

New way of belonging

In today's gospel we return to the upper room, before the death and resurrection of Jesus, seeking to understand what has happened over the past few weeks. It's a reminder that these events are all a piece of a puzzle and, in speaking of them, John's gospel seeks to bring love into a more intense focus.

Amidst talk of betrayal, the washing of the feet has occurred, revealing the pattern of our lives. After Jesus has handed him a 'morsel', Judas has left the gathering, at which point we hear these words. They're the beginning of Jesus' last words to his disciples before they step into the night together. Now, Jesus declares, is the moment – but for what? For the glory of God to be revealed, in Jesus. In this, both God and Jesus are to be glorified. Then, addressing them affectionately as, "my little children," he lets them know his time is short and continues to speak the meaning of his life.

He gives them a new word to live by, a new commandment: "love one another; just as I have loved you." It can seem so familiar that we hardly hear it. But how has Jesus loved us? Unto death, on a cross – dying so we might live. There's the catch. It's not a sentimentality, it's a daily challenge for us all. What does it mean to say, dying we live? To live in this way?

You probably won't find it being spoken about in the self-help books, nor in the mission statements in our workplaces and elsewhere, and you can see a similar dynamic at work in what was once said to a parish: "downplay the cross and stress community," thereby denying the basis of our community.

For his part, Jesus declares this love to be who we are -- it's our identity – which we acknowledge every time we make the sign of the cross and each time we celebrate the Eucharist. It's by this love we have for one another that we'll be known as his disciples, not by any other criteria. This is to be the sign of those who belong to the new family, the Body of Christ, that is being formed through the shared meal and his death and his resurrection.

It's a new way of belonging to one another, so that the empty tomb becomes a womb out of which we're born this Easter. The sign of this new birth is our loving one another, 'as I have loved you'. Thus is the glory of God revealed, made real in our lives.

This is what's happening in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles and, when it happens, then, as in the second reading from the Apocalypse, the whole of creation is made new and God's name is indeed, 'God-with-them', with us.

Damian Coleridge
Redemptorists 2019

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

Fr Richard Ross PP

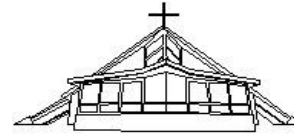
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Fifth Sunday of Easter Year C

19th May 2019

Today's Reading:

Acts 14:21-27;

Apocalypse 21:1-5;

John 13:31-35

Next Sunday's Readings:

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

Acts 15:1-2,22-29;

Apocalypse 21:10-14;

John 14:23-29



Weekend Mass times:

Saturday 6:00pm Vigil Lindisfarne,

Sunday 8.30 am John Paul II

10.30 am, 6:00pm Corpus Christi

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 12:00noon Corpus Christi

Thursday 10:00am John Paul 11 Rokeby

Friday 9:30am Corpus Christi Bellerive

Dear Parish Family,

This week we will hold the parent information evening for parents of children who will be preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist over the coming months. This programme represents probably the most significant opportunity of the year to demonstrate our hospitality and sense of welcome as people of God. It is easy to become resentful of the interlopers who take our seats and distract our prayer. This attitude is not born of God's Spirit!

In 2008 the Australian Bishops wrote a pastoral letter about reconnecting Catholics who don't feel that they belong in our church:

"What can we do to address this situation? Firstly, we must ensure that our parish communities are genuinely welcoming and respectful. Why should people come back to us if the welcome they receive is no better than it was previously?"

This is a challenge and opportunity for every one of us. To put yourself in the shoes of the parent who is nervous and unsure coming along to church for the first time in ages: if one person frowns or sighs in their direction, they are going to feel uneasy; but if they are greeted by smiles and offered space in your pew, it can make all the difference. Let us put our best foot forward and give these families a reason to come back more often.

The opportunity to sign up as prayer partners of the young candidates is also a valuable way of offering support and encouragement. Leaflets will be available at Masses next weekend once the names of candidates have been finalised.

Have a great week!
Fr Richard

SACRAMENTS PARENT MEETING: An information evening for parents of children intending to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this year will be held in Corpus Christi Church on Wednesday 22nd May at 7pm

MOVIE NIGHT: "Summer in the Forest" is a film about Jean Vanier and the L'Arche Community screening at the State Cinema on Wednesday 22nd May at 6pm. Booking essential (\$26) at www.summerintheforest.com.au. Enquiries: John Coleman 0401 489 728



WALK WITH CHRIST – Hobart City, Sunday 23rd June 1:15 to 3:00 pm. Celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ by walking with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through the city of Hobart. Be at St Joseph's Church (Harrington St) by 1.15 pm, and walk with us to St Mary's Cathedral for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction concluding at 3:00. There will be a 'cuppa' afterwards. If you can't do the walk come to the Cathedral at 2:00 for prayer and Adoration.

Bible Study: Genesis to Jesus - An Overview of the Bible. The Verbum Domini Institute is offering a survey of the bible from the Catholic perspective. Starting with the narratives of creation and Noah's ark, we will trace the history of salvation as it unfolds in a series of covenants that God makes with his chosen people. The course covers the pivotal events and characters of the Old Testament leading up to their fulfilment in Jesus and his Church. **When:** Wednesdays 6.30- 8.30pm, 29th May, 12th & 26th June. **Cost:** \$20 for study guide. **Where:** Murphy Room, Diocesan Centre, 35 Tower Rd, New Town. **Register:** 6208-6236.

UNIT RENTAL ACCOMODATION REQUIRED. A parishioner with three small children is seeking to relocate from a larger rental accommodation to a smaller, more affordable, unit or granny flat type rental accommodation. If you can help, or wish to discuss, please contact Fr. Richard on 0408 377 807

THANK YOU Through the providential intervention of doctors at the RHH and Melbourne and the wonders of modern medicine Josephine Dare has almost fully recovered and she is most grateful and anxious that parishioners be advised of her "miraculous" recovery following her recent Stroke.