

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 Gospel of the Lord.

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'IT IS BETTER THAN I GO AWAY ...'

Today's Gospel comes from the long
instruction that Jesus, according to the
Fourth Gospel, gives to his disciples at the
Last Supper. He reflects upon his return to
the Father and what his absence will mean for
the disciples.

Jesus' 'departure' seems to operate on two
levels. The setting of the supper on the night
before he dies makes it natural to understand
'going away' as a reference to his imminent
departure in death; his 'coming back', then,
would refer to his appearance on the third day
as risen Lord.

At another level, however, Jesus addresses a
more permanent 'going away' when, following
his appearances to the disciples as risen Lord,
he finally ascends to the Father (see John
20:17). From this perspective, his 'coming
back' would refer to his return at the end of
time.

At this level the instruction Jesus gives does
not bear upon the short space between Good
Friday and Easter, but upon the indefinite
'time of the Church' that will follow.

During this time – which remains our time – the
disciples will not enjoy his physical presence.
But Jesus insists that it will be a better time
in fact. His death on the cross will defeat the
grip of sin and death upon the human race,
and open up for us the gift of eternal life.

Jesus is 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life'
in the sense that his death supremely reveals
the 'truth' about God (that God is love) and
opens up the 'way' to human sharing in God's
(eternal) 'life'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP 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 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 Pet 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

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;
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,



Sacred Heart Parish Church
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale
 81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360 (P. O. Box 107)
 Email: inverellparish@armidale.catholic.org.au
 Phone 67221103

PRIESTS: FR JAMES POOVATHINKAL MS. P.P., VF
 FR JAYARAJ GORANTLA AP
PPC Chair: Mrs Sharon Hollis
Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger—67224066

Parish Secretary: Mrs Noela Turner—67221103.
Office Hours
 Mon & Fri 8am—1pm; Thurs 8am—12 noon



PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

We will be printing a number of bulletins for pickup from the presbytery verandah.

If you wish, you can leave your planned giving envelopes at the presbytery in office hours. We have decided the box is not secure enough.
 Office hours : Monday 8am—1pm; Thursday 8am-12noon; Friday 8am—1pm.

Fr James will be offering private Mass in the Church every week day at 9am for all parishioners and you are encouraged to pray privately at this time. Mass offerings will be accepted at the presbytery.

Sunday Mass 9am

Sick calls as usual. Please call 67221103 OR 0428126703 if you would like Fr James to come for confession, communion etc. He is free to do this now with the easing of the restrictions in NSW allowing 2 visitors.

This is a great time to get involved with the life of the Church around the world. Two websites of note are
 Cath News <http://cathnews.com>
 and also
 Where Peter Is.
<http://wherepeteris.com>

OUR VISION AND OUR MISSION:
 We as a PARISH, try to live out our
VISION: To continually form a Christ-centred community based on the Gospel Values expressed through SERVICE in peace, justice and love.
MISSION: To know Christ more, His life and His teachings. To imbibe Christ's message of love and service. To try to share generously what graces and



Mass Intentions for the Week
 Holy Souls in Purgatory, Martha & Betros Maroon, Ruby & Shehede Hanna, Joseph and Anthony Hanna

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK
 All those with the Corona Virus, Terry Hopgood, Joan Hiscox, Paul Saint, Debrah Brown, (sister of Margaret Jones) Kerrie O'Keeffe, Carmel Hooper, Sr Leo (Josie) Clancy, Alana Goldman, Lloyd Fleming, Rhonda Lee Watts (daughter of Phyllis Nichols) John Sanders, David Sanders, Rex Parry, Jeanette Rennie, Danny Dickins, Katrina Newbigin, Bob Kneipp. Brian Barker, Linda Redondo, Marie Ward, Margaret Wales, Dorothy Ball, Mary Porchedda, Denise Taveira, Joanne Essey, Graham Tom, Fred Boight, Mary Jordan, Agnes Hannigan **the sick members of our parish whose names are not listed here.**

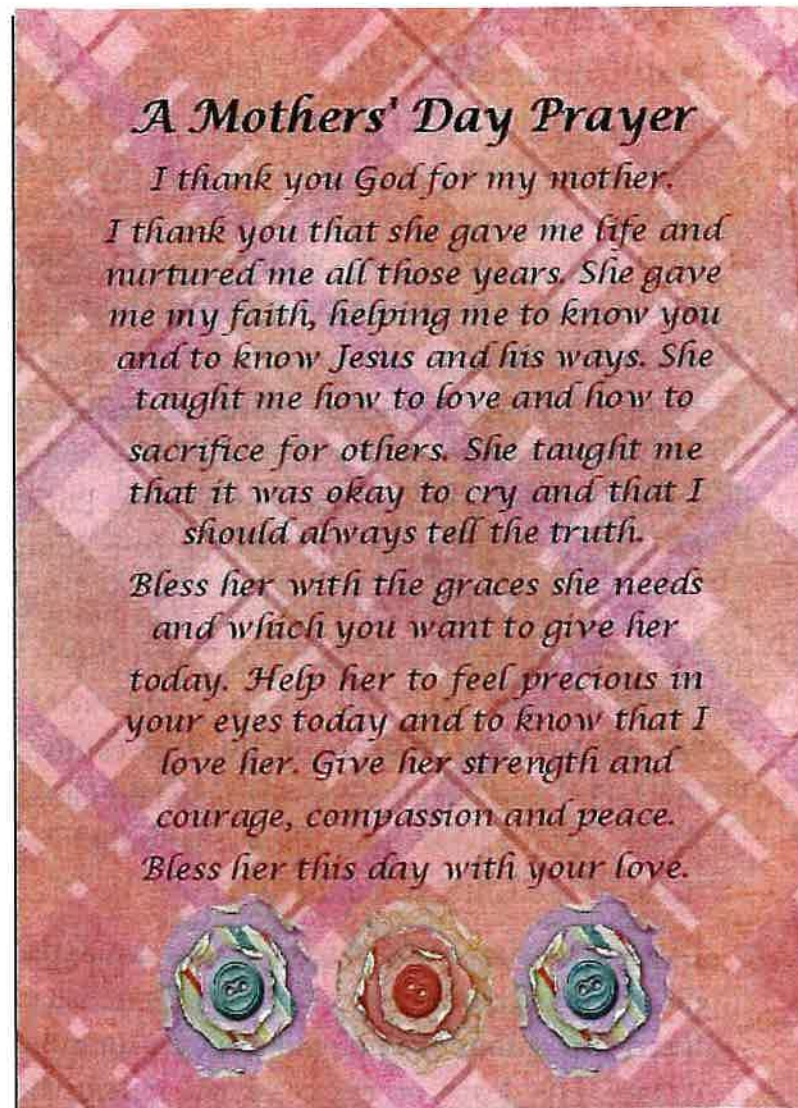
We Pray for the Recently Deceased & Anniversaries
 Murray Marshall, Sr Theresa Noon, Cleo Campagner, Nolene Lane, John Harmon (brother of the Harmon family) Gail King, Teresa (Clancy) Conroy, Fr Bernie Melville, Pat Stewart, Athol & Marjorie Reeves, Pat Clancy, Sr Anne O'Brien rsm (aunt of Shayne O'Brien) Eileen O'Brien, Sr M. Bernard Morton, Phil Harris, John Moore, Alan Matthews, Thomas Hanley, Paul Witherdin, Mary Robbins, Peter Hoynes, Susan Hoynes, Kath Denovan, Yvonne Hawkins, Lindsay Dale (father of Tony) John Lennon,

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
 O Mary you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and feasting after this time of trial. Help us Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
 Under your protection we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

MAY 10, 2020—FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / YEAR A

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My dearest Jesus,
 I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament .
 I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot, at this moment, 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



A Mothers' Day Prayer

*I thank you God for my mother.
 I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me all those years. She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others. She taught me that it was okay to cry and that I should always tell the truth.
 Bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today. Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her. Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace.
 Bless her this day with your love.*

This May, during the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Francis has invited the faithful to renew their love for the Most Holy Rosary, a prayer fully immersed in the Gospel. In this article, Vatican News looks at the dedication of various Popes throughout the centuries to



Prayer to Patroness of Diocese
 Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia
 Our Lady of the Rosary, Patroness of the Diocese of Armidale Mother of God and Queen of the Angels
 We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.
 Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our Diocese, for our nation and for the world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your Son Jesus and of all his holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
 For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
 May your Son deliver from all evil.
 Amen.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF YOUR PRIESTS AND YOUR PARISH
 Those who contribute by envelope and would like to convert to direct debit are invited to come during office hours to fill in their forms (social distancing will be observed). If you would like to continue with your envelopes, please leave at the presbytery. If possible leave in office hours. Alternatively you may like to make the transfers yourself: Please make sure you put your name in the reference section
 First Collection: Presbytery for priest upkeep
 BSB 082105 A/C 001023550
 Second Collection: Church for running costs
 BSB 082105 A/C 001001010
 We are sure that you will understand that normal running expenses will have to be met and ask for you usual generous support.
 Thank you to those who have responded already. Your support is greatly appreciated.