

St. Peter's Parish

Communities of Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale and Snake Valley



Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

17th May, 2020

Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Maloney, V.G. 508 Leith Street, Redan Phone: 53 314 981

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Linton Parish Safeguarding Officer: Cecelia Rowberry

Next Week's Readings: The Ascension: Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23 Matthew 28:16-20

The Parish acknowledges that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

Please remember in your prayers:

Margaret Cooper, Fr. Dennis Dennehy, Winifredo Ferrer, Lucas Mactingrao, Leonie Street, Sr. Patricia Vagg

PUBLIC LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Although public Masses and liturgies will not be celebrated, the following opportunities are available:

Ballarat Diocese Mass options: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/>

Daily Mass: 11.30am St John of God Hospital Chapel can be viewed via

<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9> or

<http://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/>

Masses with Bishop Shane Mackinlay: <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/>

Please refer to Parish website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ for any updates

Pastoral letter from Bishop Paul Bird and the Catholic Bishops of Victoria

'We have all been conscious of the government restrictions regarding gatherings in our Churches, which have been part of the community response to the Coronavirus pandemic. We now have the very welcome news that some of these restrictions will be eased...' The letter can be found [here](#)

World Communication Day - 2020

This Sunday, 17th May, the Church in Australia will celebrate World Communications Day. It is observed a week earlier in Australia because of our liturgical transfer of the Feast of the Ascension from Thursday to what is elsewhere the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Pope Francis' message for the 54th World Communications Day 2020, which was released in January, focuses on the topic of storytelling. Information can be found on <https://laudatosiweek.org/>.

Laudato Si' Week – 16-24 May, 2020

"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."

– Pope Francis, LS:14

Catholic Earthcare Australia, an ecological agency established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, in partnership with the Diocese of Paramatta, Jesuits Australia and Campion Centre Ignatian Spirituality are coordinating a list of activities to celebrate Laudato Si' week from 16-24 May, the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'. These activities can be found <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

Week of Prayer and Christian Unity 2020

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from 24-31 May, 2020 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. This year's theme, *"They showed us unusual kindness"* (Acts 28:2), calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action and remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Resources are now available at the website [The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#).

Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information visit www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Gospel Reflection

(John 14:15-21)

by Veronica Lawson, RSM

Those who defend themselves in court run the risk of being outsmarted by clever and sometimes unscrupulous adversaries. It is never a good idea to be too self-reliant even in a country with a basically sound legal system such as ours. Today's gospel implies that the disciples need a defense attorney or lawyer. Jesus has acted in that capacity for them in their struggles with the anti-gospel forces arrayed against them. Now he is close to death and he gives them instructions that begin and end with reference to loving him and keeping his commandments. Jesus has given them a new commandment, namely that they love one another: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (13:34). Later in this discourse (15:12-14) the reader of the gospel learns what the actors in the drama already know about Jesus' commandments. "This is my commandment," says Jesus, "that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." This is no small demand, to be prepared to die for one another. Given the opposition they are likely to face, the disciples cannot live out such a commitment on their own. Neither is Jesus leaving them "orphans" who have to fend for themselves. He will ask his "Father" to provide "another" defender or advocate who will act on their behalf, an advocate who will always be there. This new advocate is the "Spirit of truth". As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy thus points us towards Pentecost and the gift of God's Spirit. It is good to know we are never on our own. It is also good to reflect on the capacity we have for love. Many of us will never find ourselves in a situation where our love is tested to the point that we have to die for another. Since the outbreak of the present pandemic, however, we do not have to look far to find countless people doing just that. Health professionals, cleaners, truck drivers, flight attendants, shop assistants, school teachers, lecturers, ordinary people everywhere are laying down their lives for the sake of others. They are truly our friends. The gospel calls us to put the well-being of others, even their survival, before our own comfort. With the life-style changes that will inevitably come sooner rather than later, we may all find ourselves "laying down our lives" in various ways for the sake of our friends, humankind and other-kind, across the planet. We can, despite opposition, continue to advocate for climate action, for the rights of detainees and prisoners and for those displaced by war or persecution. With the help of the Spirit, our Advocate, we can surely rise to the challenge.

*We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children,
young people and vulnerable adults.*