

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

20th April 2008

THEME: John 14: 1-12

As this Easter season continues, we are busy about many things. Let us take time now, for the next hour, to put aside all our busyness and pray quietly for the coming of the Spirit into our lives.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Friday 25th April - ANZAC DAY

Saturday 26th April - Mark, evangelist

LIVING STONES

The church is described as being made up of people, living stones founded on the cornerstone of Our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no talk here of pews or pulpit, bricks or mortar or stained glass.

Centered on Jesus and keenly sensitive to the overtures of the Holy Spirit, **all the people of God**, whether they meet on a slab of concrete in the open air (church razed after hurricane) or in the desert of Darfur where violence and death are a daily experience, **they are the church**. The church calls God "Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ", and those who gather in faith constitute church. Whether black, olive, white or ruddy in complexion; whether male or female, old or young; whether free to believe or struggling against empire - all are church. All are called by name and called out of the morass of worldliness to live by faith in solidarity with one another.

Characterised by solidarity, the church is a collective of living beings who work hard at overcoming the natural contradiction between neighbour and enemy, between outsiders and insiders, so that enemies become kin. The basis of this solidarity is love or compassion - that emotion that wells up from the pit of one's stomach at the sight of another's need.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Lionel Jansen, Eileen Gill, Kelly Harty, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Jack Walker, Marjory Stott, Stephen Aldridge, Cameron Thompson, Joe Mullavey, Gerri Boldrini, Mary Egan, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Allanah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams,

Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook and Luke Westaway.

Grant eternal life to:

Len Egan, Max Waite, May Bourke, Fred Diamond, Rick Dignam, Leo Carberry, Nellie Elliott, James McEnaney, Nathan Frances and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Marilen Carmona, Anthony Carmona and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Malcolm Nicholson and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

CHLOE BRERETON

CLARE BRERETON

LILY GROVES

FOR YOUR DIARY

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

The Anzac Day Mass Service will be held on Friday 25th April 2008 at St Patrick's Church, Cnr. Smollett and Olive Streets at 7.00am. Complimentary hot tea/coffee and biscuits available immediately after the Mass.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the Holy Places Special Collection on Good Friday and the Special Collections for Vocations last weekend.

This parish collected \$452.00 for Holy Places and \$1,402.00 for Vocations.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the CWL will be held on Monday 21st April 2008 at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS - BLOOD SERVICE

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service is urgently in need of blood donations. If you are able to donate blood, could you please phone 6042 2000 or 13 14 95 to make an appointment.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

* Anzac Day Souvenir edition

* Euthanasia: Doctors would have to be 'taught to kill'

BILLETING FOR DAYS IN THE DIOCESE

50 international pilgrims will be coming to St Patrick's to take part in the WYD Days in the Diocese Program running from the 10th-14th July. If you are able to billet 2 or more pilgrims during this time please fill in a Days in the Diocese Billeting form found at the back of the

church. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a part of the largest event ever to grace the shores of Australia - and without even leaving your own home.

For more information please see the noticeboard at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 mizmim@gmail.com

EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE

The Archconfraternity of St Philomena Australia is organising a European pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain, France and Italy departing Melbourne on 20th September 2008 and returning on 23rd October 2008. For further details contact Mrs Mary McAndrew on (03) 9310 3017 or email

marymcandrew1@hotmail.com

Please see the noticeboard.

INVITATION

The priests and brothers of the Confraternity of Christ the Priest invite the people of the Wagga Wagga Diocese to attend a Solemnity Mass at 7.00pm on Thursday 15th May 2008 to celebrate the Feast Day of Christ the Eternal High Priest at Holy Trinity Parish, 5 Bardia Street, Ashmont. Phone (02) 6931 3601 for further information.

VERITAS CENTRAL EVENTS

- Thurs 24th April - (6.30pm) Real Choices Australia Talk and Presentation
Debbie Garratt is President of Real Choices Australia and she will make a presentation on the role that Real Choices Australia offers our society.
- Thursday 1st May (6.30pm) "Ratzinger's Faith" Book Launch. The book's author, Dr Tracey Rowland from the John Paul II Institute in Melbourne will be in store to give an introduction to her book that has already sold over 2000 copies overseas.

Tea and Coffee are available afterwards.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH - SCHOOL FETE

The Holy Spirit Parish and School will hold their annual Fete on Sunday 4th May this year. The Fete will run from 11.00am until 3.00pm in the school grounds, corner of Mutsch and Prune Streets, adjacent to Holy Spirit Church.

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SNIPPET

Where and how they have heard and learned this truth of the Father, that we do not see. This grace is entirely too intimate and too secret for us to see it.

St Augustine, speaking about God's gift of Faith.