



ST LUKE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Parish Priest Monsignor Peter Meneely VG
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Parish Website <https://stlukesburanda.com>

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

17 May 2020

FIRST READING

[Acts 8:5-8; 14-17](#)

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

[Psalm 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1](#)

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING

[1 Peter 3:15-18](#)

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 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](#)

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 you 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.'



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Parallel Truths

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you another Paraclete to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a Paraclete, and He would send another.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-ll-el. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw Himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth - fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth. We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

A Message from Monsignor Meneely

My Dear Brothers and Sisters of Saint Luke's Parish,

Last week I shared with you something of the spiritual riches and bonds of community that were formed as I and twenty-six others, including the Director of Catholic Education Pam Betts, wandered into the Jordanian Desert, trying to find a way out of the airport on our way back to Australia. I discovered a lot happens in your life when you are looking elsewhere.

Our last day, 16 March, was a sad day as the group prepared to leave Jordan. Amid the COVID chaos, the airport was still open in the capital city. I noticed the face of our driver, as he looked over his shoulders at us, and saw the deep suffering that this looming crisis was creating for families employed in tourism. In his face, God revealed, that many people in this most beautiful part of the world (whose financial stability relies heavily on tourism) would suffer greatly in the weeks and months to come. Impacted by this revelation, but realising the task for us was getting home, we set forth and drove to the airport.

Upon landing in the United Arab Emirates in Dubai, our group was split into two, as it was not possible for us to all get on the same plane back to Brisbane. One group went into Dubai itself and spent the next day-and-a-half exploring its treasures, while the other group stayed in the hotel (which is inside Dubai airport and therefore technically outside of Dubai) and waited for the flight that would take us back to our beloved homeland, Australia.

As we arrived into Brisbane Airport, on the morning of 18 March, we found ourselves amidst the first stages of COVID; with all travelers entering the quarantine phase of dealing with this deadly virus. After collecting our luggage and saying our goodbyes, we were taken by our respective means of transport, to self-imposed isolation in our homes and apartments. I live alone and therefore isolation is not something I am unfamiliar with but it is not something those with families are used to. Their family members had to separate themselves at a significant distance from each other in the same house for two weeks. It must have been a struggle. However, slowly the days rolled into each other, which meant lots of reading time to rest and reflect. It ended up being quite a period of enlightenment and refreshment.

My isolation ended almost as Easter was upon us and like many of you for the first time in my life, I was not able to attend, participate in or lead any of the most important and significant feast days of celebrations in the Christian calendar. I was left with the question asked of everyone last year, as to when the church in Australia will reconvene. In the coming weeks plenary council will seek to discern God's will for us. However, in this moment, I wish to remember those wonderful experiences we had and the people we met as we accidentally roamed the Jordanian Desert and in finding the rich gift of faith that we share with our brothers and sisters in Jordan and beyond.

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/dwfk

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

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

Mrs Sarah Martelli

Phone: 3324 3222 | smartelli@bne.catholic.net.au

Anonymous STOpline | 1300 304 550