

Our origin story

The first reading today comes from the book of Deuteronomy. Moses gives his last words of wisdom and warning to the Israelites before they enter the Promised Land. It is the blockbuster conclusion to the Torah.

In both Christian and Jewish Bibles, Deuteronomy is the fifth book. The first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) are called the Torah, "Law." By telling the story of creation and the ancestral origins of Israel from Abraham to Joseph (Genesis); of Moses and the liberation of Israel from Egypt to the giving of the Law at Mt Sinai (Exodus); of the invitation, dangers and wonders of living in close proximity to God (Leviticus); of the journey through the desert wilderness (Numbers); and of the parting words of Israel's great leader at their journey's end (Deuteronomy), the Torah unveils the role of God's chosen people in history and recounts their covenant with God.

If you were to ask a stranger, "Who are you?" He would likely tell you stories about his hometown and family. This is what the Torah does for Israel, as well as for Christians. It is our origin story.

Deuteronomy means "second law." It is basically a long speech. Moses says, or says again, everything he wants to say to the people he led out of Egypt and through 40 years of wandering in the desert before he dies. Imagine you are a parent and your daughter is graduating from university and leaving home for the first time to live on her own. What would you want to say? You would probably want to say something that will always remain with her, that will help steer her life in the right direction, something to remember when things are difficult, as much as when things are good. This is what Moses does in Deuteronomy.

Moses's great speech has three large sections. The first part (chapters 1-11) begins with a sober reminder of what has happened since Israel left Egypt and of the failures of the people and the grace of God. It is also a rousing challenge to respond to God's mercy with love.

The second section (chapters 12-26) explains what love means: obedience. It is a repetition of the Laws Israel was given at Mt Sinai and an expansion on them for the new generation.

The third section (chapters 27-34) intensifies the speech, setting out Israel's options as does a fork in the road: love and obedience to God's commands spell blessing and life, while disobedience has the consequence of curse and death, culminating in exile from the Land.

The final chapters predict Israel's later exile and promise a great reversal of Israel's fortune through a "circumcision of the heart." Among these is today's reading. God has big plans for Israel on the world stage, and what plans are revealed, finally, in the New Testament.

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

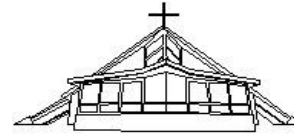
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Fifteenth Sunday Year C

14th July 2019

Today's Reading:

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Colossians 1:15-20;

Luke 10:25-37



Next Sunday's Readings:

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Genesis 18:1-10; Colossians 1:24-28;

Luke 10:38-42

Weekend Mass times:

Saturday vigil	6:00 pm	Church of the Incarnation, Lindisfarne,
Sunday	8.30 am	John Paul II, Rokeby
	10.30 am	Corpus Christi, Bellerive
	6:00 pm	Corpus Christi, Bellerive

Weekday Masses

Tuesday	12:00pm	Church of the Incarnation, Lindisfarne
Wednesday	12:00pm	Corpus Christi, Bellerive
Thursday	10:00 am	John Paul II, Rokeby
Friday	9:30 am	Corpus Christi, Bellerive

Dear Parish Family,

We are only one week away from the Ordination to the Priesthood of local parishioner Ben Brooks. Ben will be ordained on Friday evening at St Mary's Cathedral in a Mass commencing at 7pm. You are all most welcome to attend and support Ben with your presence and your prayers on this most significant occasion. Ben will celebrate his First Mass of Thanksgiving at John Paul II Church in Rokeby on Saturday 20th July at 10.30am. Again, all are welcome.

I will unfortunately miss the celebrations surrounding Ben Brooks' Ordination as I have a previous rather extravagant commitment of helping to celebrate the wedding of the youngest son of some great friends of mine. I have known this young man since he was in primary school, and shared some of life's big moments with him through my ministry with youth and young adults over the years. The complication, and extravagance, is that the wedding is in Bydgoszcz, three hours west of Warsaw in Poland! Fr Fidelis will hold the fort while I am away for 12 days.

This week also sees the commencement of contract cleaners taking up the task of regularly cleaning our churches in the parish. This is a significant move in that it marks the end of the practice of volunteers performing this role as they have for so many decades. It is perhaps a sign of the reality of our aging population of practicing parishioners. My thanks go to all of you who have at some time or another made yourselves available for this hidden ministry in our community. Special thanks are reserved for Helen and David Wilson who have coordinated the Bellerive roster for a couple of decades. It is intended that we hold a thank you afternoon tea for all retiring cleaners in the coming weeks, so keep your ear to the ground for that.

Best wishes for a great week,

Fr Richard

ORDINATION AND FIRST MASS

Deacon Ben Brooks, who grew up in this parish, will be ordained on Friday 19th in St Mary's Cathedral. We are privileged to have him celebrate his first Mass at John Paul 11 Church with morning tea to follow. All are welcome to come and celebrate with Ben and his family.

BELLERIVE LINDISFARNE COMMUNITY

We invite you and your group to our Winter Wonderland afternoon tea and entertainment by the Black Cherries, . Lindisfarne Activities Centre on Wednesday July 24 2019 at 1.30 pm. If you would like further information or help with transport please call Catrina Boon 0417439269 or Mary Hemming 0438136396

The John Wallis Memorial Lecture 2019 will be presented by an experienced educational leader, Deborah Kent. Deborah, the CEO and Principal of Jesuit College of Spirituality, Melbourne, will speak on "*CONTINUING THE JOURNEY – charitable engagement with new frontiers*" at Guilford Young College (Hobart) on **Thursday 12 September**, at 7pm. All interested people are invited to attend. further information: Eva Dunn 0417 734 503 or eva.dunn@gmail.com

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Thank you to all those who have begun the process. Another session will be held on Tuesday at 10:00 am in the O'Loughlin room for those needing help with filling out forms for this and the police check.

Our aim is to ensure that all communities and organisations within the church are safe and reaching environments for people of all ages with special concern for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

EVANGELIUM CONFERENCE

This conference is designed to equip parishioners with a desire and capacity to reach out and evangelise. Keynote speaker Robert Falzon at St Bernard's church Claremont 30th-31st August. Cost \$65 includes lunch, dinner, morning and afternoon tea. For bookings go to www.eventbrite.com.au