



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Sixth Sunday of EASTER Year B, 4-5 May, 2024

Reflection

We all know from our experience that one of the great blessings in life is friendship. We value our friends deeply. We are very aware that our lives would be the poorer without them. One of the books of the Old Testament, from which we don't often read, the Book of Sirach, has some very striking things to say about friendship. It was written about one hundred and eighty years before the birth of Jesus. It is clearly written by someone who knew the value of friendship in his own life. At one point, the author says the following about friendship: 'A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter: whoever has found one has found a treasure. There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend, and no scales can measure their excellence. A faithful friend is an elixir of life; and those who fear the Lord will find one'. The image of a faithful friend as a sturdy shelter, as a treasure, rings true to all our experience.

It is difficult to say how or why friendships happen. There was a very well known book written by Norman Vincent Peale, 'How to make friends and influence people'. However, there is only so much any of us can do to make a friendship happen, because, as we know, a friendship has to be mutual. I may want to be someone's friend, but unless that person wants to be my friend, the friendship won't come to pass. Friendships happen when two people chose each other as friends. If I chose someone as a friend, I need that person to choose me as their friend for the friendship to come to pass. Choice is at the heart of friendship, the choice of two people for each other. One of the more painful experiences of life is when the choice I make to befriend someone is not reciprocated by that person.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his relationship with his disciples in terms of friendship. He says to them, to us, 'I call you friends... I chose you'. He tells us there that he has expressed his choice of us as his friends in two very significant ways. 'A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends'. The most radical expression of our friendship for someone is to give our lives to that person, for that person. This is what Jesus has done for all of us. By his death he has befriended us in the most complete way imaginable. Jesus mentions a second way in which he has expressed his choice of us as friends, 'I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father'. The most intimate relationship in Jesus' life was his relationship

with God, his Father. Jesus has shared with us that most intimate part of himself with us. Friends can share what is deepest and most precious in their hearts with each other. Jesus has done that with us. He has spoken to us about this most intimate relationship in his life, so as to draw us all into that relationship, so that we can come to know and love God the Father as Jesus does. In these two ways, Jesus has given us the most incredible gift of his friendship. He has chosen us in love. This is a gift he will never take back, no matter what happens in our life. Just as a parent loves each child differently but equally, Jesus has befriended each of us differently but equally. He befriends each of us in accordance with our own unique identity.

In any human friendship, two people have to choose each other in love. Jesus has chosen to befriend us. Yet, in the gospel reading, he doesn't ask us to choose him as a friend. In fact, he says, 'You did not choose me, no, I chose you'. Jesus does not call on us to choose him as he has chosen us, but, rather, he calls on us to remain in his love. We are to remain in the love that has chosen us. We are being reminded that Jesus' friendship with us is of a different quality to our human friendships where mutual choice is so important if it is to endure. In a human friendship, if any one of the friends ceases to choose the other, then that other's person choice will eventually weaken too. This is not true of Jesus' friendship with us. His loving choice of us endures, regardless of how we respond. It is always a given. Our calling is to remain in that enduring friendship, and, if we fall out of it, to return to it.

Jesus is not indifferent regarding whether or not we remain in his enduring friendship. He strongly desires that we remain in his friendship, because in so doing we will be empowered to befriend others as he has befriended us. 'Love one another, as I have loved you'. We receive the gift of Jesus' friendship, we remain in that loving friendship, and, out of that graced experience, we love others as he has loved us. Jesus has chosen us as his friends, and he commissions us to befriend others in the way that he has befriended us. There is a wonderful vision here of the Christian life, a vision of friendship received and given. Jesus assures us in that gospel reading that, in so far as we remain in his friendship and befriend others out of that graced experience, we will know true joy, a sharing in the Lord's own joy. 'I have told you this, so that my own joy may be in you'.

(written by Fr Martin Hogan)

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/g-plgX0DEE?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
Ascension of the Lord Sunday of EASTER Year B

First Reading

Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days Peter stood up among the believers; together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty person. He said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” “For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it’; and ‘Let another take his position of overseer.’ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles

Psalm

Bless the Lord, O my soul
and all that is within me, bless His holy name
Bless the Lord, O my soul
and do not forget his benefits

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so great is His steadfast love
towards those who fear Him
As far as the east is from the west
so far He removes our transgressions from us

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
And His kingdom rules over all
Bless the Lord, O you His angels,
You mighty ones who do His bidding,
Obedient to His spoken word

Second Reading

1 John 4: 11-16

A reading from the first Letter of St. John

Beloved:
since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go make disciples of all nations
I am with you always, to the end of the age
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 17: 11-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:
Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth

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

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

4:12 YOUTH (our Parish

Youth)

This group is to accommodate our Youth who are in grade 5 up to year 9. All activities in this gathering cater for this age group.

The next gathering is on **FRIDAY, 10 MAY** at 7pm in the Tim O'Toole Annexe. This time we will gather for MOVIE (and maybe Pizza and Popcorn). So..... Come and join for the fun. You are welcome to bring bean bag or come in your Oodie. 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

Registration to enroll in this year's program is now closed.

For those who have registered, by now you would have received emails containing all the necessary information regarding the program.

Please make sure you have received the email (check you junk mail as well, as it may have gone there)

The First Family night will be held on **TUESDAY, 7th May, 2024** in the Church. Commencing at 7pm sharp. Your child and one or both parents/ guardians must attend this night. If you have not received the email please contact us urgently so that we can resend the information to you.

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

Readings:

Sixth Sunday of EASTER Year B

Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

1 John 3: 18-24

John 15:9-17

Ascension of the Lord Sunday

Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26

1 John 4: 11-16

John 17: 11-19

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

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, Rita Barber, Joyce Madeira, Joyce Rebeiro, Eugene Rebeiro, Milton Collins, Stella Collins, Peter Cano, Valarie Trindade ***and all who are named in our church memorial book***

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Alvita Dias	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Lakni Weerasekera Diane Heaton
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Diane Allegany Anne Astin	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Alvita Dias Grace Sudjono Virendra Jayetileke	Jennifer Tanti Diane Allegany	Melissa Krajacic Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Antioniette Gargano Florence Madeira	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Aloma Pereira	Sharon Normington Jean Jansz Naomi Falo	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Peter Miller Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell	Florence Madeira Sai Dilinger Binitha Mathew	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Mary Moore Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Stephen Herbert Lauren Rafferty	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Riona Alveyn Carmeline Don Paul Peter Miller	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Nila Fernando	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Ayomi Fernandez Peng Chee Jenny Catania

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



CATHOLIC CARE

This week we are having a special collection to support the work of CatholicCare which Provides Support & Hope To People at Every Stage Of Life. Every year we are asked to assist with a special collection.