

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER / B

09 MAY 2021

LOVING ONE ANOTHER AS JESUS LOVED

We can only start to imagine the surprise and unsettling effect on Peter when Cornelius, a Roman centurion, prostrated himself before him. Cornelius was a representative of a hated and oppressive foreign government and here he publicly humiliates himself in front of a Galilean fisherman! Peter's own response is as generous and spontaneous as that of Cornelius: 'God has no favourites!' In saying this the barrier separating Jews and Gentiles is in the process of being shattered. When the gift of the Spirit is poured out so obviously on this Gentile household Peter can no longer see any reason to maintain long-held prejudices and instructs his companions to baptise them.

Breaking down barriers is at the heart of the readings for today as the Gospel invites us to no longer see God as a distant master to be feared. God loves us with that same love which leads Jesus to give his life for us. Changing our perception of God is one barrier to be overcome, but there is another, our perception of ourselves. Fear can keep us from God, from ourselves, and others. Invited to see ourselves as God's friends we are also invited to respond by sharing in Jesus' mission. To use the Gospel's words, we are commissioned to bear fruit, to overcome our reserve, and join in the task of loving one another as Jesus has already loved us. In Jesus' resurrection, we are not just saved from death, perhaps even more importantly, we are shown how to live.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 4: 7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

God is love.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

9 May 2021
6th Sunday Easter

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswestamworthparish.org/>



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Sacristan Elaine Smyth

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Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9 am and 5.30 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: *No Mass Tues: *No Mass
Wed: 12pm Thur: 9am Our Lady of Fatima
Fri: 9am St Matthias Sat: 9am

CONFESSIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
Proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.*

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Blagyna Nikolovski, John Parker, Rodney Oatley.

Anniversaries: Peg MacRae (2/5), Bill McLean (8/5), Hugh O'Brien (18/5), Sandy Murray (22/5), John Varga (1/6).

Deceased: Patrick Valentine McNicholas, Dalis O'Brien, Fay Sims, Steven Walton, Stephanie Cayley, Ronald Dietrich, Patricia Hawes, Norm Moran, Thomas Brown.

Sick: Fr Bernie Flood, Barbara Brennan, Monica Austin, Mimmie Bennett, Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Judy Cummins, Shirley Hobbs, Elaine White, Erin Hansen, Bill Press, Jenny Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Brindley Cavallaro, Rachel MacPherson, Jack & Marge Attard.

PADDY'S CORNER

Two Irish mothers were talking about their sons. The first said, "My Patrick is such a saint. He works hard, doesn't smoke, and he hasn't so much as looked at a woman in over two years."

The other woman said, "Well, my Francis is a saint himself. Not only hasn't he not looked at a woman in over three years, but he hasn't touched a drop of liquor in all that time."

"My word," the first Irish mother said. "You must be so proud." "I am," the second mother replied. "And when he's paroled next month, I'm going to throw him a big party."



COMING EVENTS

9 May: Mother's Day ♥♥ 31 July: Launch of Online Men's Gathering 2021

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

1st Collection: BSB 082105 ACC 001023642 **2nd Collection:** BSB 082105 ACC 001041198

Keep young as long as you can. (1874)



SOCIAL DISTANCING - ** REGISTER TO ENTER USING EITHER QR CODE - OR PAPER REGISTER
**** SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING**
**** KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
****SPRAY CLEANING PLEASE SPRAY BROADLY ABOVE SEATS AND NOT ON THE SEATS**



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY *We wish all our mothers, grandmothers, adopted mothers and mothers to be the most blessed Mothers Day this Sunday. May you all feel the tremendous love returned from those you love the most. Please see a small token gift in the seats for your enjoyment.*

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CORONA VIRUS: A special collection will be taken up next Sunday 16th May to send to the Philippines and India to assist with their struggle against the COVID19 pandemic currently causing havoc and despair in those countries. The funds collected will be forwarded to the La Salette Missionary Fathers in the Philippines and the Rogationist Missionary Fathers in India for them to distribute to people on the ground in communities where it is most needed. Our Diocese has a special relationship with both these missionary congregations and are appreciative that they can now help us to aid others in their respective countries with these funds from the parishioners of our Diocese.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST are being sought for the proposed new Parish Pastoral Committee. The Committee will be formed in the coming weeks to meet many new and exciting challenges as the Parish grows into the future and embraces new and important pastoral opportunities. Please contact Fr Anthony or email the Parish if you feel you can contribute your special gifts to assist our Parish in this important work.

THE NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE will be conducted throughout Australia again this weekend for three more weekends. It will be a simple head count; no other information about attendees will be collected. This is a count of attendance at ALL MASSES celebrated in the Diocese, including all parishes, non-parish centres, hospitals and chaplaincies. Volunteers for counting heads will be gratefully accepted.

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING FOR 2021 will be launched online on Saturday 31st July. The Diocese of Armidale will be holding its own Diocesan Catholic Men's Gathering as an in-person event on Saturday 16th October in Tamworth. This event will include the input being prepared by the ACBC for the National Catholic Men's Gathering as well as local input and content. *Aim: To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world.* Further to come.

DIMMING IN THE CHURCH: The lights in the Church are gradually failing. Unfortunately replacement of these lights forms a significant endeavour and cost. We have seen the improved savings made with updating of lighting in the presbytery and grounds and we would like to see the same in the Church. We hope to be able to address the issue in the not too distant future .

CRACKER'S TALES: To assist with the lighting project, we will aim to clear the stock of Cracker's Tales. The bargain price of \$10 will get you all the laughs you need. Please contact the office or speak with Fr Anthony after Mass or at the office if you would like to buy a copy

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 9/5/21 (Mothers Day)

Vigil: R D Bolitho R Palmer
9am Sun: R C Monet O Monet
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting Team P Sheils; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning 15/5 J Hutt & J Moran
Altar Linen E Jackson

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 16/5/21

Vigil: R C Greer P Bamford
9am Sun: R S Brown A Sartori
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray
Counting Team C Lavell; A Bowden
Sat Cleaning: 22/5 M Vella & R Pace
Altar Linen: B Flood