

# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



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Priest: Fr George Azhakath Secretary: Grace Cirson

Parish Office hours: Wed., Thu., & Fri., 9.00am—3.00pm:

Mass Times: Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tues: 5.30 pm Wed, Thurs & Fri: 9.15 am

Reconciliation: 10—10.30am

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 281 Carroll College Broulee 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993



Sixth Sunday of Easter

-YEAR A-

May 16 & 17 2020

## JESUS PROMISES ANOTHER ADVOCATE

**“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.**

**I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate.”**



From Easter to Pentecost our readings focus on the promises of Jesus to his disciples and on the early apostolic preaching of Good News of salvation. Today's readings provide answers to puzzling questions about who the Holy Spirit is, what He does, and how we experience Him in our daily lives.

Today's first and second readings were chosen to help us prepare for the soon-to-be celebrated feast of Pentecost. They show us how the Spirit works in the everyday activities of Jesus' first followers. The first reading describes the success of Phillip, evangelist among the despised Samaritans, and explains how the converted Samaritans received the fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit through the imposition of hands by the apostles Peter and John. According to today's psalm, the Spirit causes believers in every age and place to experience personally the same marvellous acts of diving liberation. The second reading explains how the Holy Spirit makes possible god-fearing lives in the midst of opposition and persecution.

Today's gospel which is a part of Jesus' 'Last supper Discourse' describes the gift of the abiding Spirit as a Paraclete. Jesus was preparing His disciples for the day when He would no longer be with them physically. So Jesus promised to send his Spirit upon the church. The gospel reminds us that the Spirit causes Jesus to be truly present in the Church. The risen Jesus' continued presence in the Holy Spirit gives meaning and purpose to all we are and all we do in his name. The Spirit reveals to us what God is really like by empowering us to practice mutual love and by providing us with trustworthy guidance. This indwelling Spirit enable us to manifest our love of God by observing the commandments of Jesus, especially the commandment of love. This commandment includes commands to recognize Jesus in the neediest, in the poor, in the sick, in the marginalized and even in the criminal ('I was in prison...'), and to be agents of healing and reconciliation in a broken and divided world. *Fr George Azhakath*

**PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA:** Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

**PRAYER IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC:** Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger to whom we turn in our distress; grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

A reading from 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.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. 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! **R**
2. '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. **R**
3. 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. **R**
4. 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. **R**

### SECOND READING

A 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.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

A 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 forever, 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.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## **THE WORD AND LIFE** this week ...

**We need to be open to the Holy Spirit, our Paraclete.** The purpose of the indwelling Holy Spirit is to help us grow towards maturity and wholeness. We all have faults that prevent our growth: blocks of sin and imperfection, blocks due to childhood conflicts, blocks due to deeply ingrained personality traits and habits, blocks caused by addictions, and blocks resulting from bad choices we have made. We all have these blocks within us and they keep us from becoming what God wants us to be. They prevent us from growing into maturity and wholeness. God the Holy Spirit, helps us see the truth about ourselves, to discern the blocks that inhibit our growth and to allow Him to transform us. Like the good counsel for He is, the Spirit who enables us to become stronger. The Holy Spirit comes to our aid and gives us the strength to make difficult and painful decisions. God's Spirit actually lives in us, and we hear the voice of the Spirit, counselling and guiding us in the way of truth. Let us open our minds to hear Him and to obey His promptings.

### **Food Gifts Wanted**

If you are able to cook and donate a cake, soup or casserole would you please phone the Moruya Caring Group on 0431354993. Empty food trays are available from the presbytery veranda, in a white plastic container. The food will be distributed as gifts to parishioners. Thanks

### **Project Compassion**

Please return all Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to the Office by the end of the month.

**COVID-19 Latest protocols for NSW Parishes:** The NSW Premier has announced changes to COVID-19 restrictions which will bring NSW in line with the ACT effective Friday, 15 May 2020. Please note the following:

- Churches may now be open but will be restricted to no more than 10 people in the building at any one time
- Mass may be celebrated for no more than 10 people excluding those conducting the service.
- Funerals celebrated inside the church buildings are restricted to 20 People, excluding those conducting the service.
- Funerals celebrated outside the church building are restricted to 30 people, excluding those conducting the service.
- Weddings may now be celebrated with 10 people, excluding those conducting the ceremony.

These gatherings are permitted with the physical distancing rule of 15 metres. No physical sign of peace is permitted and the current protocols for Holy Communion remain in place. Fr Tony Percy VG

### **First Collection (Pastoral Revenue)**

The Parish Office has many enquiries regarding Direct Deposits during this time of isolation. For those wishing to do Direct Deposits, please deposit as follows

Account Name:	Sacred Heart Moruya
Bank Account:	29248
BSB:	062-786
Reference:	MORUYA & YOUR SURNAME

**Second Collection:** Parishioners are encouraged to contribute to the 2nd collection for the upkeep of the church.

Please contact the office regarding contributions to the 2nd collection as you will be issued with a new envelope number.

### **Project Compassion**

Please return all Project compassion boxes and envelopes to the Office by the end of the month

### **Updating Parishioner's list**

Thank you to those who have filled in our questionnaire and returned them to the Parish. Just a reminder to those who have not yet been completed. Please return as soon as you can.



## 53rd Wedding Anniversary

### Pat & Henry Anderson

Pat & Henry celebrated 53 years of wedded bliss on 13 May. They were married at St Marys, North Sydney. May God bless you both now and for many more years to come.



Photo taken on Pat & Henry's 50th Wedding Anniversary in Bunratty Castle in County Clare, Ireland

## 49th Wedding Anniversary 15 May 2020

### Joe & Lyn O'Connor



Congratulations and prayerful wishes to Joe & Lyn O'Connor on their 49th Wedding Anniversary. Married in Forbes with 5 Children and 3 grandchildren. Parishioners of Moruya for over 40 years. Together with your family and friends, Moruya Parish Community, wishing a perfect pair, a perfectly happy day and shower of God's blessings. Celebrating this Anniversary quietly during lockdown is a great opportunity to find time to look back on all your sweet ceremonies together.

**Moruya Parish is very much indebted to these two couples for their time and dedication to the Parish for many years. Congratulations to these two couples.**  
**From Fr George & the Sacred Heart Parish Community**

## Who's Jesus

At a street fair, members of a youth group set up a booth inviting anyone in need to come and receive prayer. The young man they saw looking at their sign was hobbling on crutches. 'Can we pray with you in the name of Jesus?' they asked.

The young man's reply stunned them. 'Who's Jesus?' The people briefly told him about Jesus and then prayed with him. Amazingly, he was healed, and he eagerly began sharing his healing with the people around him. The prayer team hoped and prayed that this fellow would want to get to know Jesus better, not because he had heard some facts about an interesting person, but because that Person had changed his life.

Perhaps we seldom encounter people who have no idea who Jesus is, but we all know people who haven't had a personal experience of him, not to mention all those (including ourselves) whom the Lord wants to draw into a closer relationship with him. If these people can see Jesus; love in action through us, they'll get a glimpse of who he is, and that glimpse will make them want to find out more.

The next time you are in a public place like a city street or a grocery store, look around you. Jesus loves every person you see there. Some are hurting; he longs to heal them. Some are sad; he long to comfort them. Some are happy; he longs to celebrate with them. Some are seeing signs of hope; he longs to increase their confidence. Could you be the person who brings his touch to them?

Try to make it a point every day to connect with at least one other person. 'That's a lovely dress! Where did you get it? 'You look happy today! Isn't it wonderful to experience God's blessing?' Start a conversation and see where it leads. Don't try to force a 'godly topic on someone, but at the same time, be open to the possibilities that come up. You never know how far the Lord will take you!

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord  
Sunday May 24