



## MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



# *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2020*



## **BLESSING PRAYER FOR MOTHERS**

Lord God, through your creative power you give birth to all, and you love all your children as a mother loves her child.

Bless these women who are mothers.

When they worry for their children, hold them in your care.

When they work to provide a home for their children, stand beside them.

If they mourn for their children, hold them in your love.

When the joy of their children overwhelms them, laugh with them.

Bless them, and may they each be a living symbol of your love; a children not only to their children, but to everyone who encounters them.

Amen.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**



We commend to the Lord's mercy *Leo Bourke, Peter Jewell* and *Frances Lenaghan* (daughter of Tom and Nola McNamara), who died recently. May they, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, rest in God's peace.

## **IN PLACE OF HOLY MASS**

**Mass For You At Home** is broadcast on WIN at 6am Sundays, and on Foxtel's Aurora at 3am, 6am and 10am every day. It can be viewed online any time at: [www.mfyah.com](http://www.mfyah.com)

**Sunday Mass from St Joseph's, Warrnambool** can be viewed at: [www.tiny.cc/joe3280](http://www.tiny.cc/joe3280)

**Daily Mass with Pope Francis** (in Italian, with English dubbing) can be viewed at: [www.tiny.cc/vatican](http://www.tiny.cc/vatican)

**Weekday Mass at St John of God Hospital, Ballarat** can be viewed at: [www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com](http://www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com)

## **POPE FRANCIS CALLS FOR PRUDENCE AND OBEDIENCE**

As Italy eases its two-month lockdown, pressure is mounting to restore public Masses. The new *Phase 2* restrictions permit people to move from one region of Italy to another, allowing a lot of stranded Italians to return home. Within regions, Italians are allowed to visit family, but not friends. Gatherings are forbidden, but Italians are free to leave the house for exercise and to buy essential goods. Funerals, which were strictly forbidden, have resumed, but only family may attend, and the limit is 15 people. In other words, Italy is now 'enjoying' the sort of restrictions which Australians have become accustomed to.

The Catholic Bishops, however, have called for more. Public Masses will not be permitted until at least June, causing one bishop to issue a video message on Sunday night: "It is tyrannical to impede access to worship, which is one of our fundamental freedoms."

In contrast, Pope Francis has adopted a softer tone. At the start of Tuesday morning's Mass, he said "In this time in which permissions are beginning to be made for exiting from the quarantine, let's pray to the Lord that he gives his people, all of us, the grace of prudence and obedience to those permissions, so the pandemic does not return."

Francis had to know his words would be perceived as telling the Italian bishops to back down. That's how it's played in the first round of media coverage, with one newspaper blaring, "The pope hits the brakes on the bishops," and another more gently suggesting that Francis "seems to want to restore serenity in the Catholic world and among the bishops."

## **TOP CARDINAL REJECTS 'TAKE-AWAY COMMUNION'**

As Catholic bishops across the world discuss reopening Mass to the faithful and ponder what to do about the distribution of communion, considered a "high risk of contagion", Cardinal Robert Sarah of Ghana, head of the Vatican's liturgical office, warns that the answer cannot be "desecration of the Eucharist."

One of the solutions discussed in Italian media is "take-away communion." In Germany some priests have consecrated hosts in plastic bags, which they then leave on shelves for people to take.

"No! No! No!" Sarah said in a recent interview. "It's absolutely impossible. God deserves respect. You can't put him in a bag! We receive communion in a dignified way, worthy of God who comes to us. The Eucharist must be treated with faith, we cannot treat it as a trivial object. It's totally insane."

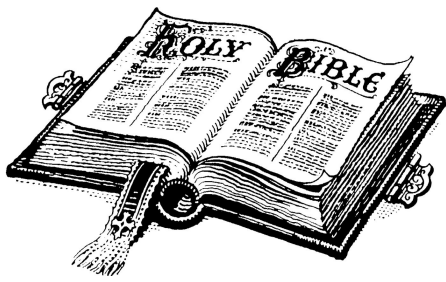
"No one would welcome a person they love in a bag or in an unworthy way. The response to the privation of the Eucharist cannot be desecration. This really is a matter of faith, if we believe it we cannot treat it unworthily."

The cardinal advised that "no one can be denied confession and communion," so even if the faithful cannot attend Mass, if a priest is asked to give either he must oblige.

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## **ACCESS TO SACRAMENTS**

Fr John Corrigan is able to respond to individual requests for confession and communion but he can't advertise public times, nor can he open the church. Please call or text on 0422 342 499.



## Reflection on this Sunday's readings

by Fr Francis Fernandez

### **'I AM THE WAY' – READING AND MEDITATING ON THE GOSPEL**

Jesus Christ is *the way, the truth and the life* for each person, today's Gospel tells us. In knowing him we know the purpose of life and of all things; our life is an ongoing journey towards him. It is in the Gospel we must learn the supreme knowledge of Jesus Christ: how to imitate him and follow in his footsteps. And to learn from him, you must try to know his life – reading the Gospel and meditating on the scenes of the New Testament – in order to understand the divine meaning of his life on earth. In our own life we must reproduce Christ's life. We need to come to know him by reading and meditating on Scripture.

We want to identify ourselves with our Lord, our daily living to be a reflection of him. But to be Christ himself, we must *see ourselves in him*. It's not enough to have a general idea of the spirit of Jesus' life; we have to learn the details of his life and, through them, his attitudes. Especially, we must contemplate his life, and from it derive strength, light, serenity and peace.

When you love someone, you want to know all about him, his life and his personality, so as to become like him. That is why we have to meditate on the life of Jesus, from his birth in a stable right through to his death and resurrection.

We should read the Gospel with a longing to know him so as to love him.

We can't read Scripture as though it were just another book. *In the sacred books "the Father who is in Heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them"* (Vatican II, *Dei Verbum*, §21). Prayer has to accompany our reading, because we know that God is the principal author of those books. In them, and in the Gospels in particular, we find *"food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life."* (Ibid.)

*"We should listen to the Gospel"* – St Augustine writes – *"as though Christ were present and talking to us. We shouldn't say: those who knew him in real life were very fortunate, for many of those who knew him, did in fact crucify him; and many who did not know him believed in him. The words which our Lord spoke were written down; they have been safeguarded and preserved for us."*

To read and meditate on the Gospel fruitfully we have to do so with faith, knowing that it contains the truths of salvation, and contains them without error; we also have to read it with piety and holiness of life. The Church, with the help of the Holy Spirit, has preserved intact and free from all error the priceless treasure of our Lord's life and doctrine; by meditating on it we can easily draw close to him and strive to become saints. We will discover the intimate truths contained in those books only insofar as we desire to be saints; only thus will we taste the divine fruit which they contain. Do we truly appreciate this tremendous treasure which we have so readily to hand? Are we trying to grow in knowledge and love for the sacred humanity of our Lord each day through our Gospel reading? Do we ask the Holy Spirit to help us each time we begin reading the Gospel?

## Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries — employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more.

- Study over 5 weeks per subject.
- Study Cycle 4 begins May 24.

Registrations open now until May 13. More information is available at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au), or e-mail Kim Butler at [kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au), or phone 0407 523 424.

## Heart to Heart e-Seminars

Archbishop Chris Prowse, Archbishop of the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, is presenting these 30 minute e-seminars over four weeks, leading you into a deeper relationship with Christ during this time of isolation. Visit:

[www.catholicvoice.org.au/hearttoheart/](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au/hearttoheart/)

## Appeal from Pope Francis to pray the Rosary in May

Pope Francis has encouraged the faithful to “rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May.”

*“I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.”* (To see the prayers, visit <http://tiny.cc/FrancisMay2020>)

*“Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.”*

*Franciscus*

### WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Our Child Safe Policies can be read at our church entrances and on our websites. Our safe-guarding officer is Peter Sanderson.

### NEXT SUNDAY: **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**First Reading.** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17. They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Second Reading.** 1 Peter 3:15-18. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

**Gospel.** John 14:15-21. “I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.”

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