

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Aria Park

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St Therese Barellean Pastoral Associate: Sr Janet Glass rsj

In our Prayers: Neville Caldwell, Pauline O'Brien, Ray Fairman, Kashaya Kuemmel, All those affected by the Coronavirus especially the unemployed, those with mental illness, struggling families, primary producers, etc.

For our Deceased: Sr Rita Corbett rsj, Joyce Baker, Liam Broderick O'Sullivan, Coronavirus Victims, Ian Hooper, Elaine Barry, Penny Vince, James (*Jimmy*) Lewis, Anne Maher, Bill Shea (*anniversaries*)

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No Mass or Liturgy
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Reflection

I am with you always. When Christ ascended into heaven he did not abandon his disciples. Matthew's Gospel begins with the angel's words that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us, and it ends with Jesus' promise: 'Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.' Emmanuel is with us all the time; we are reminded also for 'where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Protocols

A detailed description of what is entailed for when we gather is included with this mailout. Be assured that we will give you ample time to be prepared for the return to Liturgy initially followed by Mass.

World Communications Day

Last Sunday, May 17, the Church in Australia celebrated World Communications Day. It was 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 World Communications Day 2020, which was released in January, focused on the topic of storytelling. "*Stories leave their mark on us; they shape our convictions and our behaviour. They can help us understand and communicate who we are.*" At the centre of the Pope's message, is the person and his/her relationships and innate ability to communicate. The Pope asks everyone, no one is excluded, to make this talent bear fruit: to make of communications an instrument with which to build bridges, to unite and to share the beauty of being brothers and sisters in a moment of history marked by discord and division.

Care of Australia entrusted to Mary

Archbishop Prowse will entrust the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to the **Immaculate Heart of Mary** under the title **Our Lady Help of Christians** at the 11.00 a.m. Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral on Sunday May 24.

The following day is the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians which has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 (*our parish patroness*).

Special mention has been made of Australians who have lost their jobs or livelihoods, those quarantined or anxious and pastors, leaders and essential service workers. Australia was the first country to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness and also the first nation to have a mother-cathedral (*St Mary's in Sydney*) under the same title. Archbishop Prowse said Australia was last entrusted to the care of Our Lady Help of Christians by Archbishop Francis Carroll at a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in 2001. Archbishop Carroll was President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference at the time. He served as Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn from 1983 to 2006. The entrustment prayer, agreed by Australia's Bishops last week, seeks Our Lady's intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of the pandemic. *The Prayer Card is included/attached in the mailout.*

National Sorry Day

On Tuesday, 25 May, when we pause on sorry day may we remember our Indigenous brothers and sisters, especially those who were members of the Stolen Generation. May healing and reconciliation continue for one and all.

Dear Friends,

*On Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Ascension. This feastday has both a reassuring message as well as a missionary one. Jesus' final words to us is that he will be with us forever. As he is departing from us physically he asks us to go to out to the world and proclaim who Jesus is and to baptise in the name of our Trinitarian God. Jesus has entrusted us with the continuation of his ministry—how do we respond to that invitation and challenge? How do we proclaim Jesus, the Christ, in our daily lives? How do we trust in the promise of Jesus to be with us always? May we slip our hand into the hands of God, believing in Jesus' final words to us. This week we have remembered that it is five years since the release of Pope Francis' Encyclical, **Laudato Si**—on the care of our common home. May we carry his message into our living as we pray: God of all creation, your spirit dances throughout the earth. You give drink to the trees, shade for the birds, bread for the hungry. You bring life and make all things holy. Flood our hearts with your grace, so we may sow seeds of love, justice and beauty, and reflect your kingdom here on earth. Bless us Creating Spirit, Amen. As we prepare for the great feast of Pentecost may you experience the longing for Holy Spirit ever deeper in your heart.*

Sr Maureen McDermott rsj