

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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Fr Richard Ross PP

Dear Parish Family,

Today's Feast of the Ascension reminds us of the place of faith in our lives as we acknowledge the apparent absence of Jesus, yet experience his presence in other ways. Jesus is present through the power and action of the Holy Spirit who is present in our lives and at work in the church and the world in extraordinary and wonderful ways. The Holy Spirit, whose coming we celebrate at Pentecost next week, continues Jesus' ministry of healing and self-giving love through the Sacraments of the Church, but also in countless other ways. The gifts of the Holy Spirit bear fruit in our lives, and help us to bear witness to our faith as followers of the Way of Jesus.

The Ascension also provides hope for us on our pilgrim journey, as we proclaim that where Christ the "Head" has gone, so we, the "Body", hope to follow in the fullness of time. Christ goes before us to the heavenly Kingdom of his Father to prepare a place for us: "I am going now 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." (Jn 14:2-3) We hold on to this hope and find comfort and strength in this promise of Jesus.

Along with their families, we welcome the remainder of the children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation at Masses this weekend as they are presented with the creed. We may not understand every aspect of this statement of faith just yet, because the words to capture and express an experience of God are often beyond us. We can simply experience God through his Holy Spirit and express a deep gratitude for the love, peace and joy that is in our lives. With all its ritual and symbolism, this is what our celebration of Eucharist seeks to do.

As we contemplate these mysteries of our faith, let us pray this week in particular, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon the candidates for Confirmation, and will be renewed in our hearts and community in wonderful ways as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost.

Fr Richard

COVID Update: once we have completed the registration process for each venue and have received approval from the Tasmanian Government, our churches will once again return to 100% capacity. The use of the Check-in Tas App will be mandatory, and hand hygiene and social distancing practices still required as we enter and leave the church.

Thank you all for your support throughout this journey, and especially to our fantastic team of COVID volunteers.

The Vinnies Winter Appeal will be held from **next** weekend. Your donations by envelope contributions and by providing blankets, doonas, jumpers, coats and general clothing will be greatly appreciated and can make a real difference to the lives of the people we support. Please return your contribution in the envelopes provided to the collection plate over the next week or so. Plastic bags for clothing donations are also available for return to the church foyer over the next few weeks.

Contemplating God's gift of Mary.

This year has been dedicated by Pope Francis to the Holy Family. In May, the traditional month of Mary, we are invited to ponder what it was like for her, Joseph and Jesus in their early years together, and the relevance of this in our own lives. Copies are available at all Masses

A Synodal Catholic Church: Dream or Reality

Concerned Catholics Tasmania invites all to hear Phyl Billington (from Canberra) lead a discussion on synodality at our AGM. Highly experienced working with many Parish Pastoral Councils, lay groups and in Cath Ed for over 30 years, she is passionate about us moving to the synodal Church Pope Francis has called us to be.

When: Saturday May 22 from 10.00 to 12.30 at St Patrick's College, Launceston.

Register at: hello@concernedcatholicstasmania.org or call 0418 762 922.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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| Saturday | 6:00pm | Church of the Incarnation (Reconciliation 5:30) |
| Sunday | 8:30am | John Paul II (Live streamed) |
| | 10:30am | Corpus Christi |
| | 6:00pm | Corpus Christi |

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

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| Wednesday | No Mass | |
| Thursday | 12:00pm | John Paul II |
| Friday 7 th | 9:30am | Corpus Christi |

Next week's Readings: Acts 2:1-11; Gal 5: 16-25; Jn 15:26-27, 16:12-15