

## *From Martha, on reflection*

Ever had one of those days when you realise you haven't exactly been your best self? I'm hoping you might understand how it was for me on one particular day when Jesus visited our home in Bethany. He often came to see us, and my sister Mary and brother Lazarus and I loved to make him welcome.

Jesus' human friendship and love for the people around him was pretty special, and I was lucky enough to be one of those women he counted among his closest friends. So, of course when I heard he was in the area I started cleaning and planning the menu.

I wanted to be a good hostess, and I was the one who actually welcomed him into our home. Now, to understand what happened later that day you need to know something about our Jewish society at the time. As women, Mary and I didn't have any of the rights enjoyed by men. We had no place in social life outside the home, and people expected us to devote ourselves exclusively to household tasks.

We were viewed as being inferior to men, and certainly didn't have the same status they had before the law. In our religious life, it was the same story. We were kept on the margins, and the scribes didn't accept us as disciples. In fact, men would recite a prayer each day, thanking God that they had not been born a woman. So that's how it was for us.

Then Jesus came along. This man treated us with respect and openness, compassion and sympathy, with no prejudices and none of the stereotypes we were used to. We'd never heard anyone talk about God the way he did. He even challenged the moral standards which judged us more harshly than men. So anyway, as I said, I wanted to receive him with great affection into our home. I suppose I was doing exactly what was expected of me, waiting on the group. Well, I didn't mind this too much, except that I thought Mary should have been with me in the kitchen.

Note to self: on reflection: I should have given it more thought before I made a fuss about what was happening. Jesus was trying to get through to me, and I was too flustered at the time to see it. In having Mary sitting at his feet like a disciple, he was refusing to act like the scribes. He was telling us that as women we weren't inferior and that women could expect equality from the arrival of God's reign.

He didn't want me to think I belonged in the kitchen just because I was a woman. He was letting me know that we have the same right as men to the 'better part' which is hearing the word of God. I learnt a big lesson that day, and it has stayed with me.

Sue Kane©Redemptorists 2019

## Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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## Sixteenth Sunday Year C

21st July 2019

### Today's Reading:

Genesis 18:1-10;

Colossians 1:24-28;

Luke 10:38-42

### Next Sunday's Readings:

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:12-14;

Luke 11:1-13;



### 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	10:45	Freemasons Home Lindisfarne
	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,

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are (should and must be) the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ (Gaudium et spes, art. 1.).

Dear friends, our world is a family. Some call it a global village. In an ideal family setting, everyone must care for everyone since what makes a family is not the possessions but the love in it. In the same way, a village can only exist when its leaders have the interests of all at heart.

God created our world not as separate entities but as one family/village. We are the guardians of this family (Gen. 1:28-30). Of what importance is a guardian and a member of a family if he/she does not love, tolerate and respect the members of the family? Of what importance is a member of a village if all that he/she does is to cause disunity and hate among the dwellers? Of what significance is a family if it fails to care for its vulnerable, weak and oppressed members? Maybe these questions made Mahatma Gandhi to say that “the greatness of a nation (family, Church and village) is not dependent on its wealth and power, but on the way it treats its weakest members.”

During the week, a tweet; ‘Go back to where you came from,’ ‘you can leave...’ from the president of the world’s most powerful nation caused fear and anger among many members of our global village. While many have tried to validate what the president said, others have condemned it as a racist statement. I like to join my voice with those who condemned this statement and I believe that we should all do the same. The only language that everyone understands in a family is love not power and hate. This common language is spoken by Abraham and Sarah in the first reading (Gen 18:1-10). In this passage, Abraham and Sarah care for the weakest (the strangers), later in the passage, we see that the strangers were angels who appeared as homeless and needy people. As a reward for their goodness, God blessed Abraham and Sarah with a child who was named Isaac. The question for the week is – how much love do I give to this world?

Have a blessed week dear friends.

Fr Fidelis

### **CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME FR BEN**

Congratulations and God’s blessings on Fr Ben who was ordained on Friday evening at St Mary’s Cathedral. We pray that God will continue to guide him as he serves the people of Tasmania.

Today we welcome Fr Ben who celebrates 8.30 Mass at John Paul 11.

### **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](mailto:eva.dunn@gmail.com)

### **WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

Thank you to all those who have completed their working with vulnerable people and police checks.

### **DISCOVERING GLOBAL MISSION**

How can our skills create better opportunities for disadvantaged people? Communities in Timor Leste, PNG, Samoa, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to build local capacity. These assignments are not quick fixes. Find out how teacher Helena Charlesworth assisted communities in four countries over 25 years, and how sharing your skills can immerse you in a world of deep cultural discovery. Qualified medics, teachers, tradies, business and admins are always required.

Palms Meet & Greet: Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm

Anvers Chocolate Cafe 9025 Bass Highway, LATROBE

### **PETER’S PENCE ANNUAL COLLECTION**

Envelopes are available in the foyer this weekend.