



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

10 MAY 2020

## FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESP PSALM** Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

**R.** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (*or Alleluia!*)

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

1 Pet 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter  
*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

**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

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*I am the way, the truth and the life.*

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.'

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Reflections on the Gospel

## 'IT IS BETTER THAN I GO AWAY ...'

Today's Gospel comes from the long  
instruction that Jesus, according to the  
Fourth Gospel, gives to his disciples at the  
Last Supper. He reflects upon his return to  
the Father and what his absence will mean for  
the disciples.

Jesus' 'departure' seems to operate on two  
levels. The setting of the supper on the night  
before he dies makes it natural to understand  
'going away' as a reference to his imminent  
departure in death; his 'coming back', then,  
would refer to his appearance on the third day  
as risen Lord.

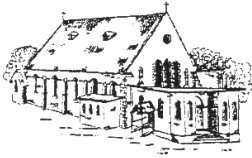
At another level, however, Jesus addresses a  
more permanent 'going away' when, following  
his appearances to the disciples as risen Lord,  
he finally ascends to the Father (see John  
20:17). From this perspective, his 'coming  
back' would refer to his return at the end of  
time.

At this level the instruction Jesus gives does  
not bear upon the short space between Good  
Friday and Easter, but upon the indefinite  
'time of the Church' that will follow.

During this time – which remains our time – the  
disciples will not enjoy his physical presence.  
But Jesus insists that it will be a better time  
in fact. His death on the cross will defeat the  
grip of sin and death upon the human race,  
and open up for us the gift of eternal life.

Jesus is 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life'  
in the sense that his death supremely reveals  
the 'truth' about God (that God is love) and  
opens up the 'way' to human sharing in God's  
(eternal) 'life'.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**



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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A – 10 MAY 2020

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

**NO PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS OF MASS, THE CHURCH IS CLOSED 24 HRS**

Mass is available daily online at [www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)

Sunday Mass is aired on ten (Channel 05) Sunday mornings at 6am

### SACRAMENTS

Confession	By request, must be in an open space observing the 1.5 metre physical distancing
Marriage	By appointment, must not exceed 5 persons – couple, witnesses and priest
Funerals	Graveside service only, no more than 10 persons including priest
Anointing	By request
Baptism	Suspended until further notice
Holy Communion	Suspended until further notice
Confirmation	Suspended until further notice

*If you have any questions or need to speak to a priest please contact the parish on the phone numbers and/or email indicated above and below*

### PRAYER REQUESTS – PLEASE EMAIL OR PHONE THE PRIESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED. AND ANNIVERSARIES	THE SICK	MASS OFFERINGS
We pray for Bereyl Henry, recently deceased and Ben Lott, whose anniversary it is at this time.	Stephen Dean	Remie Field, Ben Lott

### PARISH DETAILS

PARISH COUNCIL	PRIESTS / PARISH	PARISH BANKING
Fr George, Fr Namora, Peter Gain, Chris Baron, Anne Saunderson, Craig Ferguson, Kate Howe, Liz Knight	Fr George – 0484 604 273 Fr Namora – 0450 438 444 Madeline Ryan – 0478 000 526	BSB 062 786 A/C 14943 <b>ST PATRICKS PARISH GUNDAGAI</b>

A copy of the Church Bulletin is available on our website each week – [www.cg.org.au/gundagai](http://www.cg.org.au/gundagai)

Please send any notices to [gundagai@cg.org.au](mailto:gundagai@cg.org.au) by midday Wednesday each week for inclusion in the bulletin.

### BANKING / PLANNED GIVING

We can, and must, continue supporting the priests and the parish through our first and second collections. These can be done through online banking or by a bank deposit in person. Please note the different accounts and references.

<b>FIRST COLLECTION</b> including Mass Intentions		
BSB 062-786	A/C 000029248	Acc Name: Central Presbytery Fund
<b>IMPORTANT!</b> Please reference your <b>SURNAME</b> and <b>PARISH</b> eg. <i>Smith GUNDAGAI</i>		

### SECOND COLLECTION/PLANNED GIVING

BSB 062 786	A/C 000014943	Acc Name: St Patricks Parish Gundagai
Please reference your <b>SURNAME</b> and <b>PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER</b> eg <i>Smith PGENV24</i> Please contact the Secretary 0478 000 526 or <a href="mailto:gundagai@cg.org.au">gundagai@cg.org.au</a> if you need an envelope number.		

## 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.

*"Love our Lady and make her loved. Always recite the Rosary and recite it as often as possible." St Pio of Pietrelcina*

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

*"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28:20*

### FR GEORGE'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Do you allow any troubles to rob you of God's gift of peace? As much as we try to avoid it, we inevitably encounter challenges and trials that can shake our confidence and our trust in God. Jesus knew that his disciples would be put to the test when their Master was taken from them during his suffering and passion. Jesus encouraged his disciples to put their faith and hope in God the Father and also in himself.

What could seemingly be referred to as Jesus's farewell speech in John's Gospel, left the disciples sad and disheartened. For the Disciples of Christ, it was a moment of confusion, doubt, anxiety, worry and even sadness. Jesus had just revealed that He would be going away from them. This opened up all sorts of questions in their minds. What would happen to their plans and ambitions? Did they waste three precious years by following Jesus? Was their Master truly the Messiah? If So, why is He going away without restoring the kingdom which they had hoped for? Jesus comforts and consoles the disciples who are saddened by His imminent departure from this world. He tells them of the purpose of His departure: to go and prepare a place for them.

He also reveals that he would come again and take them with him that where he is, they may also be. But Thomas throws up the question of where He is going and what is the way to where He is going? Jesus makes the all-important and profoundly meaningful statement: **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me...."** This assertion of Jesus is a self-revelation of who He is (TRUTH of the Father); what His mission is (to be to the Father) and how He is going to accomplish His mission (by giving His LIFE world in obedience to the Father). In Jesus we have the revelation of Truth, Way to our destiny and the source of our Life. We can satisfy the deepest yearnings of our heart in in our union with Jesus who is one with the Father. When we follow Jesus, our struggles and sadness will turn into joy.

Jesus Master, the way, the Truth and the Life, have mercy on us!

### LAUDATO SI

The papal encyclical Laudato Si (Praise be to you) is a first major statement by Pope Francis for his personal ministry as Pope. The Vatican celebrates Laudato Si week from 16 - 24 May. The year 2020 is its fifth anniversary.

**Webinars** - Please consider two webinars to find out about Laudato Si, the encyclical On Our Common Home, and what it means for us all. The webinars will be at **6-7 pm on 19th & 21st May**.

World-class consultant, Jacqui Rémond will present on what Laudato Si is about on the Tuesday evening. Then on the Thursday Jacqui will facilitate discussion on its deep implications for us.

Hosted on Zoom, the webinars On Our Common Home reach out particularly to towns and parishes affected by and responding to drought and bushfires and now CoVID. Please let others know.

**Express interest/RSVPs Email [belconnensouth@cg.org.au](mailto:belconnensouth@cg.org.au) OR Phone/Text 0428 625 110**

### HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

*May God bless all mothers this Mother's Day, especially those who cannot be with their children at this time. Remember also our Heavenly Mother, and Mother Church - may all God's children be united in their mothers' love. "The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother." - St Therese of Lisieux*