

LITURGY OF THE WORD 5th Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING from the Acts of the Apostles

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

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

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.

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.

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.

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

SECOND READING from the first letter of St Peter

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 14:6

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 reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

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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



**5th Sunday of Easter
Year A
14th 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	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 12 noon Mass



Recently Deceased: We commend to God:

Anniversaries: We remember: Ray Wright, Pat Wilson, Pat Duryea, Percy Lewis, Carmel Gathercole, Jim Upton, Tess Wurf, Leo Hogan .

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

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.

CWL are holding a raffle, cake and produce stall THIS Sunday, Mothers Day after the 10.30 am Mass. Please support.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week, from 8 -14 May 2017, is an annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation's volunteers. According to Volunteering Australia, 5.8 million Australians or 31% of the population volunteer, make an estimated annual contribution of \$290 billion to our economic and social good. Thank you to all our volunteers in parishes, schools and agencies for their invaluable contribution to the Ballarat diocese.

Bishop Peter Connors 30th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination Mass will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 10.30am. All welcome.

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 or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Mass Count starts on weekend 6-7 May

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count continues over the next 3 weekends of May.

TO ALL MOTHERS MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED AND HAPPY MOTHERS DAY.

A Prayer for Mothers

Gracious God, you chose Mary to be the mother of your son Jesus Christ. As you blessed her through her Son, bless all mothers. Grant them patience, wisdom, strength and joy, so that they may care for and love the children you have given to them and placed in their care. Loving Father in heaven, we thank you for the mothers you have given us, whose commitment is so precious that it can never be measured. May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them. We pray for those mothers who fear or who are in broken relationships, and ask you to bless them with your own special love and the gifts. We pray for children and fathers, that they may appreciate, love and support their mothers and wives.

EASTER WATER

please feel free to bring your own container and help yourself to the water of new life in the Easter font for blessing of homes people, etc, in fact anything.

ST MARY'S MINISTRIES for 21st May 2017

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: Kerry Hoare, John Hoare

10.30am: Yvonne Richardson, Josie Caccavello

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Josh Klabbers, Mary Kennedy, Kerry Hoare, Marilyn Foley

10.30 am: Frank Fogarty, Connie Alderuccio, Elma Balsarini, Ken Smith, Jocelyn Ingram.

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Kennedy Family

10.30am : Bernice Murray & Bill Croft

Music Ministry:

Vigil: John Farrell

10.30am: Foundation Sunday

Counters: Patsy McDonald, Kerry McCosh

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket) \$ 1010.95
(Support of Priests & Bishop)

Parish Account: (2nd Basket) Envelopes \$ 1496.00
(Support of the Parish) Credit Card \$ 0.00
Direct Debit \$ 0.00
Loose Plate \$ 128.00
\$ 1,624.00

Project Compassion: to date \$ 2331.30
Thank-You!

READINGS NEXT WEEK 21st May Year A

1st Reading : Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14: 15-21

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 then contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email 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

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: ‘Let not your hearts be troubled.’

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: ‘By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.’

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: ‘God became human so that humans might become God.’

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: ‘We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.’

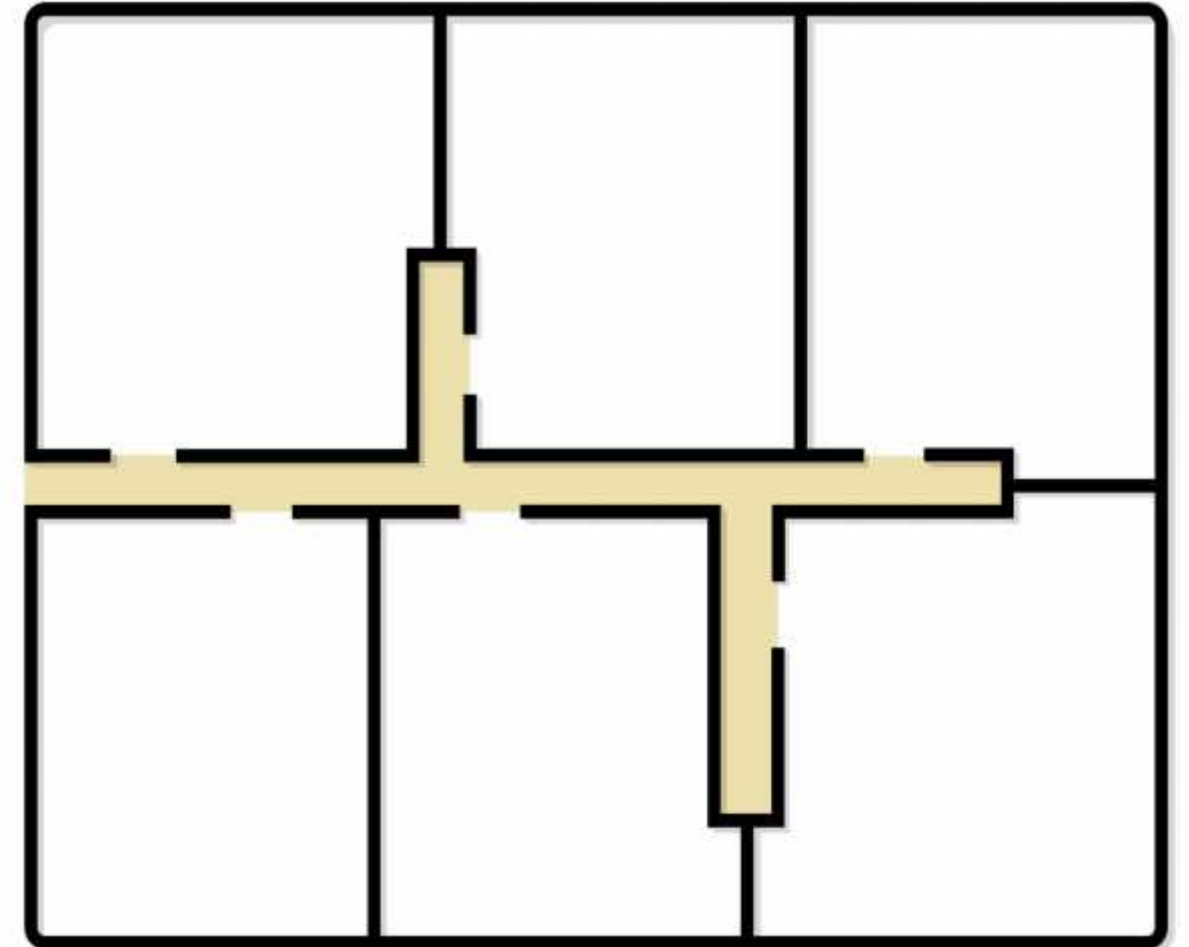
We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!

mtate@bigpond.com

Jesus tells us that there are many rooms in His Father's house and that he has prepared a place for each of us.

Fill each room with drawings of your family and friends.



Color each shape without a dot • a different color, or simply just color in the shapes with a dot •



I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

