekend. We invite any past pupils and staff to attend our celebrations. Please contact Anne, ph. 0408547973 for further details.

**“Lessons from the Long Paddock” econference**

The Diocese of Wilcannia- Forbes is offering an econference online event called “Lessons from the Long Paddock” on Tuesday, June 6, 2017. This econference opens the conversation for many people who are curious about what the experience of faith actually feels like in ordinary life. Participants engage with conversations which signpost essential spiritual markers relevant to knowledge about what leads into fuller humanity, Christian, Catholic and Australian life. This econference draws participants to seek Christ at the heart of human experience and nurtures a capacity to trust that individuals have all they need to begin the journey into constant conversion. The econference has two keynote speakers, Bishop Columba Macbeth Green OSPPE and Fr Frank Brennan SJ, who will discuss Australian and Outback Spirituality. The workshops will be facilitated by Kate Englebrecht, Diocesan Director of Mission. For more information please contact Kate on, ph. 0420 309 689 or <http://www.wf.catholic.org.au/>

**Reflection**

by Michael Tate

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you another Paraclete to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a Paraclete, and he would send another.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-llel. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy

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**The Spirit will show you what is true**

Answer the following questions True or False

Jesus only loves those who do good deeds. \_\_\_\_\_

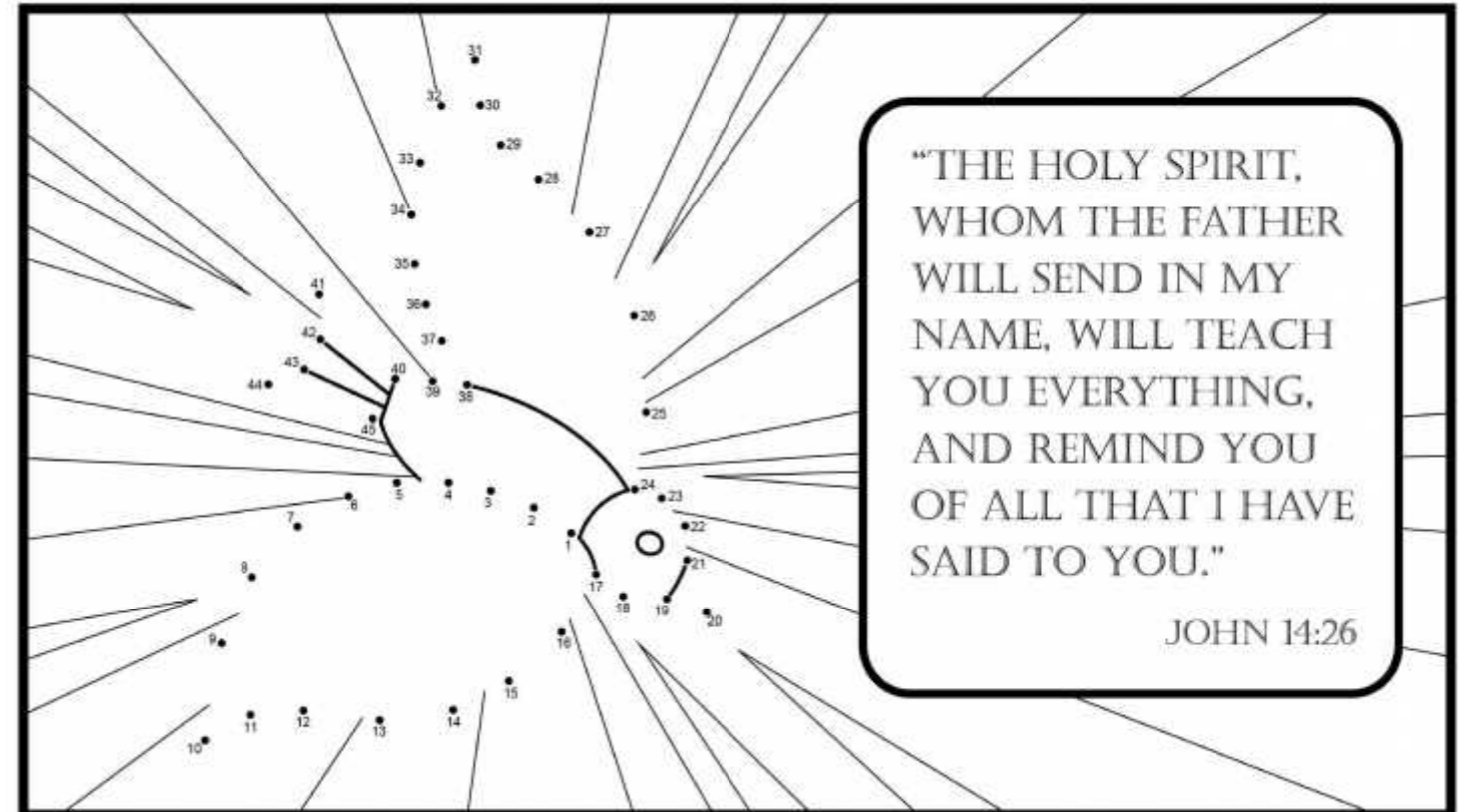
The Holy Spirit is always with us. \_\_\_\_\_

God sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said “You should not love your enemies”. \_\_\_\_\_

The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. \_\_\_\_\_

Join the dots, then color the picture.



“THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING, AND REMIND YOU OF ALL THAT I HAVE SAID TO YOU.”

JOHN 14:26