

Jesus in our lives

Today's reading from John's Gospel tells us of Jesus' third appearance to the disciples after his resurrection. Last week, we heard of the first appearance when Thomas was absent, then of a second appearance when Thomas touches Jesus' wounds and believes that the Lord is indeed risen. Jesus tells them (and us): "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." This time, the disciples are out fishing, still slow to catch on to what is now asked of them as Jesus' disciples. It has been an unsuccessful evening, with no catch at all. Jesus waits on the shore, although they don't recognise him. But on his instruction, they put the nets out again, this time catching a huge haul of 153 large fish. Peter then recognises Jesus and without a moment's hesitation, rushes to be with him. Jesus invites them for breakfast.

Now they all know it is Jesus. They share a simple meal of bread and fish. The gospel wants us to be very clear that this is no mere ghost that they see. It is truly and really Jesus, risen from the dead. After the meal, Jesus talks with Peter. Three times Jesus asks him, "Do you love me?" Peter, who not long before, when Jesus was being tried before his execution, had denied knowing Jesus three times. But now Peter says three times that he loves Jesus. Jesus tells Peter that his love will be put to the ultimate test, when Peter too will be executed by crucifixion. But Peter's faith and courage will not desert him then. Indeed he will insist that he is unworthy to die as the Lord has died and be crucified upside down.

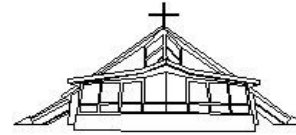
The gospel offers many points for our pondering today; let us ponder two of them. Firstly, we, like the disciples, don't always recognise the presence of the Lord Jesus in our lives. Even though he is there with us, we don't always recognise his presence. But not seeing him does not mean he is not there.

Jesus is always there, meeting us where we are in the very ordinary circumstances of our lives – in our work and our homes, in good times and in bad. He knows our weaknesses, failures and frustrations. He knows we love him. He also knows that our courage sometimes fails us, just as it did for Peter.

Secondly, the Lord asks that we who love him and choose to follow him care for one another, in the way that a good shepherd cares for his sheep and steadfastly attends to their needs, never deserting them. Just as the Lord shepherds us, in our own way and our own circumstances we are called to shepherd one another, especially those who are frail, suffering, lost or are in trouble.

Anne Hunt
Redemptorists 2019

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish



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Third Sunday of Easter Year C

5 May 2019

Today's Reading: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41;
Apocalypse 5:11-14; John 21:1-19



Next Sunday's Readings:

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C
Acts 13:14,43-52; Apocalypse 7:9,14-17;
John 10:27-30

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 No Mass
Thursday 10:00am John Paul 11 Rokeby
Friday 9:30am Corpus Christi Bellerive

Dear Parish Family,

As you can see from the Parish Pastoral Council report below there are a number of issues and initiatives coming to light in our parish, and many of these are sure to create exciting possibilities for building community and renewing our sense of mission as people of faith, hope and love.

The Safe Communities programme is one which will ask something of virtually everyone who undertakes any form of ministry in the parish. However, the Pastoral Council was adamant that it not be seen as a bureaucratic exercise but an informative and awareness raising exercise alongside the compliance issues it will raise. I ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the issues and requirements in coming months.

The new expression of the Parish Sacramental preparation programme is based on the RCIA model and as such will involve the candidates and their families attending Mass in the parish and participating in certain rites within the Sunday liturgy. We will be looking for some friendly parishioners to be a welcoming face, recording attendance and providing a reassuring explanation to candidates if they are nervous or unclear about what to do. These parishioners will be required to have a current Working with Vulnerable People card. Sign-up opportunities will be provided in coming weeks.

I will be on retreat this week, so Fr Fidelis is holding the fort. In an unfortunate clash, Fr Fidelis is required to be at a seminar with the Archbishop on Tuesday and Wednesday, so there will be no Mass in the parish those days. Personally, I have quite a load to work through on retreat, so please ask the Holy Spirit to be on the job!

May God bless you and those you love,

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

PPC REPORT

The Parish Pastoral Council had some vigorous discussion of a number of issues including the following:

The Safe Communities Programme and its implications for our parish

A proposed 2020 Parish Mission experience

The Parish Sacramental Preparation programme

The success of the Lindisfarne working bee and on-going maintenance issues

The situation with regard to the cleaning rosters for our churches

A review of our Easter services and discussion of future possibilities

GRACEFEST: Joy, Faith, Music, Fellowship, Talks, Discussion, Prayer for under 35’s. Featuring Fr. Rob Galea– Thursday 9th May 5:30-8:00pm St Mary’s College (entry from Brisbane Street) Entry is free but registration is essential: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gracefest-with-fr-rob-galea-tickets-59416014900>

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.

SRI LANKA APPEALS:

“Catholic Mission” are running a special appeal to support the people of Sri Lanka to rebuild their churches damaged in the terror attacks on Easter Sunday. To donate go to www.catholicmission.org.au and scroll down to the Sri Lanka appeal.

“Aid to the Church in Need” supports over 200 million persecuted Christians around the world, and they also have an appeal for the churches of Sri Lanka. Leaflets are in the foyer.

Catholic Bishops’ Statement on the federal election: The bishops call for respect in public debate, share Catholic social teaching and detail some key issues to reflect on before you vote. The statement is available at www.catholic.org.au