

THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

17 MAY 2020

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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.

RESP PSALM

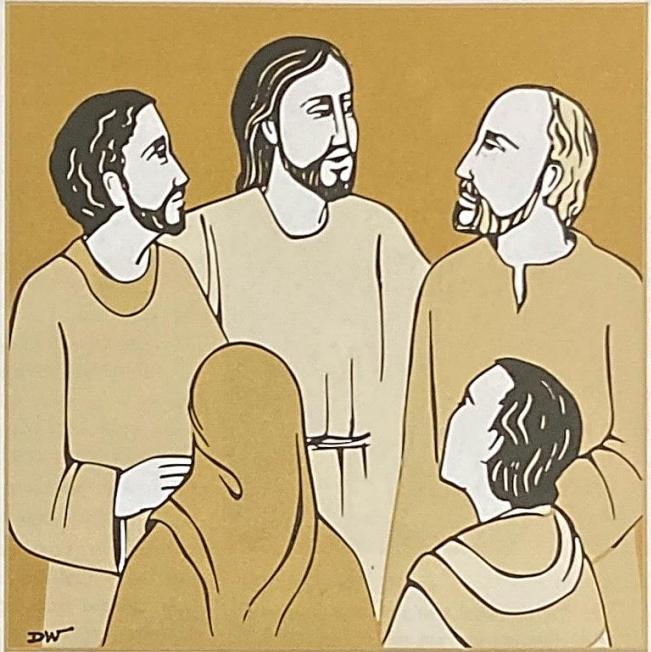
Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. cf. v. 2

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.
(or Alleluia.)

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
for me. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

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

Jn 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

Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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

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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Reflections on the Gospel

'AT HOME' WITH GOD

In last week's Gospel Jesus reflected on two understandings of his 'going away' and 'return': first, his going away in death and his re-appearance three days later as risen Lord; second, his more final departure to the Father, to return only at the end of time. The section from Jesus' instruction that we hear today focuses upon that second, much longer period of absence.

As far as the non-believing world is concerned, Jesus will simply have ceased to exist. Believers, however, will continue to 'see' him with the eyes of faith and experience his presence in this way.

In loving him and keeping his commandments, they will participate in the mutual love that unites Father and Son, both of whom will 'make their home' within them. Though deprived of Jesus' physical presence, they and God will be mutually 'at home' in this sense.

In this connection Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' whom he will ask the Father to give. A 'paraclete' is someone who stands beside a person in time of difficulty, a supportive and encouraging presence. We might think, for example, of a highly respected person whom we might ask to go to court with us to act as a character witness. Though Jesus will no longer be physically present to carry out this role, the community will have 'another paraclete' in the shape of the Holy Spirit.

In the face of the world's hostility and doubt, the 'Spirit of truth' will offer reassurance that what they believe and seek to live by is the most profound truth.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



Immaculate Conception Parish of Tumut

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6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 17 MAY 2020

MASS TIMETABLE FOR WEEK COMMENCING 23 MAY

TUMUT		COUNTRY MASS		SACRAMENTS	
Saturday	5PM VIGIL MASS 6PM VIGIL MASS	BATLOW	8:30AM 1 st & 3 rd Sunday	Confession	By appointment
Sunday	10AM MASS	TALBINGO	8AM 5 th Sunday MASS	Marriage	By appointment
Monday	NO MASS			Baptism	By appointment
Tuesday	10AM Chapel	ADELONG	10AM 1 st & 3 rd Sunday	<i>Wedding & Baptism forms on website, please make an appointment with a priest.</i>	
Wednesday	10AM Chapel	BLAKENEY LODGE	Cancelled	To arrange a Pastoral visit please contact: Fr George or Fr Namora	
Thursday	8AM Chapel	BUPA	Cancelled		
Friday	8AM Chapel				

CHURCH OPEN

The Church is open! Give thanks! The church will now be open for private prayer, no more than 10 people inside at one time. Please sanitise your hands before and after.

We are working on dividing the parish into groups and then rostering a group for each Sunday Mass available. At this stage **Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel ONLY in order to keep to 10 people.**

Eg. Saturday 5PM Group 1, Saturday 6PM Group 2, Sunday 10am Group 3

We anticipate to recommence Mass on **Saturday 23 May 2020.**

This should give everybody the opportunity to attend a Sunday Mass, and parishioners are encouraged to continue their virtual Masses and prayers if they are not rostered on to attend.

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED	ANNIVERSARIES	MASS OFFERING	SICK
We pray for the repose of the souls of all the recently deceased.			We pray for all the sick of our parish community, especially Stephen Dean

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH COUNCIL	PRIESTS / PARISH	BANKING / PLANNED GIVING
Fr George, Fr Namora, Peter Malone, Tony Butler, Anita Mason, Trish Matthews, Anne Huebner, Eamon Moore, Barry Madigan	Fr George – 0484 604 273 Fr Namora – 0450 438 444 Secretary – 0478 000 526	BSB 062 786 A/C 000015049 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TUMUT

A copy of the Church Bulletin is available on our website each week – www.cg.org.au/tumut

Please send any notices to tumut@cg.org.au by midday Wednesday each week for inclusion in the bulletin.

PLEASE NOTE MASS TIMES LISTED AT THE TOP OF THE BULLETIN

NOTICES

ROSARY & ADORATION

A group of parishioners are praying the Rosary, in our own homes, at 11am every day. We are praying for ourselves and our families, our Parish community, our Church and the whole world. Please join us, so we can still pray and “be together”, in these trying times.

“Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world...” Our Lady of Fatima

Consider ‘virtual Adoration’ - through the following website <https://virtualadoration.home.blog/> or on Facebook through ‘Sacred Heart Parish Griffith Perpetual Adoration’.

“Lord, give me a love which is ever eager to live as You would have me live. May I always wish to glorify you and never forget Your presence” Blessed Peter Vigne

ANNOUNCEMENT – RESTRICTIONS EASED

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:

1. Churches may now be open but will be restricted to **no more than 10 people** in the building at any time.
2. **Mass** may be celebrated for **no more than 10 people, excluding those conducting the service.**
3. **Funerals celebrated inside the church building are restricted to 20 people**, excluding those conducting the service.
4. **Funerals celebrated outside the church building are restricted to 30 people**, excluding those conducting the service.
5. Weddings may now be celebrated with 10 people, excluding those conducting the ceremony.

These gatherings are permitted with the physical distancing rule of 1.5 metres. No physical sign of peace is permitted and the current protocols for Holy Communion remain in place (in hand only).

Father Anthony Percy Vicar General

14 May 2020

FR GEORGE'S REFLECTION

We thank God for bringing us together once again, for the progress made with containing Covid 19 and for being able to celebrate the Eucharist together as a family after seven long weeks. Glory be to the Father and to the son and to the Holy Spirit.

Today, in our Gospel reading, Jesus continues to exhort his disciples about his imminent departure and return to the Father to be glorified. This seemed to sadden his disciples who were always looking at him with that physical, human gaze, that only believes in, accepts and clings to whatever can be seen and touched. However, Jesus gives them the assurance that “I will not leave you orphans” (Jn 14:18). I send the Holy Spirit, the Counsellor, the Paraclete, a Helper, an Intercessor, the Spirit of truth (Jn 14:16-17) to be with you for ever. In the same way, we are not abandoned and alone in these trying and difficult times of Drought, Bush Fires and Covid 19. We are rather reassured of the Holy Spirit who is always with us through with us through thick and thin.

How many words of fostering, trust and promise reach out this Sunday to us! In the midst of our daily worries – when our Heart is overwhelmed by the shadows of doubt, of despair and of weariness for all those things that seem to have no solution at all or that have reached a blind alley— Jesus urges us on to feel that He is always present and to realise that He is alive and loves us, while, at the same time, He guarantees to whoever firmly decides to live and abide by His commandments, to show himself in the plenitude of the new and resurrected life.

Today, He appears alive and present before us, in the teachings of the Scriptures that we listen to, and in the Eucharist that we shall receive. —Make your response to be that of a new life that surrenders to the appalling reality of his commandments, in particular that of loving.

ENTRUSTMENT OF AUSTRALIA TO OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The bishops of Australia will entrust Australia during this pandemic to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title of Our Lady Help of Christians. This entrustment is to be prayed throughout Australia on 24th/25th May. Please find attached the Prayer of Entrustment.