

# St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

5th Sunday of Easter

— Year A

10 May 2020

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn  
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD  
Vicar General: Fr Tony Percy VG  
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch  
Assistant Priest: Fr Norvin Dias



**Masses will be offered  
without a congregation  
present until further  
notice.**

**Confessions by  
appointment**

#### PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (bh) Emergency Phone for Priests: 0491 072 304  
cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral

Online Payments Link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp>

**Parish Secretary:** Michelle O'Connor—Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.15pm, 12.45pm-4.30pm (Working remotely)

**Accounts Officer:** Karina Widjaja—Friday, 8am-4pm (Working remotely)

Dear Parishioners of St Christopher's Cathedral Parish

*"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."* – St. Therese of Lisieux

Happy Mother's Day! We pray for our mothers this day, those with us, those who have died, and of course mothers to be; but equally we think of the great gift of Motherhood given by God. What an admirable, enthralling and divine gift. It is the greatest of vocations, despite the misguided reflections often eddying around a secular world. Thank God for the gift of motherhood, which is truly a witness and participation in God's creative, nurturing love.

May is traditionally dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, where we observe a particular devotion and veneration of Mary, the Mother of God and our own spiritual mother. We recall the great mystery of the God Who chose to place Himself, tiny and helplessly dependent, into the protective womb, loving arms and gentle hands of a human mother. From Mary, God took human flesh, all because of her faith-filled yes. Mary was chosen by God above all women, her faith and obedience to God's free invitation and grace, granted the way to the Incarnation and our salvation. Her example then teaches us faith, obedience, humility and most of all, how to *truly respond* to love by responding to the call of Love Himself.

It's fitting then that we begin May with the celebration of *Mother's Day*. Motherhood is a vocation beyond compare; for a mother is a co-creator in a particular way, bringing life into the world with God. And yet such a call requires a *yes*, a *fiat*. The twentieth century theologian Hans von Balthasar evokes this image when he speaks of the Church as Marian. The Church is only Herself he says, in so far as She echoes the *yes* of Mary. Mary is the model of discipleship. What is said of Her is said of the Church. Jesus' ministry began and ended close to His Mother. At every step Mary gave her profound and abiding *Yes, Let it be done according to your word* (Lk 1:38). This is the Church. May we too as the Church be courageous enough in these days to echo this *yes*. Which leads us to contemplate today's Gospel.

People often say 'I'd love to be a fly on the wall', well today we seem to do exactly that with Jesus and his disciples. And yet Jesus knows we're listening (or at least hopes we are); for his words in the Gospel are words spoken to us. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me." (Jn 14:1ff.)

Many years ago I visited a beautiful Benedictine abbey founded in 1230 by King Alexander of Scotland. The abbey flourished for centuries, only to fall into ruins and abandonment as a result of the Protestant Reformation. After passing through private hands over centuries, in the summer of 1948 the abbey was reopened and the monks returned to its walls, filling the house of God again with the joyous chants that were rightly at home in God's Temple. *Had God ever really left?*

God is always the same, and so too is what he does; He never changes. This is the call we've all received, the call He began to chant in our hearts all those years ago... He is still singing, whether we see it, feel it, believe it or not! Things might and do change for us personally, but *never* for God. His song never changes. When we answer and resign ourselves to this fact, this calling is able to grant us the greatest peace and joy. And yet it doesn't shelter us from experiencing and feeling the deepest pain... no! It doesn't prevent suffering from entering our hearts, our lives and even our church. In fact perhaps it makes us more acutely aware of it. But what it does do... is accompany us through it all. Christ accompanies us through it all.

As the days of that summer of 1948 approached, the Abbey awaited its reopening. There was a young man who, a nephew of one of the 're-founding monks', had promised to visit his uncle that inaugural day. Late, the evening before, he pulled up to the quiet, almost eerie abbey, and as he closed the door of his car, he paused... because slowly wafting from deep within the newly restored chapel could be heard the angelic chants of the monks – life had returned to the abbey! He stood for a moment, it seemed the monks were praying *Compline* ('night prayer') and fearing he would disturb the 'great silence' to follow, he decided to return the next morning. Humbled, with a tear running down his cheek, he drove down the foggy driveway.

The next day, mid-morning, he pulled into the pebbled driveway only to find his uncle (in his habit) awaiting his arrival. "I am so sorry! I arrived last night" he said, "but standing outside the chapel I heard you all praying... I didn't want to disturb you." Surprised and somewhat confused, his uncle replied: "We only arrived this morning!"

Just as that ancient abbey over centuries refused to be silenced, refused to forget and refused to cease calling those faithful monks who united themselves to God's so devoutly in its walls for centuries, so too God never ceases calling and *singing* in every human heart! *And Why?! Because it is... you are, God's dwelling place.* And God continues to call, to yearn, to have returned to Him what is His! Our God refuses to stop calling *us* to Himself.

No matter where we've been, or what we've done, He is a God who rejoices at the one who is found. The *Father* of the prodigal son, the *Woman* who finds the lost coin, the *Shepherd* who goes out for the lost sheep. God is revealing to us Who He is. He will never tire... he waits for each of us to return and answer the call placed within our hearts.

I tell this story because often, and I always preach to myself, though we may feel that He is absent from our lives, that the building which once so easily housed Him, is now not fit, or is decaying under our own weakness. Contrary to our thoughts, He never leaves us. He is waiting, singing the song of victory and love within each of our souls, all the time awaiting our return. Sometimes we feel so distanced from God, that our mistakes are too great, but this is a lie. All we need to utter to Him is a *yes*.

...Conti

# PARISH NEWS

## PARISH MINISTRIES

**Director of Music:** Jaki Kane

**RCIA**—Fr Trenton van Reesch  
*Weekly on Thursdays, 6pm*

**School of Religion**

**Youth Minister**—Chiara Catanzariti  
Email: chiara.catanzariti@cg.org.au

### Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 11 May 5th Sunday of Easter

Tue 12 May Sts Nereus & Achilleus, St  
Pancras

Wed 13 May Our Lady of Fatima

Thu 14 May St Matthias, Apostle

Fri 15 May 5th Sunday of Easter

Sat 16 May 5th Sunday of Easter

Sun 17 May 6th Sunday of Easter

### **Group gatherings in recess for the moment**

**Legion of Mary**  
*Wednesday at 6.15pm*  
*Haydon Hall*

**St Vincent de Paul**  
*Assisting people in need and  
combatting social injustice in our  
community*

**Young Adults**  
*Animating parish and Archdiocesan  
life through prayer and event  
participation*  
*Thursday 6.30pm Rosary/Bible  
Sharing/Fellowship SCC*  
*Geetanjali Rogers*

**Good Shepherd Prayer Group**  
*Wednesday at 7pm SPC*  
*Parish Room (Feb-Dec)*

**Christian Meditation**  
*Saturday at 5pm SPC*  
*"Be still and know that I am  
God" (Psalm 46:10)*

### **Other Communities**

**Spanish Community**  
*First Sunday of the month at*  
*11.30am SPC*

**African Community**  
*Second Sunday of the month at*  
*11.45am SPC*

**Filipino Community**  
*First Sunday bi-monthly at*  
*5.00pm SPC*

**For details of any of the  
above, contact the Parish**

*Conti...*

My joy comes from this, the knowledge that God is working among His people, and that we are continually called to be servants of that mystery. He awaits our Yes. The rest we leave up to Him. God never leaves His dwelling, and though the house may feel for a time empty He will never stop waiting in joyful hope for our (daily) return, to sing His song of Glory in every soul once more; because you are that dwelling. "Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor afraid!"

On a different, final note, at the moment we can not gather physically for the Mass, and we must acknowledge, hard as it is, that this *not* normal. The Mass and us gathering is central and necessary, there is a need for that physical union with Christ's Body, His bodily presence is indispensable. Precautionary measures to minimise the risks of contagion too are important, but let us continue to pray ardently for this time to pass, and "not let our hearts be troubled" in the meantime. With patience and the grace to endure, we have the knowledge and hope that we will gather physically as Christ body, His Church around his table again soon. Until then let us daily make an *Act of Spiritual Communion*, uniting ourselves to the Mass, and immersing ourselves in His Word in the Scriptures. Let us confidently now more than ever, echo our Mother Mary's yes, that God's will may always be done even if we do not understand His ways. A Happy and Blessed Mother's Day to all Mums.

**Father Trenton van Reesch**  
*Administrator, St Christopher's Cathedral Parish*

**Distribution of bulletins and notices:** The parish office has been emailing Parishioners who have supplied their email addresses for the weekend Parish bulletin. Please ask your fellow parishioners if they are receiving the parish bulletin and if not, to contact the parish office with their email address. Anyone not receiving the bulletin can email the Parish office on cathedral@cg.org.au. Hard copies of the bulletin are left each Friday afternoon at St Peter Chanel's inside Our Lady's Grotto. Please take one home and take a copy for someone you know who doesn't have access to the internet.

**Planned giving Envelopes:** If you can't make financial contributions to the Parish electronically, please call the office to organise dropping off your Planned Giving envelope on 6239 9846.

### **Youth Ministry Update from Chiara, Parish Youth Minister:**

My prayers have been with you in this time. A sense of loss without being with one another and especially receiving the sacraments is a great sorrow, but as Catholics we know this time is adorned in Hope of Christ's power that is moving amongst us, especially through celebrating the resurrection where victory was won forever. During this time we have been working behind the scenes re-planning and preparing for when we return. So here is an update on some current initiatives and for what lies ahead!

#### **Primary School Students**

- Starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May there will be pages available for you to print out to reflect on Sunday as you watch mass
- When we return we'll be starting a youth group that will run around the context of Sunday 9:30am Mass at St Peter Chanel's. We would really appreciate your input on this (what time it should run, etc) You can do this here: <https://forms.gle/MqE8V2wpopmqDX8R7>

#### **High School students**

- Starting the 12<sup>th</sup> of May we'll be running **ALPHA every Tuesday 4pm-5pm on Zoom**. This is open to all senior students years 10-12 and it's a combined effort with youth ministers and their students from all over Canberra schools and parishes. If you want to meet new people, have fun and talk about more of those deeper questions? Then here is a video to see what it's all about. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3NBFjJDOiI> see the bulletin for more info.
- Here is a video to see what it's all about: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3NBFjJDOiI>
- See you Tuesday 4pm!! Here is the link <https://zoom.us/j/99139267513>
- Meeting ID: 991 3926 7513
- When restrictions are lifted we will be running an event series for high school students to gather with friends, and hear from some great speakers with the opportunity for Q and A on topics that are important to you. So stay tuned for this!

#### **Young adults and professionals**

- Bible study is continuing **every Thursday night 6:30-7:30 on Zoom**. Join 'Canberra Cathedral Young Adults' on Facebook to keep updated on all these events.
- This month we'll be starting some online inputs and Q & A with Fr Trenton. Stay-tuned for more info to come very soon.

## OTHER NEWS

**Mass will be live streamed daily** from the St Christopher's Cathedral. Monday to Friday at 12:15pm, Saturday at 9:00am and Sunday at 11:00am. For daily reminders emails: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

### 'Spiritual Communion'

For various reasons throughout the Church's history the faithful have been prevented from receiving the Eucharist in the Mass. Many of the great Saints made an act of spiritual communion when this was the case. The Church encourages us to make such an act where we unite ourselves to God through prayer. It is a beautiful way to express to God our desire to be united with him when we are unable to complete that union in the reception of Holy Communion.

***My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen***



### QKR! AT SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S CATHEDRAL PARISH

*Is carrying cash no longer your style?*



Join us in our trialing of Qkr! Similar to swiping your phone at an EFTPOS Machine you can now use our **purpose-built secure parish app** to contribute to our parish community. Payments for 1<sup>st</sup> (Clergy) & 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Parish) are listed. Please ensure you include your Planned Giving number for 2nd Collection contributions. Contact the Parish Office if you have forgotten your Planned Giving number on 62399846. Caritas Project Compassion is also currently listed under "Special Appeals". Details of the Appeal are listed within the App payment description. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn Catholic Development Fund, with the assistance of the Commonwealth Bank and Mastercard, Sydney.

### How to still contribute financially to St Christopher's Cathedral Parish

As our churches are not open for Masses due to Corona Virus, our weekend collections are not being taken up. If you would like to contribute to the First Collection, you can make a direct transfer from your bank account.

**The First collection** is for the support of clergy in the parish and beyond. Each priest in a parish draws a personal stipend from the first collection for living expenses, food and housekeeping. Funds are also directed to Priests in parishes where the first collection is insufficient to meet their stipend; the support of the Archbishop, Vicar General and Chancellor; Priests in remote dioceses across Australia; Clergy Retirement Foundation (in support of sick and retired clergy)

BSB:	062-786	Account Name:	CATHEDRAL
Bank Account:	000029248	Reference:	FORREST & SURNAME

**The Second collection**, which includes the planned giving program, is the main source of our parish income. The second collection funds are used for the day to day running of our parish. That is to pay for the repairs, wages, insurance, utilities and the many other expenses incurred to keep our parish functioning. If you would like to give towards the Parish expenses and are not currently registered for Planned Giving, please deposit into the following bank account:

BSB:	062786	Account Name:	St Christopher's Cathedral
Bank Account:	000015080	Reference:	Planned Giving Number and Surname (only for current Planned Givers); or Donation (by parishioner's not registered Planned Givers).

### IN THESE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS PLEASE STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE

<http://cg.org.au/cathedral/Home.aspx>

### May - Mary's Month: *Memorare*

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.*

*Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.*

*O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.*

*Amen.*

### Please visit [www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au) for more resources, prayers and news.



### *Reach out, We do care and Love you.*

So often we can feel isolated and alone, and these days during the lockdown this terrifying feeling can consume us even more. This is important to our parish and wider community, you are not alone, you are loved. **Need to talk? 02 616226100.** Or visit <https://catholiccare.cg.org.au/> Crisis support lines 24/7 Lifeline 13 11 14—Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467—Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800—Men's Line Australia 1300 78 99 78—Family Drug Support 1300 368 186

**Webinars**—Please consider taking part in 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 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Email [belconnensouth@cg.org.au](mailto:belconnensouth@cg.org.au) or Phone/Text 0428 625 110.

**Heart to Heart eSeminar**—Join Archbishop Christopher Prowse for this 10 part live-streamed eSeminar as he leads you to enter more deeply into your relationship with Christ during this time of isolation. <https://youtu.be/1F0Wc3m8kHeart>

### We pray for...

**Those who are ill:** Arianna Vignale, Anna Vincent, Lucy Duncan, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Anthony, Lisette D'Cruze, David Kibbey, Jacqueline Khin, Katarina Kish, Mary Brennan

**Anniversaries of death:** Frank Brennan, Monica Cooper, Carla Pastrello, Peg O'Hehir, Jane Jennings, Stanley & Mollie Jones, Fr Viv Morrison, Alma Sainsbury, Jack Delaney, Kathleen Bennett, Frances Riordan, Allan Read, Max Bradley, Jean Sunner, Mary O'Brien, Mary Hehir, Jennifer Gowing, David Crossin, Sr Leonie Crotty, Peter Xavier, Michael Rheinberger, Marcus Mumford, Anthony Sullivan, Margaret Gillespie, Sandra Altrin, Robert Porra, Carmel Pickard, Thomas Clowry

**Recently Deceased:** Keith McLaughlin, Peter Becker, Regina Paredes, Hilda Quinones, Shirley Evans, Josip Persic, Don Furner, Henry Tabisz, Mary-Anne McGrath, Rod Frazer, 4 children killed at Oatlands, Roberto Emilio, Bruce Kennedy, Ronald D'Cruze, Brian Kelly, Betty O'Neill, Patricia Smith, David Cusack, Anica Soldo, John

## Readings of the Day – 5th Sunday of Easter —Year A

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.*

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

**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!*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.*

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### First Reading

**Acts 6:1-7**

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.

### Second Reading

**1 Pt 2:4-9**

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 Reading

**Jn 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.'