

Reflection on Today's Readings

Dr. Scott Hahn

By God's goodness and compassion, the doors of His kingdom have been opened to all who have faith, Jew or Gentile. That's the good news Paul and Barnabas proclaim in today's First Reading. With the coming of the Church—the new Jerusalem John sees in today's Second Reading—God is “making all things new.” In His Church, the “old order” of death is passing away and God for all time is making His dwelling with the human race, so that all peoples “will be His people and God Himself will always be with them.” In this the promises made through His prophets are accomplished. The Church is “the kingdom for all ages” that we sing of in today's Psalm. That's why we see the Apostles, under the guidance of the Spirit, ordaining “presbyters” or priests. Anointed priests and bishops will be the Apostles' successors, ensuring that the Church's “dominion endures through all generations”. Until the end of time, the Church will declare to the world God's mighty deeds, blessing His holy name and giving Him thanks, singing of the glories of His kingdom. In His Church, we know ourselves as His “faithful ones,” as those Jesus calls “My little children” in today's Gospel. We live by the new law, the “new commandment” that He gave in His final hours. The love He commands of us is no human love but a supernatural love. We love each other as Jesus loved us in suffering and dying for us. We love in imitation of His love. This kind of love is only made possible by the Spirit poured into our hearts at Baptism, renewed in the sacrifice His priests offer in every Mass. By our love we glorify the Father. And by our love all peoples will know that we are His people, that He is our God.

Our Lady Help of Christians

I wonder if many Australian Catholics realise that Our Lady, Help of Christians is the patroness of our country, Australia? Her feast day is celebrated on the 24th of May each year. This feast was first established by Pope Pius VII in 1815. Our blessed mother had been venerated under this mantle before this date but this title had not been officially recognised by the Vatican. Pope Pius VII declared May 24th a feast day to Our Lady Help of Christians in gratitude to God and His most Blessed Mother in enabling him to survive and return to Rome after being arrested and exiled by the order of Napoleon I of France in 1814.

In 1844 our fledgling new country of Australia was placed under the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians. The convicts and settlers of the early British colonies of Australia were denied a priest to minister and offer Mass for many years and it was the reciting of the Rosary that kept the Catholic faith alive during those early years. It was entirely suitable therefore, to be placed under the patronage of Our Lady helper of those first Australian Catholics.

Today, as our country moves into ever more secular times, we must turn to the most Immaculate helper of Christians in our efforts to maintain and uphold the treasure of our Catholic Faith with ever-increasing conviction and love. Our Lady, Help of Christians has been ‘placed beside our Southern Cross’ to help us and guide us in our journey home to her beloved Son, Jesus. Let us remember her motherly protection and turn to her often in our need and as our country moves forward after our recent Federal election let us pray to Our Lady, Help of Christians to guide our leaders in governing our land and upholding its Christian heritage and values. Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for us!



Immaculate Heart ♥f Mary Parish Thurgoona

Parish Priest: Fr. John Fowles



Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith. James 2:18

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Mass Times

Saturday: - (Vigil) 6pm

Sunday: - 9:30am & 5:30pm

Monday: - 8am

Tuesday: - 10am, *Mass of Mercy*

*2nd Tues of month-Anointing of the sick
and the cause for Cardinal Pell.*

Wednesday: - 8am

Thursday: - 7pm, Mass & Family Novena

Friday: - 8am

1st Saturday of Month only: -8am- with
devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Working Bee: Sat - 9am to 11am

Sacraments and Devotions

Adoration: - Fri 8:30am to 10:30am

Precious Blood - Fri 10am

Rosaries: - Thurs 6:30pm and Sun 9am

Reconciliation: - Thursday after Novena
Sat 5:30 to 5:50pm before Vigil,
Sun 9 to 9.20am & 5.00 to 5:20pm

Baptism and Marriage: -By appointment

Legion of Mary Praesidia:

Mon. 9:30am - *Mystical Rose*

Tues. 9.00am (prior to 10am Mass)
- *Mary Immaculate*

Parish Notices

- **Please pray for the success of the visit by The Legion of Mary legionaries** who are visiting with us over the next two weeks.

We pray that as the Legionaries reach out to all those they visit in the way of evangelization that their efforts to bring God's love and message of His good news will bear much spiritual fruit within our parish and we ask our Blessed Mother through her most immaculate heart to intercede for us to her Son for the success of this special outreach mission.

Sub Tuum Praesidium - We Fly to Thy Protection

(one of the oldest known prayers to Our Blessed Mother, Mary.)

**We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God, despise not
our petitions in our necessities,**

but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

- **Help Palms Achieve a World Free of Poverty:** Share your skills with a community organisation in Asia or the Pacific to contribute to sustainable solutions to poverty. Our community partners have requested teachers, nurses, tradies and more to work alongside a local counterpart in 2020.

We welcome all those who envision volunteering their skills overseas in the next few years to join our next training course, starting in Sydney on July 6th. Visit palms.org.au or call **Palms now on 02 9560 5333** for more details.



Fifth Sunday in Easter

19th May 2019

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

Alleluia, Alleluia!
REJOICE, FOR HE IS RISEN!

First reading Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 144:8-13

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.



Second reading Apocalypse 21:1-5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

Gospel Acclamation John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. *Alleluia!*



Gospel John 13:31-33,34-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. 'My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

Communion Antiphon: Jn 15: 1, 5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Lord hear our prayers for the Sick: Peter Morris, Carmel Baker, John Ambrose, Kathy Hofer, Shirley Evans, Jenny Mannering, Beau Kirkham, June Cox.

Anniversaries: Lorna Wilson, Helen McCrohan

Readers this week: Sat 6.00pm - Peter Tobin Sun:9.30am - Steve McCrohan

Readers' Roster: 25th.May/26th. May 2019

Sat:6.00 pm- Luke Burton Sun:9.30 am-Jorgette Hudson

Cleaning Roster: 25th. May Kathleen Horsfall

Financial Report: cheques payable to **Ihm Parish Account** or Direct Debit: BSB640000: Acc. No.111270902 Include name on transfers. **First Collection:\$403.85**
Second Collection (Envelope): \$350.00 Direct Debit:\$320.00 Loose:\$222.45

Saints of the Week: Mon. 20th. May St. Bernadine of Siena, *Priest*
Tues. 21st. May St. Christopher Magallane & companions
Wed. 22nd May St. Rita of Cascia
Fri. 24th May Our Lady Help of Christians *Solemnity*
Sat. 25th. May St. Bede the Venerable, *Priest, Doctor:*
St.Gregory VII, *Pope*

Serenity Prayer: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen

A Novena To The Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, third Person of the Blessed Trinity, Spirit of truth, love and holiness, proceeding from the Father and the Son, and equal to Them in all things, I adore You and love You with all my heart.

Dearest Holy Spirit, confiding in Your deep, personal love for me, I am making this novena for the following request, if it should be Your holy Will to grant it: (mention your request).

Grant me, Divine Spirit, the holy fear of God; grant me true contrition and patience. Do not let me fall into sin. Give me an increase of faith, hope, and charity, and bring forth in my soul all the virtues proper to my state of life.

Give me efficacious grace sufficient to keep the commandments and to receive the sacraments worthily. Give me the four Cardinal Virtues, Your Seven Gifts, Your Twelve Fruits. Raise me to perfection in the state of life to which You have called me and lead me through a happy death to everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen