

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is

precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

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!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy gospel according to John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

continued overleaf...



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham

Parish House/Office: 9583 6161

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

9th/10th May, 2020



Focus on the Readings...

Today's gospel draws our attention to the time when Jesus will depart from the disciples (the Ascension is two weeks away). When Jesus is gone, the disciples must continue the task that he has begun. One can imagine their fear and uncertainty in being left with such a monumental challenge. Philip's question, 'Lord, how can we know the way?', shows their fear clearly enough. But help is available. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. He is both the map and the destination. Disciples are called to adopt Jesus' lifestyle, his approach to God, to others, to all creation. In living as Jesus did, living the life of faith, the disciples will know the truth and will have life. This life of faith and living the way of Jesus, God's way in the world, will enable the disciples not only to continue the work of Jesus but to perform even greater works.

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161
 Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

Frances North 9583 6161
 Email: Frances.North@cam.org.au
 Christine Dunne 9583 6161

PSYCHOLOGIST:

AnneMaree Eddy 0403 284 536

PARISH OFFICE:

9583 6161
 Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
 Secretary: Lisa Harris
 Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald
 Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

PARISH SCHOOL:

Our Lady of the Assumption 9584 9488
 Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
 Email: principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**MASS TIMES:**

Saturday 6:30 pm
 Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
 Tuesday 6.00 pm
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.15 am
 Saturday 9.00 am

COMMUNION SERVICE:

Monday 9.15 am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.30am & 6pm

BAPTISMS:

Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism and Application Form available on our parish website.

WEDDINGS:

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: 9583 6161

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year A

9th / 10th May, 2020

PRAYING FOR:

Marjorie Southby, Valma Curtis,
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Des North, Josephine Dridan,
...and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Praise Song for the Pandemic

Praise be the nurses and doctors bent over people to offer care, and for police, firefighters and paramedics and all who work to keep us safe; praise for caregivers of every kind.

Celebrate the scientists, working to understand the plague and to find a vaccine. Praise be the journalists keeping us informed.

Praise be the teachers, finding new ways to educate children from afar, and blessings on parents holding it together for them.

Blessed are the elderly and those with weakened immune systems, all those who worry for their health, praise for those who stay at home to protect them.

Blessed are those in grief, especially who mourn alone.

Blessed are the domestic violence victims, on lockdown with abusers.

Blessed are the ones whose jobs are lost, who have no savings who feel fear of the unknown.

Give thanks for your ancestors, for the wars and plagues they endured and survived, their resilience is in your bones, your blood.

Blessed is the water that flows over our hands and the soap that helps keep them clean, each time a baptism.

Praise for the sound of notifications, messages from friends reaching across the distance, give thanks for laughter and kindness

And when this has passed may we say that love spread more quickly than any virus ever could, may we say this was not just an ending but also a place to begin.

– Christine Valters Paintner, Abbey of the Arts
 abbeyofthearts.com/blog/2020/03/19/praise-song-for-the-pandemic/

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

All loving God,
 We give you thanks and praise for mothers, and ask that you

Bless young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need. May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

Bless our own mothers, who have nurtured and cared for us. May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

Bless and console mothers whose children have died, and those who are separated from their children because of war, poverty or family conflict. May they feel your loving embrace, wiping away every tear.

Bless those women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

Bless mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers whom you have welcomed to eternal life, but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

COUNSELLING: All counselling will now be over the phone or video consultations due to COVID-19. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact AnneMaree Eddy directly on: 0403 284 536, and leave a message indicating you are a parishioner.



Aid to the Church in Need
 ACN AUSTRALIA
 Are you wondering how COVID-19 is affecting the Church across the world? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/covid-19 to read messages from bishops, priests, brothers and religious sisters, serving in some of the most remote and challenging places.

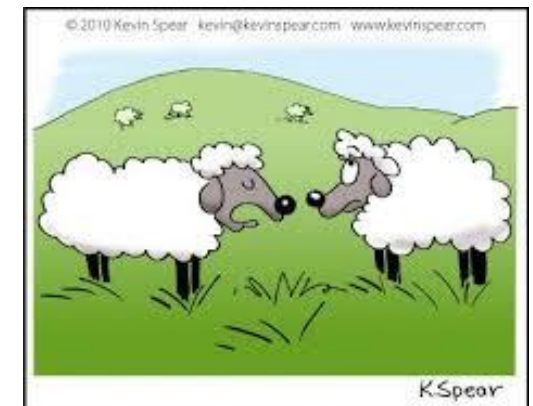
SCRIPTURE READINGS for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) are accessible online: www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column.

Gospel continued...

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

**NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK**

is celebrated every year from 15th - 21st May. The beginning coincides with the United Nations International Day for Families, on May 15th. It affords us all the opportunity to celebrate and strengthen our family relationships. This year, CatholicCare have altered their classroom activities at both Primary and Secondary levels, for use in a home setting. It is an opportunity for special prayer, reflection, discussion and fun activities, relating to that most important institution - the family! CatholicCare has been providing resources and impetus for Family Week since 1985. The resources can be found at the following link: ccam.org.au/page/123/family-week-2020



"I wouldn't get lost all the time if the shepherd would let me use his GPS navigator!"