



Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

(This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws)



Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year A - 17th May 2020

Jesus' best gift for us....

As the weeks of the Easter Season continue, we hear more and more in our Gospel reading about God the Holy Spirit. In the Third Eucharistic Prayer, in the second petition following the consecration, the priest prays: "... grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son, and filled with His Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ." This is where the Easter Season is leading us. It is the heart of the mystery of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit helps us love others even when it is difficult to do so. Everyone around us is an important part of our spiritual life, whether we realise it or not. They all important in our journey on the way to Christ Jesus. Sometimes that way is not easy. Perhaps it requires reconciliation and forgiveness. The Gospel of today focuses on the gift of the Spirit, the Advocate who Jesus sends to us. The Holy Spirit helps us understand what we believe, draws us into the truth of Jesus and comforts us in our affliction.

We rely on the Spirit to help us to continue to grow. In these days leading up to the Solemnity of Pentecost, the feast of the sending of the Holy Spirit upon us, we are reminded to keep asking for this Spirit to be poured out on us and on all the earth. Let us ask the Holy Spirit today to give us wisdom and understanding, especially in our faith and our dealing with others. Let us walk more and more faithfully with Jesus each day and try to live as He did, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, loving others and giving our lives to the service of those around us so that our world can be transformed.

Easing of restrictions from 15 May

We understand the desire of everyone to return to the Masses and sacraments, but we continue to cooperate with the policies developed to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone. The Queensland Government has announced the implementation of step one which will allow for gatherings of up to 10 people for weddings, places of worship and religious ceremonies. Funerals will be increased to a maximum capacity of 20 people indoors and 30 people outdoors. These protocols will be in effect through to 12 June 2020 and are subject to change with any ongoing amendments to Queensland Health guidelines. All of these activities must continue to observe social distancing. This news requires further consultation in regards to implementation for parishes and workplaces. We are hoping for a statement that will be released from the Archbishop's office next week to outline how these new guidelines will be implemented within the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Blessings,

Fr. Dantus Thottathil.

This Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 – They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Psalm Response: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading: 1 Pet 3:15-18 – In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 14:15-21 – I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

*Life is more strict than a teacher.
A teacher teaches a lesson
and takes an exam,
but life takes an exam
and then teaches a lesson.*

Next week's Readings

First: Acts 1:1-11

Second: Eph 1:17-23

Gospel: Matt 28:16-20

Mass Times: Weekend Masses Cancelled until further notice

Reconciliation: Cancelled until further notice

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am to 2pm.

Parish Council Members: Chris Mahoney, Therese Evans,
Cathy McGrath, Lorraine Kumar, John Spillane

Pastor: Fr Dantus Thottathil thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au

Associate Pastor: Fr Prem Rethnamony

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Emergency Contact: 3207 4566

Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Knight ☎ 3822 2139

STOPLINE Contact: A0B@stoline.com.au

A VOCATION VIEW:

That Jesus rose from the dead is our Faith.

That we can be reborn in the Spirit is our Hope.

That we can do God's work is our Love. Follow God's Call.

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Parish Primary School

Principal: Mr John Spillane

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Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them: Henk Hoonhout, Pat and Jack Cochrane, Kevin Kranz, Patricia Briscoe, Alicia Black, Tessa Gorogo, Mick Gauci, Paul McKean, Geoffrey Whall, Kevin Harrop, Judy Mullan, Charles Lilley, Ann Brown, Sally Legarda, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Winifred Linton, Jodie Bromiley, Casey Whitby, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Jan Hurst, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Patricia Haines, Belinda Wheeler, Cely Salisbury, The Bade Family, Carol Parker, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Medi Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Dot Abrahams, Amelia Ramsay, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Cathy Leane, Pauline McNamee, Pat Crimmins, Gina Mather.

May God embrace all who have recently died: Mildred Ball-Wilson, John Mills.

Anniversaries & Remembrances May: Josephine Romero, Babs Gilhooley, Amber Rose (birthday) daughter of Celina and David McGovern, Michael Czapkowski (birthday), Anastacia Wieland, Bill Cluck, Matha Cluck, Flo Conway, Aristeo Avenia, Denis Glanville, Edward Bartlett, Barbara McGhee, Denise Hodgson, Alma Maclean, Jessie Maclean, Kerry Powell, Norma Cowsell, Simon Bromley, Giovanni Ragagnin, Betty Avenia, Sr Anne Pulling RSH, Dr Salolatore Vitali, Laureen Smith, Maureen McNab, Nell Elliott, Bede Ryan, Aldo Bandiera, James Harrison, Ann Hockings, Nellie Modral, Saul David, Alberto Bandiera, Patricia Watson, Noel & Role Gablonski, Luigi Basso, Irma Moroney, Moira Peterson, Margaret Knights, Jessie Maclean, James King. *Please record any further names in the Anniversaries & Remembrance Diary at the Welcome Desk*

Mass Celebrations From this Sunday we will be able to celebrate Mass with 9 people in attendance (plus the celebrant). People who attend will need to adhere to the following guidelines:-

You must NOT

- have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have a fever or symptoms of a respiratory infection such as a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath

You must

- maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between people
- refrain from handshaking and hugging
- clean your hands with the alcohol-based hand rub provided in the Church when you enter and leave the Church
- Record your name and contact details in the register at the entry of the Church
- Sit in the chairs which are numbered 1 – 9 in the church

Attendance at these Masses will be on a roster basis. If you would like to be included on this roster, please contact the parish office via email birkmmack@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone 3822 2139.

Keep in touch with your parish We are here to support you. If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, help to stay connected with the parish community or more information about sacraments please contact the parish office. **Our planned giving bank account details for direct deposits are as follows:**

BSB: 064 786 Account No: 100017027 Account name: Birkdale Parish Planned Giving

Kindly reference your deposit with your surname and your planned giving number/envelope number if you have one.

Thank you very much for your generous financial support and prayers for our Parish. The Parish Office – open on **Tuesdays and Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) between 9:00am and 2:00pm** until further notice. The preferred contact method is by phone 3822 2139 or email birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au. If you require a priest IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY ONLY please phone 3396 0742

Free Subscriptions to The Catholic Leader: Parishioners can now receive The Catholic Leader digital newspaper straight to your inbox every Thursday morning. This free subscription is available while Masses are suspended and churches are closed across the Archdiocese of Brisbane due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sign up here <https://buff.ly/35j9Jsl> to subscribe.

The Journey - Catholic Radio: The Journey is a weekly program developed by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong and is the only Catholic radio program in Australia aired on general Christian radio. Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

SVdP Donation: Our Birkdale St Vincent de Paul group are seeking donations of new born baby clothes, baby cot, pram and any items for a newborn to support a person in need who has recently moved to this area. If you have any suitable items, please contact the parish office on 3822 2139 to arrange delivery/collection.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel: 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 your 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.'