



Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's
commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you,
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

A pagan Roman officer was so evidently graced by the Holy Spirit that St Peter realised that the followers of Jesus Christ need not be constrained within the confines of Judaism. This incident, together with St Paul's mission, has helped Christianity spread to every tribe and nation on the face of the earth.

'Catholic' simply means 'world wide', and the Church's universal mission is to preach the truth of Christ's victory over death and the true meaning of love: 'No greater love can a man have than to lay down his life for his friend.'

In our experience, this is best exemplified in the desire of a mother or father to substitute themselves for a dying infant or child. Our Lord practised what he preached with incredible intensity. He substituted himself for the whole of humanity dying because of a broken relationship with its Creator. He did so on behalf of us whom he calls friends, those with whom he wishes to share his victory over death.

This is the message entrusted to the members of the one, holy, *catholic* and apostolic church to be spread to the people of every tribe and nation.

We could take a moment to pray that we better express our undying gratitude for our status as friends of the Risen Lord, and better do our part as missionary disciples spreading the news of his great love embracing the whole of humanity.

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The Living Word

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

5 May 2024

First Reading

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

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

or:

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)

2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Jn 4:7-10

God is love.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel Jn 15:9-17

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.

OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
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Office Hours: Monday, & Wednesday 10am-3.00pm; Friday 10am-4.00pm.

**Secretary is on leave, please leave a message or email us.*

Sunday Masses: *English:* Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* Sunday 2.30pm; *Tongan* TBC
Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm

Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30am **Novena:** Tuesday 8.00pm



MASS INTENTIONS 5-11 May

Sat 5.30pm Nancy Lundberg RIP
 Sun 9.00am Filip & Mara Krsticevic RIP
 10.30am Pro Populo
 5.30pm Nancy Lundberg RIP
 Mon, 9.00am Agatha & Ivan Vorih RIP
 Tues 7.30pm Agnes Britto RIP
 Wed 9.00am Mary Foley RIP
 Thurs 9.00am Souls of our Parents RIP
 Fri 11.00am Parish Intention
 Sat 9.00am Parish Intention

DONATIONS



Please support
 our parish
 Thank you!

Sunshine Parish Centenary

100 years [1927-2027]

Our neighbourhood has grown as
 new churches and schools were built:

1952 Braybrook 1954 West Sunshine
 1956 North Sunshine 1962 Maidstone
 1969 Albion 1972 St Albans South
 1974 Deer Park 2006 Caroline Springs

*“Come to me all you who
 labour and carry a heavy
 burden and
 I will give you rest...”*

Matthew 11:28-30

INVITATION to spend some
 quiet time with Jesus in the
 Blessed Sacrament:

Friday 12.00pm-3.00pm
*Come for just a short visit
 or stay for
 as long as
 you wish.*



Church Doors Restoration

Work will begin soon to bring
 the doors back to their former
 splendour. Looking towards
 the 2027 parish Centenary it's
 a good time to fix the doors.

Begotten By Love: Scott Hahn Reflects on the 6th Sunday of Easter

Readings: *Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Psalm 98:1-4; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17*

**God is love, and He revealed that love in sending
 His only Son to be a sacrificial offering for our sins.**

In these words from today's Second Reading, we
 should hear an echo of the story of Abraham's offering of
 Isaac at the dawn of salvation history. Because Abraham
 obeyed God's command and did not withhold his only
 beloved son, God promised that Abraham's descendants,
 the children of Israel, would be the source of blessing for
 all nations.



We see that promise coming to fulfillment in
 today's First Reading. God pours out His Spirit upon the
 Gentiles, the non-Israelites, as they listen to the word of
 Peter's preaching. **Notice they receive the same gifts
 received by the devout Jews who heard Peter's preaching
 at Pentecost—the Spirit comes to rest upon them and they
 speak in tongues, glorifying God.**

In His love today, God reveals that His salvation embraces the house of Israel
 and peoples of all nations. Not by circumcision or blood relation to Abraham but by
 faith in the Word of Christ, sealed in the Sacrament of Baptism, people are to be made
 children of Abraham, heirs to God's covenants of promise.

*This is the wondrous work of God that we sing of in today's Psalm.
 It is the work of the Church, the good fruit that Jesus chooses and
 appoints His Apostles for in today's Gospel.*

**As Peter raises up Cornelius today, the Church continues to lift all eyes
 to Christ, the only one in whose name they can find salvation.**

In the Church, each of us has been begotten by the love of God. But the Scriptures
 today reveal that this divine gift brings with it a command and a duty. We are to love
 one another as we have been loved. We are to lay down our lives in giving ourselves to
 others—that they too might find friendship with Christ and new life through Him.

MASS COUNT— TODAY and during 4 weeks in May, all churches will count how many people attend
 each Mass. This will help the Archdiocese in planning where extra priests are needed, and then give
 as a nation an idea of average weekly participation when the figures are sent to the Vatican.

CatholicCare Victoria APPEAL TODAY Please donate to the **Catholic Care Sunday Appeal**.
 Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for
 struggling individuals and families in our community. **Donate using the Appeal envelope**
available at our parish (bring back next week), or online at www.catholicarevic.org

Child Safety Reminders & Important Notice for Parents

- ◆ **Please accompany your child if they need to leave the church building.**
- ◆ **Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.**
- Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the vulnerable.**

Week 2	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Mary Rapa	Andrea Borges	Tongan Choir	M. Boongaling
Extraordinary Ministers	Simplex & Blezza Borges	Sr. Shirani Britto	Jennifer Godfrey	Kieran Sheridan
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Tongan Choir	E. Boongaling
Weekly Counting	John Francis & Michael Payne			