

# THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

17 MAY 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A

## MISSION STATEMENT

*St Theresa's Catholic Parish is a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community committed to living and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Under our baptismal mission and inspired by the Spirit, we are bread for one another and nourished we reach out to make a difference in the world.*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.

We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God's love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

*Dianne Bergant CSA*

## ST THERESA'S MASSES ON YOUTUBE

Wednesday mass at 9am each week is available on our YouTube channel.

Our YouTube channel is available on this link. Just click on the link printed here to access directly

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKTEmLMUB7sC4kfQ4V9oQ7Q>

Please subscribe to the channel when you get it as this will make it easier to find each week.

You will be able to watch it at another time after each Wednesday.

The video stays on the channel.

You can also watch the mass on Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, Highfields Facebook page.



## HEALING FOR THE SICK

### Parishioners:

**Francois Frichot**    **Len Pauli**

**Neville Preece**

**Moya Schaefer**

**Brian Carter**

### Friends and Family

**Kim Ireland** (Kathy Sternes friend)

**Peter Brown**

(Denis Brown's

Brother)

**Kate Sturgeon** (Rita Sturgeon's

Granddaughter)

**Anna Sellar**

(Trish & Terry Sheely's daughter)

**Bernadette Welch**

(friend of Bette Flamsteed)

**Kathleen le Gras**

(Sister of Sr Una)

**Shona Kraayvanger**

(Gabrielle Adam's daughter)

**Joe Short** (Powell family group)

**Indiana Harman**

(Ray & Madeline Taylor's

Granddaughter)

**Louis Gandini**

(Lina Pervan's brother)

**Robert Gandini**

(Lina Pervan's brother)

**Connie Bamgart**

(Lina Pervan's friend)

**Peter & Elaine Dillon**

(Vivienne Price's father & mother)

**Patricia Jenkins**

(Thel Jelley's cousin)

**Roslyn Morton** (Patrick's sister)

**Simon Riethmuller** (Shirley's son)

**Max Shearer**

(Grandson - Judy Shearer)

**John Mullen**

(Helen McNaught's nephew)

**Archie Mullen**

(Helen McNaught's brother)

**Rev. Brian Sparksman**

**Fr Peter McGrath .CP**

**John Morgan**

(Kathy Sternes Uncle)

**Molly Schmidt**

(Aileen Collins' friend)

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Johannes Van Der Veen**

**Vicki Spanjol**

**Richard Butler**

**Mons Edward Concannon**

**Mary Kalinowski**

**Tom Clark**

**Celie Lyons**

**Eddie Strickland**

**Jim Murphy**

**Pat O'Brien**

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Let us Begin

**All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

The scriptures continually subvert our desire for tidy catechism-style formulas.

Life is messy and confusing, so too the word of God. We might see in today's first reading grounds for a neat distinction between baptism (in Jesus' name) and confirmation (the giving of the Holy Spirit by the apostles' laying on of hands). This is confounded by other accounts of the freewheeling activity of the Spirit in the early church and by the later complex history of confirmation. What is clear, however, is today's urgent need for us, the people of God, to realise how gifted we are in word and spirit. Living this boldly will make for a messy church but that's exactly what Pope Francis welcomes.

### Gospel

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Reflection

*What do you think it means to be "given the Holy Spirit"? Do you believe you have received the Holy Spirit?*

*Have you ever had an experience of the Holy Spirit working in your life? What happened?*

*The Holy Spirit has many names like Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Wisdom, Comforter and Helper.*

*Who is the Holy Spirit to you?*

### Prayers for the community

**All:** God our Father sent the Paraclete to us as Jesus promised. United in the Spirit of Truth, let us pray for the needs of all our sisters and brothers.

1. For the world-wide church, our local diocese and our parish. May the church at every level be a vibrant community of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**
2. For a deepening awareness of the many ways in which God is with us: may we recognise God's creative hand in our world, in the daily events of our lives, in the beauty of nature, of music, the arts and most of all in the kindness of strangers and people we encounter. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**
3. For our families, friends and fellow parishioners. May the experience of the pandemic spur us to work all the more readily for a new world of justice, love and peace. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**
4. For the scientists will be guided in their work to develop vaccines for Covid-19 and other diseases. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**
5. For parish communities, that they will be sustained by their faith and the prayerful support of one another. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

*Pray for your own intentions. Together we pray the Our Father*

### Final prayer

Spirit Sending God, you continually renew our hope in the coming of the Spirit.

May we be strengthened by this Spirit to bear witness without fear to Jesus' dynamic presence among us. Amen

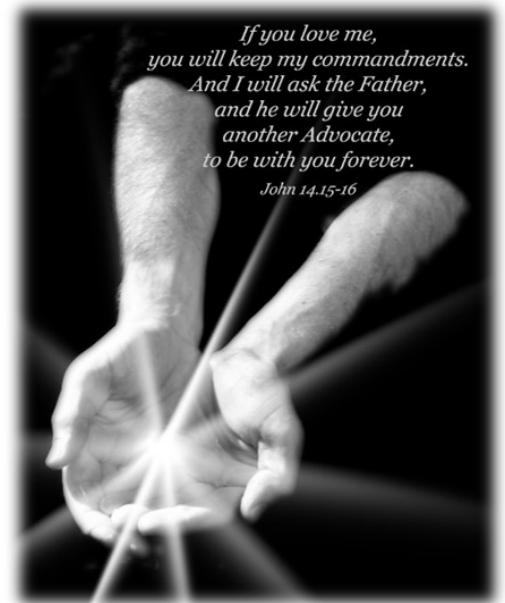
### Blessing

Through the resurrection of his Son, God has redeemed us and made us his children.

May the Lord bless us with joy and fill us with fruits of the Spirit.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**John 14: 15-21**



## Commentary on the Scripture readings for 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

In these final weeks of Eastertide the thought of the liturgy turns increasingly to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. This is foreshadowed today both in the **First Reading**, which tells of a 'mini-Pentecost' occurring in Samaria, and in the Gospel, where Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' which the disciples are to receive.

Central to the vision of the Acts of the Apostles is a sense of the Gospel as fanning out from Jerusalem, to all Judea, Samaria and (at the hands especially of Paul) to 'the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). Today's **First Reading**, Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, describes both the evangelising activity of Philip (not the apostle Philip but one of the Seven elected to assist the Apostles, as told last week [Acts 6:1-7]), and the follow-up activity on the part of the leading Apostles Peter and John.

### RECEIVING THE SPIRIT

The Samaritans had received the Word and been baptised 'in the name of the Lord Jesus'. But it was only when the Apostles laid hands on them that they received the Holy Spirit. This rather curious 'separation' between baptism and the coming of the Spirit in a way foreshadows the sacrament of Confirmation. However, the 'separation' should not be pressed too rigidly. Fundamentally, Christian Baptism does impart the Spirit. The narrative of Acts at this point probably has in mind a more experiential ('Pentecostal'!) awareness of the gift.

The **Gospel**, John 14:15-21, presents a further extract from Jesus' long discourse at the Last Supper. As we noted last week, the discourse oscillates back and forth between two understandings of Jesus' 'going away' and 'return'. On the more immediate level there is the 'going away' of his death and the 'return' of his appearances as risen Lord on the third day. At another level, the discourse addresses his more permanent 'going away' and absence from the disciples following his final return to the Father. The return 'on that day' of which he speaks would then be his return on the last day at the end of time.

### SHARING THE RISEN LIFE

But here there is more to say. The Fourth Gospel plays down the traditional expectation of Jesus' coming at the last day in the direction of emphasising his abiding presence in the community. This lies behind the statement: 'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live'. In contrast to 'the world' (unbelievers), for whom Jesus after his death will cease to exist, believers will 'see' him and 'also will live' in the sense of here and now experiencing his presence in the community and sharing his risen life.

Thus the passage continues to address directly the situation of the disciples in the period when his appearances as risen Lord have ceased, the situation of the Church that prevails to this day. Naturally, the disciples will feel the loss of his comforting physical presence. But if they grasp the sense in which he will continue to be present, they should not feel 'orphaned'.

In this connection Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' that he will ask the Father to give. (The implication is that Jesus himself has been a 'Paraclete' for the disciples during his earthly life.)

### COMFORTING PRESENCE

The essential idea behind 'Paraclete' is that of someone who stands beside you in time of difficulty, providing a comforting, supportive and encouraging presence. One thinks perhaps of a highly respected person whom you might ask to go to court with you and act as character witness. Such is the idea that the Gospel applies here (and in several other places) to the Spirit. Though Jesus may no longer be physically present, the comfort and assurance his presence gave the disciples during his lifetime will continue in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In the face of constant trial and rejection from the world, the Paraclete will be for the disciples 'the Spirit of Truth' in the sense of imparting to them a conviction that what they believe and hold on to is indeed reality in the most profound sense. We come close here to the fine statement in the Second Reading, 1 Peter 3:15-18: 'Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that is within you'.

### LOVE PREVAILS

Finally, we should note the way in which the Gospel begins and ends with the sense that believers 'have entered into the same reciprocity of love that unites the Father and the Son' (C. K. Barrett).

Though the language may suggest it to be the case, the Gospel does not mean that God's love is conditional upon human observance of the commandments. The essential commandment is that of love. What the Gospel is saying is that when the community is indeed one where love prevails, the atmosphere of love that it experiences is nothing other than a sharing in the communion of love that is the Godhead.

*Brendan Byrne, SJ, FAHA, taught New Testament at Jesuit Theological College, Parkville, Vic., for almost forty years. He is now Emeritus Professor at the University of Divinity (Melbourne). His commentaries on the Gospels can be found at [Pauline Books and Media](#).*





**CONTACTS**

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**Office:** 55 Curzon Street, Toowoomba

**Parish Website** [www.sttheresas.org.au](http://www.sttheresas.org.au)

**Parish Pastoral Council**

Fr Brian Noonan, Michael Murtagh, Tim Burgess,  
Bernadette Zimbwa, Gailene Jurgs, Matt Boyd, David  
Wilson, Trish Kennedy-Lee, Lauren Newman,  
Monica Brennan.

**Finance Committee**

Fr. Brian Noonan, Pat Morton, Warren Dredge,  
Ray Taylor, Shane Blakeley, Brian Wilson,  
Pat Richardson, Alfia Ginardi.

**Liturgy Team**

Fr. Brian Noonan, Jan Mayo, Peter Kenny, Libby  
Rosentreter, Monica Brennan, Gay Jorgensen.  
Suzanne Cavanagh, Elizabeth Stewart.

**Musicians**

Norma Kenny, Kathy Sternes, Elizabeth Stewart,  
Libby Rosentreter.

**Baptism Team:**

Cath Kelly, Jenny Ryan, Tracy George, Bernadette Hede,  
Alison Daniel, Anne Anderson, Jan Watkins, Maureen  
Burke, Angela Irvine, Mary Otto, Jane Burgess,  
Catherine Cooper.

**Sacramental Team:**

Monica Brennan, Angela Martlew, David Wilson,  
Gay Jorgensen.

**Consolation Team:**

Fr Brian Noonan, Lyn McRae, Peter Kenny,  
Bette Flamsted, Pam Merritt, Alf Mason, Moya Schaefer,  
Josephine Nolan, Liz Phelan, Monica Brennan

**Welcome & Hospitality Team:**

Paul & Kathryn Marangelli,  
Maureen Burke.

**Family Groups:**

Contact Parish Office 4639 4688

**Care & Concern Team**

Coordinator: Pamela Merritt

**RCIA**

Coordinator: David Wilson



**NOTICE**

**DAILY MASSES ON LINE**

**St Theresa's East Toowoomba—9am mass Wednesday**  
Available through our youtube channel—St Theresa's East Toowoomba. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKTEmLMUB7sC4kfQ4V9oQ7Q>

**Archdiocese of Brisbane -** <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast-schedule/> **8 am Mass daily**

**Diocese of Townsville –** [www.tsv.catholic.org.au](http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au) or  
[youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV](https://www.youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV) **10am Mass daily**

**Diocese of Rockhampton –** [www.rok.catholic.net.au](http://www.rok.catholic.net.au) or  
[Youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton](https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton) **12noon Mass daily**

**Diocese of Cairns -** [www.cairns.catholic.org.au](http://www.cairns.catholic.org.au) OR [YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq...) **Diocese of Cairns 5.30pm Mass daily**

**Archdiocese of Sydney –** [www.stmarycathedral.org.au](http://www.stmarycathedral.org.au)  
**9am Mass daily –** at the Cathedral.

See website for other parish masses

**Archdiocese of Melbourne –** [www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass](http://www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass)  
**1pm Daily Mass Monday-Friday –** any changes of times can be viewed on website.

**8am Daily Mass Saturday**

**SUNDAY MASSES ON LINE**

**Toowoomba Diocese –** [www.twb.catholic.org.au](http://www.twb.catholic.org.au)

**9am Mass each Sunday** available through direct link via home page on web site OR search youtube – Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba OR Facebook- Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

**Archdiocese of Brisbane -** <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast-schedule/> **8am and 10am Mass each Sunday**

**Diocese of Townsville –** [www.tsv.catholic.org.au](http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au) or  
[youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV](https://www.youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV) **10am Mass each Sunday**

**Diocese of Rockhampton –** [www.rok.catholic.net.au](http://www.rok.catholic.net.au) or  
[Youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton](https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton) **9.30am Mass each Sunday**

**Diocese of Cairns -** [www.cairns.catholic.org.au](http://www.cairns.catholic.org.au) OR [YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq...) **Diocese of Cairns 10am and 5.30pm each Sunday**

**Archdiocese of Sydney –** [www.stmarycathedral.org.au](http://www.stmarycathedral.org.au)  
**10.30 am Mass daily -** at the Cathedral.

See website for other parish masses

**5pm Liturgy of the Hours –** Vespers and Benediction

**Archdiocese of Melbourne –** [www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass](http://www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass)  
**11am Mass each Sunday**

**PLANNED GIVING ST THERESA'S**

We have had a number of enquiries from parishioners asking how they can pay their Planned Giving contributions.

One way is to make a Direct Deposit if you wish.

The bank details are listed below.

CBA: Arch Diocese of Brisbane

BSB:064 786 Account Number: 100014392

Please reference your envelope number if you have one.

If you have transferred funds to the

account listed last week, can you

**please contact Janet at the office**

**PH: 4639 4688**



**OTHER RESOURCE SITES WHICH CAN BE  
ACCESSED DURING THIS TIME OF ISOLATION**

**MyParishApp**

Visit [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com) to download our parish app.

1. Download myParish App
2. Select St Theresa's Toowoomba after opening the App and you will receive the bulletin, messages and other useful resources.

**LiturgyHelp**

LiturgyHelp have created free access to individual and family prayer resources for Catholics in social isolation.

1. Go to [liturgyhelp.com/aus/pray](http://liturgyhelp.com/aus/pray). Once you have gone to this site, follow the directions to create a login.
2. Liturgyhelp also have a facebook page which you can access if you are a facebook user.