



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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The Ascension of the Lord Sunday Year B, 11-12 May, 2024

The importance of Mothers Day

(by Andrew Hamilton SJ)

As we approach Mothers Day, to be held on 9 May this year, we are reminded of the many and varied shapes of relationships that make up women's lives

It is easy to be cynical about Mothers Day. Many older people grew up seeing it as a foreign import, introduced by big businesses in the United States to fill their own pockets. That view might gain support from the way in which Mothers Day is marketed. But it is an important day because it offers an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the lives of people who are often forgotten.

Underlying this neglect is the human reality of self-centredness. We all stand at the centre of our relationships to people and our world. It takes effort and training to see other people as their own centres rather than by reference to ourselves. We see waiters and doctors as just waiters and doctors, not as persons with their own wives or husbands, their own children, their own enthusiasms. In the same way it is also easy to see our mothers only as mothers and not as persons with their personal lives and other connections.

Mothers Day reminds us of the many and varied shapes of relationships that make up women's lives. It honours their work in business, in music and other creative fields, their contribution to public life through committees and political allegiances, their sporting interests and all the trying, achieving, relaxing, enjoying and grieving that make each person's life distinctive.

By definition, of course, the Day focuses on women as persons who are mothers. In doing so it also honours all the relationships which through their motherhood shape their lives. These include the relationships to their children as babies, children, adolescents as adults, moving from relationships of dependence to mentoring and to equal friendship, and perhaps towards the end of their lives to accepting care and mentoring from their children.

Associated with these relationships, too, are those made through their children with other mothers in kindergartens and schools and

so with their families, and the relationships they form through their workplaces and care of the household budget, and in the local campaigns to demand a more just society. Mothers Day celebrates the ways in which women grow as persons through their relationships as mothers.

As with all relationships those of motherhood make their own demands and these demands are primarily of love, moving from the protective and all-embracing love of very young children, to the mentoring love of older children and the freeing love of adolescents. Each stage of love involves sacrifice. The personal sacrifice of the gradual separation of the child into an independent adult, and the sacrifice of other possibilities that they might relinquish when taking on commitments in the home. The maternal love celebrated on Mothers Day is not automatic or cost-free.

Ultimately, however, the significance of Mothers Day is not confined to women's lives as mothers but extends to the persons who are mothers and to the gift they are in themselves and with all their other gifts. It reminds us and pays tribute to the commitments that women make in their professional life, their interests and in their commitments to public life. It invites us to see our mothers' lives not just in their relationship to ourselves as their children, but in all the wider relationships in which they are the centre.

Mothers Day is worth celebrating. It may be best celebrated by spending time in exploring the larger world of our mothers from their own perspective.

Happy Mothers Day!!



Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtube.com/live/pROgeVl9cHw?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP
Dcn Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

St Paul Apostle North

Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle South

Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's

Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for Next Week
PENTECOST Sunday Year B

First Reading *Acts 2: 1-11*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”.

Psalm

Bless the Lord, O my soul
O Lord my God, you are very great
O Lord, how manifold are your works!
the earth is full of your creature

When you take away their breath
they die and return to their dust
When you send forth your spirit, they are created
and you renew the face of the earth

May the glory of the Lord endure forever
may the Lord rejoice in his works
May my meditation be pleasing to him
for I rejoice in the Lord

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13*

A reading from the first Letter of St. John
Brothers and sisters:

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love
Alleluia!

Gospel *John 20: 19-23*

It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Reflection

How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in and through you? How about other people in your group?

Have you ever thought about what it actually means to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

4:12 YOUTH (our Parish Youth for grade 5 to year 9)

Their last gathering was a fantastic movie night with pizza and popcorn. If you are interested in joining the group, please come along on the second Friday of each month. The next event will be held on **FRIDAY, 14th June at 7pm** in the Tim O'Toole Annexe. A variety of activities is arranged for each gathering. Please contact Trish Brown on 0412 357 350 if you wish to attend for planning purposes

YOUNG ADULTS (age 18 to 25 years old)

For those who are wondering what this group is all about, you can contact the Parish Office and we will provide more information. Also keep an eye on the news as we will keep you up-dated with information regarding the next gathering

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM

The registration for this year is now closed. We also had our First family night. From here on, the children will attend sessions in Parish Schools and ASRE (see below)

We will meet again in Church on **TUESDAY 11 June at 7pm**. We will try to send a reminder to you. However, please make sure that we have your correct email address

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (ASRE)

This program is designed for our children who attend NON PARISH SCHOOLS. Therefore, if your child attends either the St Paul Apostle South or North School, your child is not required to attend this class.

The ASRE sessions for the First Communion program are to be held on **TUESDAYS, 14th May, 21st May, 28th May and 4th June at 4pm** in the Parish office. Attendance at all classes is compulsory for all children attending non parish schools

PARISH BINGO

Our next parish Bingo will be on **FRIDAY, 17 May** at 7.30pm in the Annexe. You can come on your own or as a group. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441. Please note that this activity is strictly adults only (18 years or over). Unfortunately, we are bound to a strict policy which states that

anyone under this age is not permitted inside the hall during Bingo

CHILDREN'S LITURGY (Reminder)

Just a reminder that this group does not run during school holiday, they will resume on 21 April at 11am Sunday Mass. This group welcome all primary school children and younger to our Children's Liturgy program at 11am Mass each week.

Please note that the 11am Mass is being LIVE-

STREAMED every week. We ask that children under 4 or with special needs be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. Our leaders will be easily identifiable, if your child has any allergies, a serious medical condition or special needs, please alert the leader on the day. Due to possible allergic responses we ask that you refrain from bringing any food into the Children's Liturgy space. When the children are returning to their seats after the session please ensure they are aware of where you are seated. We have provided labels for you to write your child's name if you wish. If you have any questions or feedback please feel free to chat to one of our Children's Liturgy volunteers or someone on the parish team

Mother's Day Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ,
You chose to put yourself—tiny, needy and helpless—
Into the nurturing and watchful hands
of a human mother.
Since then, every act of mothering,
both physical and spiritual,
in every time and every corner of the world
recollects Mary's.
Inspired by this example, we, too,
honour our mothers and mother figures today.
Bless these women, that they may be strengthened
as Christian mothers and nurturers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.
Amen.*

Readings:

Ascension of the Lord Sunday

Acts 1: 1-11

Ephesians 1: 17-23

Mark 16: 15-20

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-11

1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13

John 20: 19-23

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Margaret Ferrao, Roger Gray, Stephanie Kinson, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Ronella Tyrell, Meti Pereira-VanEijk, Danny Sugunasekera, Agnes Fernandez, Shirley C. Esteban, Joaquina Braz, Norah Ekanayake, Grace Sprigg, Lara Moyle, Jamie Cabrera **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Rudolf Pahor, Dexter Walker, Michael D'Silva, Sharne Labrooy, Nicole Balmano, Christine Ann Kelly, Anne Silva, Margaret Avlonitis, Betty Evans, Rohini Condegama, Joyce Rebeiro, Eugene Rebeiro **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



FAREWELL

Fr Luke

We farewell Fr Luke from our parish community as he moves into his new appointment on the Passionist Youth Retreat Team. Luke will celebrate the 11am Mass, followed by a gathering in the School Hall.

Please bring a plate to share.

Sunday, 19 May
11am Mass, followed by
gathering in school hall

OUR PIETY STALL

Our Piety stall offers a range of unique religious materials, including books, rosary and others. Some of the goods are Australian made (Luminous rosary) and others are of Italian origin. Please feel free to browse the stall after Mass.. Our volunteers do their very best to



have the stall open after each weekend Mass

THANK YOU

Last week we had a special collection to support the work of CatholicCare. Last weekend we generated \$1101.80.

Thank you for your generous support