



Parish of St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul South Belconnen

4th Sunday of Easter
Year A
3 May 2020

Online Masses, reflections and resources

South Belconnen Parish Mass:

Saturday Vigil 6pm 2/5/20

<https://bit.ly/2xiRuHe>

3rd Sunday of Easter - Anzac Day Message

<https://bit.ly/2KJTPxR>

Fr Simon's Mid week Messages

29 April 2020

<https://bit.ly/3f6Sjdp>

Fr Simon's Blogs

Restrictions and Rations Then and Now (see insert)

<https://bit.ly/2W8zUy4>

Longing for the Eucharist

<https://bit.ly/2WceDDn>

Daily Mass is available on the
Catholic Voice website online
Monday - Friday at 12.15pm,
Saturday at 9.00am and
Sunday at 11.00am.

<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

This Week:

Acts 2:14, 36-41

1Pet 2:20-25

Jn 10:1-10

Entrance Antiphon: *(as ministers gather in courtyard—not said if hymn is sung)*

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

W. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

M. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff, with these you give me comfort. **R.**

W. You have prepared a banquet for me in sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

M. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: *(not said if hymn is sung)*

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



Next Week : Acts 6:1-7 | Pt 2:4-9
Jn 14:1-12

Prayer Requests

We pray for the sick:

Naomi Aldons, Caroline Aldridge, Martin Baker, David Baker, Sue Bartlett, Nancy Biviano, Fr Laurie Blake, Michael Brayshaw, Ian Brown, George Bulbrook, Lisa Baulman, Leslie Cheeseman, Mary Cleary, John Clerk, Monica & Colin Colquhoun, Mary Coman, June Donnelly, Pat & Jim Dunne, Frances Dyball, Joachim Exell, Ryan Fawke, Ivka Ferinas, Grace Fluitsma, Amy Fogarty, Grant Hanrahan, Bruce Hassall, Mick Hay, Christine Hermely, Richard Hourigan, Paul Idilton, Graham Jackson, Cath Jane Keen, Sarah Kelly, Val Kilmier, Michael Mathias, Jill McDonald, Mary-Anne McGrath, Monica Molloy, Peter Naughton, Cedric Netto, Me con Nguyen Thi No, Noel Noonan, Belinda O'Flynn, Kathleen Preece, Dana Riminic, Peter Robbins, Heather Robinson, Paul Shanahan, Sister Yvonne, Peter Stewart, Nicole Tavares, Richard Toombs, Lina Varmiento, Jenny Webster, Angela Williams, Berenice Wright and Robert Wrightson.

We pray for the deceased:

Recently: Dr Graeme McIntosh (brother of Heather Robinson), Billy, Therese & Rodrick Loard, Sr Stephanie Duck RSM, Peter Sullivan, Josip Grilec, Maurice Bobbin, Josip Grilec, Carmela Russoniello.

Anniversaries:

Confession Times: Saturday

St Matthew's 11.00am-11.50am
St Matthew's 5.00pm - 5.30pm
Fr Simon will sit on the bench seat outside St Matthew's Church and he is happy to walk the grounds with you if you wish.

Parish News

Liturgy Line

The month of May commences with the Feast of *St Joseph the Worker*. Although a lesser feast than 19 March, it offers us an opportunity to pray in thanks for the gift of work and for justice and equity in workplaces. Especially in these economic downturn days of COVID-19, those of us who have jobs may be ever more grateful to retain them. May is also traditionally one of the Marian months of the year and *Our Lady Help of Christians* day, May 24 (this year 25 May), is a Patronal Feast for Australia. Meanwhile, May takes us through rest of the Easter Season, building up through the *Ascension of the Lord* to our festive zenith of *Pentecost*. Although Masses are online, those praying the *Prayer of the Church* will find provision is made for the feasts of this month.



Vinnies COVID-19 Emergency Appeal

Vinnies is launching a COVID-19 Crisis Appeal to raise funds for the additional need we are already seeing due to Covid-19. **This appeal is replacing the Winter Appeal.**

Please donate online at www.vinnies.org.au/covid19crisisappeal or by calling 13 18 12.

To receive the Catholic Voice Weekly by email each week, please go to <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/weekly-voice/> to add your email address to the list or email directly catholic.voice@cg.org.au.

Roster for Webex Mass Readers

Here is a roster to the end of May for the Vigil Mass that is being celebrated at 6.00pm each Saturday for the time being. The first named for each week is the for the First Reading and Psalm and the second named for the Second Reading and the Prayer of the Faithful.

Please contact the parish office if you have any queries regarding online Mass.

3 May	Cheryl Hamill Jenny Murphy
10 May	Christina Rowe Bernie Leger
17 May	Colleen Meadley Mary Williams
24 May	Lorraine Higgins Mary Morris
31 May	Anne McCarthy Michael White

Project Compassion boxes can be left at the office door (Page) during office hours - **Tues - Thur 9am - 3.30pm only**. Envelopes can be placed in the slot beside the door.

Prayers of the Faithful 4th Sunday of Easter 3 May 2020

Father Simon; God gives eternal life to the sheep of His flock. Let us pray to the Father, confident that we can never be taken from his care.

Reader; For the pastors of our Church, that they may follow the example of Christ, the Good Shepherd, Lord hear us.

All; Lord hear our prayer.

Reader; For the whole of humanity, that through this time of crisis we are lead to build a world rich in mercy, filled with hope, encouragement, practical help and a renewed awareness as shepherds of our natural world, Lord hear us.

All; Lord hear our prayer.

Reader; For our parish community, that together we may live the gospel of the Good Shepherd in a spirit of peace and concern for one another, Lord hear us.

All; Lord hear our prayer.

Reader; For our students who have begun term two this week either remotely or in the classroom, that with the help and support of their teachers and families they will establish routines, continue their learning and this will be a time of positive growth for them, Lord hear us.

All; Lord hear our prayer.

Reader; For vocations, that those who are deciding how they will spend their lives may consider serving God's people, and those around them may encourage and support their decisions, Lord hear us.

All; Lord hear our prayer.

Reader; For those who have died, that the Good Shepherd may lead them to living water and wipe all tears from their eyes, Lord hear us.

All; Lord hear our prayer.

Father Simon; Almighty Father, as your people, the sheep of your flock, we bring our prayers before you, in perfect trust and confidence, through Christ our Lord. **All; Amen**

The **first collection** supports our clergy and the administration of the Archdiocese, both of which need to continue in these difficult times. Unfortunately, we have been asked **not to encourage cash payments** for our collections as there is a risk of passing on COVID-19 through handling money.

There are four options for contributing to the first collection:

1. complete the CDF Direct Debit Form (**on our website**) and return it to the parish office to be set up.
2. direct transfer to:
Account Name: South Belconnen Parish
BSB: 062-786
ACC no.: 29248
Reference: Sth Belc(your surname)
Very important this is included
3. CDF Bpoint payment page. Go to <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICDEVELOPMENTFUNDARCHDIOCESEOFCANBERRA> and follow the prompts.
4. use the **Qkr! App** to pay with credit card. Instructions for using Qkr! can be found on our website.

Please note: Fathers Simon and Thomas are still offering Masses privately for our parish, country and world and you are welcome to place any Mass offerings in the slot beside the front door of the Presbytery at Page or in the letterbox outside St Vincent's Church.

The **second collection (incl Planned Giving)** supports the operation of our parish, including many projects, programs and capital improvements.

There are five options for contributing to the second collection:

1. complete the CDF Direct Debit Form (**on our website**) and return it to the parish office to be set up for ongoing planned giving.
2. direct transfer to:
Account Name: South Belconnen Parish
BSB: 062-786
ACC no.: 29461
Reference: Sth Belc(your surname)
Very important this is included
3. CDF Bpoint payment page. Go to <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICDEVELOPMENTFUNDARCHDIOCESEOFCANBERRA> and follow the prompts.
4. use the **Qkr! App** to pay with credit card. Instructions for using Qkr! can be found on our website.
5. set up a credit card payment each month with the parish office - contact the office on belconnensouth@cg.org.au.

If you are currently contributing to Planned Giving using envelopes, please think about changing to electronic means. Please contact the parish office on belconnensouth@cg.org.au for more information.

Plenary Council - listening and discernment session

As many of you will already know, the first Plenary Council Assembly, originally scheduled to be held in Adelaide in October, will be postponed due to Covid-19.

However, the opportunities we have for listening and discerning the voice of God in our Catholic communities, are able to continue.

The next theme we have been asked to consider is **'How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is humble, healing and merciful?'** You will remember these themes have come from the thoughts contributed during the initial listening and discerning phase last year.

Despite not being able to meet, our parish would like to invite those interested to submit their thoughts on this theme. The link below will take you to the relevant page on the Plenary Council website:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/listening-and-discernment/>

The webpage provides information to help you with your **discernment** process. It has the list of the themes, resources to help your reflections, relevant scripture passages, and snapshots of the themes. During our discernment we are encouraged to think about the themes in terms of our local and national context.

In order to encourage some form of **listening** in these tricky times, you are asked to **submit your thoughts either electronically or by snail mail to the parish office.**

(BelconnenSouth@cg.org.au or PO Box 4266 Hawker ACT 2614).

These will then be forwarded to me, as the person responsible for facilitating this next session.

Could you please submit your thoughts by **Friday 8 May**. I will collate the contributions within a week and put them out in the bulletin for your 'listening responses' over a further 2 weeks. Once this process is complete I will submit our final thoughts to the Plenary Council by the end of May, and provide a copy to the parish through the bulletin.

We hope many of you will take this opportunity to participate in this process, even if you have not been able to do so previously. It is a chance to influence how our Australian Catholic Church responds to the Spirit in the 21st century.

Beth Gibson.

A parish group is hosting two webinars about **Laudato Si**, the encyclical **On Our Common Home**, a key focus in the Pope's personal Christian ministry across the world, and what it means for us all.

The webinars will be at 6-7 pm on 19th & 21st May to help mark the Vatican's *Laudato Si* week. World-class consultant, Jacqui Rémond will present on what *Laudato Si* is about on the Tuesday evening and facilitate discussion on its deep implications on the Thursday.

Hosted on Zoom by Belconnen South, the webinars *On Our Common Home* reach out particularly to towns and parishes affected by drought and bushfires, as well as those in Canberra. Please let other parishioners know.

Express interest/RSVPs to: Email belconnensouth@cg.org.au OR) Phone/Text 0428 625 110.

A Call to Reset the Sails

A series of articles from a range of perspectives, all focusing on the urgent need for transformation of the Catholic church and hoping that Plenary Council 20/21 can be a catalyst for such transformation. Please go to

<http://cg.org.au/Portals/66/ParishData/Id316/Uploads/Type3/ResetTheSails.pdf> to find out how to obtain copies.

Restrictions and Rations Then and Now - Fr Simon's Blog - 29 April

Last weekend I recorded a message that referred to Paul Byrnes' book *The Lost Boys* (pictured).

It is an historical account of young men, indeed teenagers really, who went away to enlist in the armed services in World War I. I had opened the pages of that book because it was Anzac Day weekend and, as is often the case, was trying to enter into some of the original ANZAC experiences.

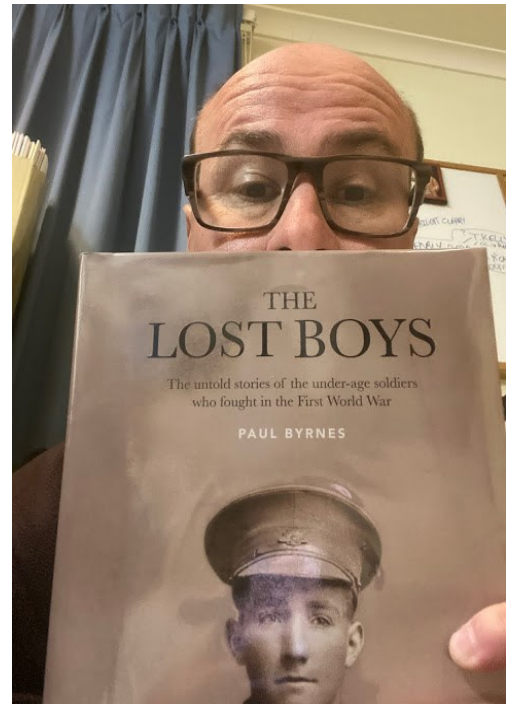
As a youngster, I recall my own parents talking of their experiences during World War II.

They used to talk of restrictions, rations and coupons. They usually had their own cow or chooks, so they didn't need coupons for milk or butter or eggs. So they would swap with other families for coupons like flour.

As we begin to understand what it feels like, what it seems like, in these days of the restrictions of COVID-19, I was wondering how some of the restrictions, including the struggles to buy some goods in the shops, was in some way similar to wartime experiences.

Perhaps some of our elder parishioners are able to tell us what it was like during World War II. Maybe they have some reflections on how that was similar or how it is different to what we experience now. For a couple of weeks parishioners have been writing messages to our older parishioners. Now may be an opportunity for some of our older parishioners to share some of their experiences as they are able.

May we all continue to learn from our past and our present as we face the future with more faith and hope in Jesus who is the gate into our life to the full.



Hello,

I hope this letter finds you well and you have been able to see some of the beautiful sunshine we've been having over the past few weeks. It's something I'm very grateful for as living in Canberra has taught me to savour these days as we have a long, and at times bitterly cold, winter. It's always hard to say goodbye to autumn but thankfully we don't have to just yet with more beautiful days ahead, I hope.

I am always heartened and inspired by the Easter readings, particularly those contained in the Acts of the Apostles. I love witnessing the transformation of these early believers and reading of their bravery and conviction in Jesus as they spread the good news and continued his mission. Jesus chose ordinary people to carry out his work and do extraordinary things.

Similarly, Saint Thèrèse of Lisieux, whose relics recently visited Canberra, is known for "the little way" where she sought holiness of life in the ordinary and everyday. Saint Thèrèse recognised that each day is a gift in which an individual can make a difference by the way they choose to live and love. She placed great hope and trust in our all-loving and merciful God to take care of the rest.

In a lot of ways the current times we're living in are no different - the marvellous efforts of front-line health care workers, tireless volunteers, courageous parents, caring neighbours, compassionate aged care staff and committed clergy bringing the Mass to their isolated congregations, all serve as wonderful examples of faith in action. Two thousand years on from the Ministry of the Apostles and the story remains the same: God calling and guiding his people to do extraordinary things in both big and small ways. I hope to one day read some of the inspiring biographies and stories of the saints who emerged from the great pandemic of 2020.

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." (1 John 4:16)

"Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Best Wishes.