



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.'

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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;

A Message from Pope Francis

14 May, 2020 will be a Day to Invoke Every 'God' through Interfaith Prayer to End COVID 19.

Pope Francis is calling upon the different religious traditions to help end the coronavirus by invoking their many gods in one, big interfaith prayer service on 14 May, 2020. The Pope said: "Remember, 14 May, all believers together, and believers of the different [religious] traditions, to pray, to fast, and to do works of charity.

"Each one from wherever they are and according to the teaching of their religion, faith, or sect, should implore God to lift this pandemic off us and the entire world, to rescue us all from this adversity, to inspire scientists to find a cure that can turn back this disease, and to save the whole world from the health, economic, and human repercussions of this serious pandemic."

On Thursday, 14th May 2020. Let us unite in Prayer with fasting and good deeds. Let us strengthen the universe with HIS Power.

10 May 2020

A Mother's Day Blessing

Thank you mother: Thank you, dear Lord, for our mothers: who were brave enough to give us birth, who loved us through many growing-up years, who taught us about God and love and being good, who often got no thanks, whose ears could hear the slightest cry, whose eyes didn't miss much either, whose hands held and bathed and picked up, whose hearts were often broken, who always forgave and forgot, who encouraged us when things went badly, who always had time to listen to us, who worked so hard to make things go, who made the world so much better – who deserve our love on Mother's Day and every day even for eternity.

Heavenly Father, Bless all those You have entrusted with motherhood. Inspire them to follow the example of Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, and follow her in her fidelity, humility, and selfless love. May all mothers receive Your Grace.

Amen

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IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Margaret McConville

RECENTLY DECEASED

Angela Proietto, Carmel Trento

ANNIVERSARIES

Lola Attard, Maryrose Cassar, Rosario Carni, Nancy Palumbo, John Galea, Carmen & Joseph Galea, Angela & Santo Sciacchitano, Stella Spiteri, Eileen & Michael Tomlin, Margaret Azzopardi

MONTH OF MAY – MONTH OF ROSARY

Month dedicated to Blessed Virgin Mary

Though not able to come together to pray the Rosary at St Peter's Church, we encourage you to pray a family Rosary at home every day during the month of May. We hope to have a Procession with the Statue of Our Lady on 31st May.

SELF-ISOLATING? OUR PARISH IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU If you are in need of some assistance with shopping, being taken to appointments etc, please call the Parish Office on 9337 4141. We have volunteers who can assist. If you are feeling a bit lonely and would just enjoy a friendly chat over the phone, please let us know. We are here to help where we can.

PARISH FINANCES

We are most grateful for your contributions during this challenging time. Thank you all for your support. Online donations as follows:-
Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection
Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C
BSB: 083 347 Account No. 66541 7521
Reference as your first initial then surname, or remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account
BSB: 083 347 A/C No.. 53530 4676
Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giver number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

CARITAS AUSTRALIA – PROJECT COMPASSION

Please return your Project Compassion donations by **Tuesday, 12th May** or call the Parish Office to arrange for pick up.



A Prayer to St Joseph

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life.

Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:

May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen.