

First Reading Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1
(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and
my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

**PARISH
DIRECTORY**

**St. John the
Baptist Catholic
Church**

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**St. Monica
Church**

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

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St. John the Baptist

The Parish has been entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco since 2000

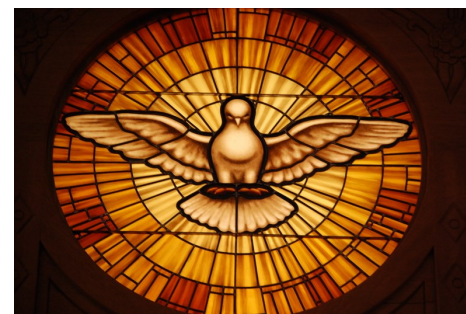


St. Monica

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A - 16 & 17 MAY, 2020

Gospel Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'



Dear Friends,

Our Gospel passage today comes from the scene at the Last Supper. Jesus wants to console and prepare His disciples for the time when He is no longer with them in the body. He promises to send them the Holy Spirit, the Consoler. Jesus also promises them that God the Father and He will come to them in their hearts through their faith and trust in Him. Jesus wants all people to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him so that they too can share in the everlasting life of the Father. Anyone who believes in Him can share in God's love. Jesus extends to everyone a share in His relationship with the Father, because if we remain in Christ, we are also known and loved by the Father. Jesus again promises His love for those who love Him and says: "anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him." As we prepare for the feast of Pentecost in two weeks' time, may we pray to the Holy Spirit to convert us in times of sorrow, enlighten us in times of darkness and make us brave and strong in times of weakness. May we pray constantly: "Come Holy Spirit, come by means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Your well beloved Spouse." (Fr. Guy)

PARISH DIARY
MAY 2020

16 Saturday of the 5th week of Easter

● 9.00am private Mass at St John's—Intention: all parishioners

● Reconciliation: by appointment

● 6.00pm private Mass at St. John's—Intention: all parishioners
17 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

● 8.30am private Mass at St. Monica's—Intention: all parishioners

● 10.00am private Mass at St. John's—Intention: all parishioners

18 Monday, St John I, pope, martyr

● 9.00am Mass at St John's
10 Parishioners (max)

9.30-10.00am Reconciliation

19 Tuesday,

● 9.00am Mass at St John's
10 Parishioners (max)

9.30-10.00am Reconciliation

20 Wednesday, St Bernardine of Siena, priest

● 8.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

● 9.00am Mass at St John's
10 Parishioners (max)

9.30-10.00am Reconciliation

21 Thursday, St Christopher Magallanes, priest, and companions, martyrs

● 12.00pm Mass at St John's
10 Parishioners (max)

12.30-1.00pm Reconciliation

22 Friday, St Rita of Cascia, religious

● 9.00am Mass at St John's
10 Parishioners (Max)

9.30-10.00am Reconciliation

23 Saturday,

● 9.00am Mass at St John's
10 Parishioners (Max)

9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation at St John's
6.00pm Mass at St. John's
10 Parishioners (Max)

24 Sunday, The ASCENSION of the LORD

● 8.30am Mass at St. Monica's
10 Parishioners (Max)

● 10.00am Mass at St. John's
10 Parishioners (Max)

● 2.00pm Mass at St. John's
10 Parishioners (Max)

URGENT MESSAGE-ST JOHN'S CHURCH
RE-OPENS on 18 MAY 2020

Archbishop Julian Porteous in consultation with the State Government and Health Officials will open all Catholic churches in Tasmania to the faithful on Monday 18 May. There will be strict Government regulations in place to allow not more than 10 people in a church at a time. On 15 June the number allowed will increase to 20 and on 13 July, 50-100 people will be allowed to gather in church under strict regulations. As we approach the liturgical feast of Pentecost on 31 May, let us pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and be filled with God's love. May our prayer at this time be: Come Holy Spirit come by means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Your well beloved Spouse.

SAFETY PLAN FOR MASS ATTENDANCE

18th May—14th June

1. Our attendance week is Monday-Sunday (incl)
2. Parishioners may attend 1 Mass only Monday – Sunday (dispensation will apply indefinitely)
3. Please sign the register at the door with your name, best contact details. (This fills our government obligation)
4. Someone at the door may have the unhappy duty of explaining that there are already 10 people in.
5. Social distancing to be maintained.
6. We know that this will create inconvenience but we are bound by law, and we know you will all understand. (Fr. Guy)

**EXTRA SUNDAY MASS:
2:00PM at St. John's**

May—Month of Mary

All are encouraged to pray the Rosary during the month of May. Pray as a family if possible for the eradication of Coronavirus, family life and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Pope Francis encourages families to pray the Rosary together during the month of May. He also suggests to say two prayers at the end of the Rosary for God's mercy and freedom from this terrible pandemic. Please find them in the newsletter.

Fleecy blankets – Vinnies Winter Appeal

To my fellow Parishioners,
Every year about this time we begin to collect fleecy blankets and take them to Vinnies who distribute them from Loui's van. This year it is not possible to do so. But the need is still there for those who need some extra support particularly in winter. May I suggest you consider donating the amount you might have spent on a blanket and give it to the Vinnies Winter appeal? <http://www.vinnies.org.au/home-tas>. Hopefully next year, we will see our usual colourful display of blankets gathering in the Church when we too can gather as a community. In the meantime, keep well. (Mary Parsissons)

Ministers of the Word and Communion

In the hope that we will soon be able to gather together again new rosters will be drawn up. If you know you will be unavailable between 1 June and 30 August could you please let Threesa or Jo (0419 510 014) know before 24 May.

A 7 week Kapaun's Men Virtue Programme

Contact Ben Smith on ben.smith@aohtas.org.au to register or for more information. Also check Kapaun's Men website: <http://www.kapaunsmen.com>.

Parish Volunteers who visit Nursing Homes—Flu Vaccination required

Parish volunteers coming to visit nursing homes in the St. John's Parish area are required to have had a flu vaccination in the past few months. (Sr. Pam)

Young Adult Online Groups (16-35 Years of age)

All young people are encouraged to be part of two online groups open for all youth in Archdiocese. The first group "Illuminate": Sunday Gospel Readings in Lectio Divina Style. The second group "The Meet Up": talks from guest speakers, time for fellowship, discussion & prayer. Further information, please contact Tomasz Juszcak on Tomasz.juszcak@aohtas.org.au.

Weekly Collection (9 / 10 May)

Envelopes: \$2,540.00 | Direct Deposit: \$490.00
TOTAL: \$3,030.00 | Weekly Budget: \$2,500.00 | Difference: +\$530.00
We thank you for your ongoing support!

OUR SICK - Please remember in your prayers:

Maila Beekmeijer, Lani Baron, Alida Beric, Nell Smith, Eileen Sherrin, Don Ambler, Doreen Street, Fr Bob Curmi, Frances Direen, Anne Hansch, Tom Carty, Judy Pigden, Ian Irvine, Robert Campbell, Mary Dowd, Monique Matzner, Amy Matzner and Patricia Leamey.

Prayers for the Deceased

Please remember in your prayers our deceased parishioners, family and friends especially Patrick Dowd, Silvana Paternoster, Peter Drake, Raelene Di Martino, Ken Young and Frank Hesman. Eternal rest grant unto their souls O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

**Prayers written by Pope Francis
to be offered at the conclusion of the Rosary
by households and individuals each day during May**

First Prayer



O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.
"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.

*We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin*

Mosaic, Mother of the Church, overlooking St Peter's Square, Vatican City

Second Prayer



"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".
In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment. Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone. Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity. Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future. Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer. Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Mosaic, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

Fr Richard Hendrick OFM

Brother Richard is a priest-friar of the Irish branch of the Capuchin Franciscan Order. For over twenty years he has worked to bring the insights of the Christian contemplative tradition to greater public awareness, particularly with reference to modern mindfulness theory. He served as director of youth ministry for the Irish Capuchins for over ten years and has worked extensively at both secondary and third level as a retreat-giver and chaplain. He is one of the core developers of the Shekinah Youth Retreat Ministry Training Programme. He has also worked in hospital and prison relief chaplaincy roles and in parish work and was head of chaplaincy in UCC for three years.



Lockdown

Brother Richard Hendrick, a Capuchin Franciscan living in Ireland, has penned a touching poem about coronavirus.

To access YouTube Clip, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8q2xh54HtY>

ISOLATION:

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

(Continued on next page)

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing

Fr Richard Hendrick OFM, 13th March 2020