

**MASS TIMES**  
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**RECONCILIATION**  
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# ST LUKE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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**Parish Website** <https://stlukesburanda.com>

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

10 May 2020

## FIRST READING *Acts 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

*Psalm 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22*

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

## SECOND READING *1 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 *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 now going 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? 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.'

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.' Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers. How does this come about? At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to *share* in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to *share* in our humanity.' What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord. As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.' We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.' We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion! Alleluia!

## A Message from Monsignor Meneely

My dear brothers and sisters,

Last week I shared with you my reflections on the two months that I spent in the United States, in the parish of our Lady of Hope Daytona Beach. It was a grace period in my life; it gave me the time to refocus my mind and heart and on what God was calling me to in the next part of the journey.

I left United States to return to Australia on 29 February this year, arriving home on 1 March. It was to be a brief visit as I had been asked last year to lead a group of our catholic school principals and other leaders in the church on a Lenten pilgrimage through Jordan and the Holy Land. It was in that first week of March that the first rumblings began as to this dangerous virus that was starting to seriously affect the heart of the people in China and elsewhere. Those who were organising the pilgrimage felt that the risks were still relatively low and the Australian government was not banning travel to the regions where pilgrims visit. All the school principals and leaders were excited about this once in a lifetime opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Christ, and so we decided to continue on with our plan. We flew out of Australia on 7 March, arriving in Amman in Jordan on the morning of 8 March. As always, the Jordanians gave us a great welcome and we travelled from the airport to our hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea. After resting overnight and floating in the heavy and salty waters of the Dead Sea, we went to visit the River Jordan, the baptismal site where John the Baptist baptised Jesus and heard the proclamations *this is my Son the beloved in whom I am well pleased*. I celebrated Mass with our group and by dipping a small pottery bowl into the waters of the Jordan River, I blessed them and we renewed our baptismal promises to love God with all our heart, mind and soul. We then travelled from the River Jordan to Mount Nebo. Mount Nebo is that place of pilgrimage revered as the place where Moses, after wandering with the chosen people in the desert for 40 years in his old age, stood and looked out across the valley to the Promised Land. Moses was to see it but never enter it. We celebrated Mass in the church dedicated to Moses and sought his intercession for the journey that lay ahead as we entered the land of the Gospels. When we returned to the bus, I could see there was some commotion amidst the bus drivers and I asked our guide what was going on. He told me that there was some talk that Israel was about to close its borders because of worries about the coronavirus. Having travelled these lands over many years the one thing I have learnt is that, like taxi drivers, bus drivers know everything. Within an hour we had confirmation from Australia that the borders were closing and that we, like Moses, would not enter the Promised Land. This was a moment of great disappointment because for many in our group this was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We returned despondent to our hotel, not really sure what to do next. It was not possible to easily secure a flight out of Jordan for all 28 of us, and so we left that in the hands of the organisers in Australia and decided to continue on to the ancient hidden city of Petra, in the south of Jordan and then onto the city of Aqaba on the shores of the Red Sea. At this stage, the Jordanian borders had not been closed and we still had a hope that Israel might reopen its borders and welcome our small group of Australian pilgrims.

In life, disappointments are as much a part of life as death and taxes. It is impossible for us not to experience some disappointments throughout our lives. Saint Thomas is the Saint who can help us in those times of disappointment and sadness in life. I hope in the next life to run into Saint Thomas because I feel he is so honest about his feelings. He has given up everything to follow the Lord and we encounter him in this Easter season as the one who most honestly speaks of all that he has lost. Today I encourage you to seek the intercession of Saint Thomas in all of the disappointments that have come your way in life and to ask his help, that we too might be able to move beyond these disappointments and be able to say truthfully *my Lord and my God*. Next week I will share with you the end of the story that leads us back to Australia and the rather extraordinary new world that we have entered into. May St Thomas draw close to you and intercede for you in all the struggles of your life.

## NOTICES

### WATCH MASS

You can watch Mass at home on Channel 10 at 6.00am on Sundays. Alternatively, join online for the live Mass broadcast via the Cathedral of St Stephen website: <https://www.cathedralofststephen.org.au/mass-times.html> at 8:00am and 12:30pm weekdays and at 8:00am and 10:00am on Sundays. You can also watch earlier Masses recorded on the same website.

### DAILY INSPIRATION

Sign up to receive regular emails, including two-minute homilies, daily readings and updates from the Archdiocese by visiting [archbne.org/dwllk](http://archbne.org/dwllk)

### CATHOLIC LEADER NEWS

The online edition of The Catholic Leader newspaper will be extended to all parishioners **for free** during this time. Keep faith with the Leader at [www.catholicleader.com.au](http://www.catholicleader.com.au)

### SUPPORT ST LUKE'S

Our faith will sustain us through challenging times. Please keep helping our parish community by continuing your weekly offering via direct debit. Call the Archdiocesan Development Fund at 3324 3777 to find out how.

Contact Local Safeguarding Representative

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