



## 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!

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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.'

# The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

10 May 2020

## First Reading Acts 6:1-7

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

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

**Ps 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.*

or

*(R.) Alleluia.*

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

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 Jn 14:6

*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 Jn 14:1-12

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

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;



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**SUNDAY MASS:** Suspended indefinitely. Check website for streamed Masses.

**WEEKDAY MASS:** Suspended indefinitely.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

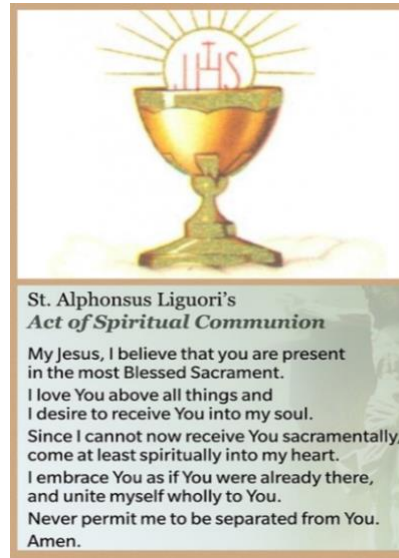
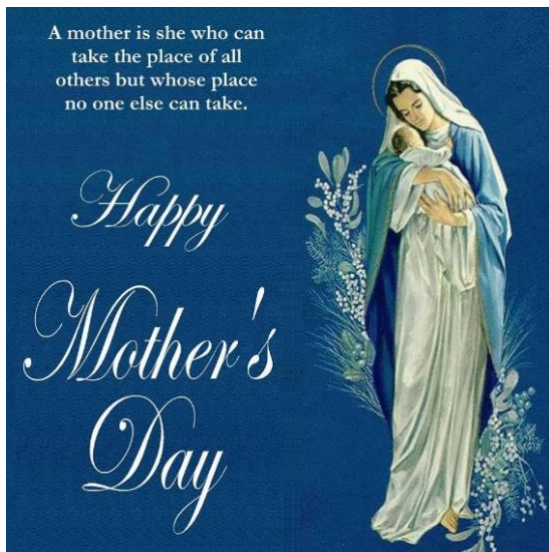
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**Next Week: 6th Easter (A)** Acts 8:5-8; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21.

## Fr Stan writes ...

The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples do not know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

**For Catholics**, the month of May is set aside for devotions to Mary. I would like to encourage you all to do something special in this month to honour Mary, the first and true model of discipleship. As we honour all mothers on this special day, let us not forget to give thanks to God for Mary, the mother of Jesus and of us all.



St. Alphonsus Liguori's  
*Act of Spiritual Communion*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and  
I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there,  
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

**THANK YOU** for your ongoing support with your donations through our website [www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au) and to those that have posted or dropped off their contribution at the parish office. You can well imagine that running expenses are still occurring despite the lockdown. It is very much appreciated. Again, **THANK YOU!**

## Virtual Pentecost Pilgrimage

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is an official sponsor of this virtual free pilgrimage which began on Sunday 26 April and will run for 6 weeks.

The pilgrimage is aimed at helping Catholics nurture their faith in the lead up to Pentecost while public Masses are suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each Wednesday and Sunday, formative videos from will be released for registered participants to engage online. Each set of videos will reflect on the Sunday readings of that week with a particular focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in our Church and world.

To register for this free online pilgrimage to Pentecost, simply go to [www.pentecostpilgrimage.com](http://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com) and enter your details to receive a link to the videos as they are released over the next six weeks.

**The Flame Café**  
is open for take away – 6:30am to 3:00pm  
Free home delivery for orders of \$25 +  
Phone 9888 5286



**PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF:** Anita Haigh, Ines Greco, Fr Peter Morrissey (1st Assistant Priest at North Ryde from 1958-1961), Donald Gomes, Laszlo Kazmer recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Maria & Nino Rossi, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Vincenzo Surace, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Antonio Fonti, Grazia Fonti, Onofrio Casamento, Domenica Casamento, Joseph Casamento, Sigmund Zelma, Aniela & Edmund Zelma, Paul Blayney, Eileen & Joseph Bennett, Olive & Vince Blayney, Joan & Bill Cusack, Lila Brown, Jim Read, Vanessa Juresic and the deceased members of the Blayney, Bennett, Zammit and Zahra families.