



**5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
YEAR A**

**7 May 2023**

**LITURGY AND BULLETIN**

**OPENING PRAYER**

*God our Father,*

*look upon us with love.*

*Give us true freedom and bring us to the inheritance you promised.*

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

**SECOND READING:** A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices

which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Trust in God still, and trust in me.  
There are many rooms in my Father’s house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.  
I am now going to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am  
you may be too.  
You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’  
Jesus said:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.  
If you know me, you know my Father too.  
From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’ ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?’

‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father,  
so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”?  
Do you not believe  
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?  
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:  
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.  
You must believe me when I say  
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;  
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.  
‘I tell you most solemnly,  
whoever believes in me  
will perform the same works as I do myself,  
he will perform even greater works,  
because I am going to the Father.’



## **REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**

### ***Mutual Indwelling***

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.' Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to *share* in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to *share* in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion! Alleluia! © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Reader:** That Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world. [*Pope Francis' prayer intention for May 2023.*] (*pause*) Lord hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That nations, organisations and individuals will work as one to protect the Earth, our common home, from the devastating effects of climate change. (*pause*) Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the violence and destruction being inflicted on the Ukrainian people will be called to a halt. (*pause*) Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That all people may respond in faith to the call to vocation, whether it be lay or religious, married or single, and be encouraged by their families and faith communities.

(*pause*) Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That we will embrace and learn from the customs and traditions of people from all nations and cultures. (*pause*) Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That governments and organisations will work together to provide food security to prevent the catastrophic loss of life which is threatening parts of Africa, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and other areas. (pause) Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That men and women in the armed forces will be kept safe while serving their country and be supported after their service is finished. (pause) Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the sick will be comforted through God's merciful love, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Jenny Bodman, Eadadoin (pronounced Aideen) Corcoran, Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, those on our prayer list and all who need our prayers. (pause) Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who have died will live in the safety of eternal life, especially Terry Wilson, Simon Jeffery, Michael Williams, Jill Burke, Tony Shepherd, . . and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. (pause) Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Lord,  
help your people to seek you with all their hearts  
and to deserve what you promised.  
Amen.*

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm**

**Weekday Mass: No Tuesday Mass until May 9.**

**Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am**

**Social Justice Group: Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery**

**Krawarree Mass: May (date to be advised) at 11am.**

**Funerals: Michael Williams: 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm – graveside service in Braidwood Lawn Cemetery**

**Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal – Collection for Formation of our Seminarians still open.**

Please give a generous donation today or begin a monthly donation to support the education of our seminarians. Special envelopes are provided in the church or donations can be made on-line at [bit.ly/goodshepherd2023](http://bit.ly/goodshepherd2023)

**First Thursday Lunch at the Club is on May 4, commencing at 11.30am. Bookings essential for the bus. An afternoon of community singing from the 40-60s.**

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: Postponed.**

**Mothers' Day Breakfast: Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> in the CWA rooms. 8.00 – 9.30am.**



**Parish Dinner:** Saturday May 27th is Curry Night (following Mass). There will be a selection of lovely homemade curries (mild) for you to enjoy! So please join us at the Servicemen's Club for a friendly evening to welcome winter! Cost \$30 per person (to be confirmed)  
 RSVP by Monday 22nd May with exact cash in envelope to: Helen H, Germaine, Cathy or Joy.

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Acts 6:1-7. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Peter 2:4-9. Gospel: John 14:1-12.

**Next week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Acts 8:5-8,14-17. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Peter 3:15-18. Gospel: John 14:15-21.

<b>Ministries for our Mass:</b>	<b>6 May</b>	<b>13 May</b>	<b>20 May</b>	<b>27 May</b>	<b>3 June</b>
Welcomer:	Cathy F	Helen P	Geraldine	Helen P	Cathy F
Acolyte:					
Reader 1:	Bobbie	Wendy M-B	Ann T	Michael	Bobbie
Reader 2:	Tommy	Germaine	Wendy H	Cathy F	Tommy
<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b>5 May</b>	<b>12 May</b>	<b>20 May</b>	<b>26 May</b>	
Altar Decorating:	Margaret	Joy	Helen P	Cathy F	
Cleaning:	Pauline & Wendy M-B		Felix		
Counters:	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: volunteer please		2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sunday: Wendy H 4 <sup>th</sup> : Phil Owen		
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.					

Take care of each other,

Helen

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuiin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.