



The Barbra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
3rd Sunday of Easter - Year A

25th & 26th April 2020

Acts 2:14,22-33; Ps 15; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

FATHER JOLLY'S WEEKLY REFLECTION

Jesus once walked on the earth and his walking was important. Today, we his disciples walk on the path he has set for us. With the Psalmist, each of us can say, "you have shown me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence" (Ps 16:11:cf acts 2:28). We are on a journey towards eternal life with God. We will one day reach our destiny. As long as we keep our sense of direction, take time out to consult our guide and observe the road signs, concerned for other travellers giving support to them, making it a regular practice to pray, we are sure to reach our goal. However, our Christian journey will not be exempt from the challenges of simply being human. The Gospel is Good News, but Jesus never said it was easy news. We will encounter the harsh realities of our personal and social lives. We are all facing such a big challenge at this moment and we must persevere in our journey and our set path. Life always seems better on the other side of the hill. The grass always looks greener in another field. After the crucifixion of their master, two of his disciples, disappointed because all their hopes had been dashed by his death, left Jerusalem and were on their way to Emmaus in search of the other side of Calvary (Lk 24:13). We can't act like them. "In prayer, you call God a Father, so then, live out the time of your sojourn here in reverence for God" (1Pet 1:17). This means that, when we are faced with difficulties, as we face them at this moment, we must not give up on God. We cannot always trace God's hands, but we can always trust God's heart, because God's goodness is equal to his greatness. God never abandons us. He always comes to help. Many times, in our journey we find ourselves immersed in trials and troubles, but if we remain calm and wait on God his gentle tug will pull us in the proper direction. Our "life jacket" may be other Christians or Scripture and the Eucharist as it was to Emmaus disciples. Like those disciples, we too can experience God as we listen to his Word. God knows that we need spiritual nourishments for our daily journey. In our journey we are not alone. Jesus walks with us. He walks with us in our lack of understanding, our hurts and our bitterness and in the middle of Covid19, as he did with the two disciples. He asks us to surrender our difficulties, worries about our lives, children, family, parents, friends, economy, jobs, country and the world into his hands and continue our journey. Remember the Lord walks with us. It is always better to have a guide himself with us walking, though maps and road signs are useful. He knows the way, because he has been there before.



Let us continue walking with our guide trusting that we never be lost.

FINANCIAL WELLBEING OF THE PARISH

With the closure of churches to public Masses, the Parish income has taken a severe hit, and is struggling to pay its bills.

We still need you to continue your regular envelope donations so we can meet these essential expenses, and this can be done by dropping them into Fr Jolly in the Parish office (slip it under the door if he is not there), or by converting to either a regular credit card payment or a regular payment from your bank account. Either of these can be set up for you once you complete a very simple form. If you would like to do either of these electronic payments, just call in or ring the parish office and the relevant form can be completed on the spot or sent to you. Another option is to make regular donations using the Parish website (stfinbars.org.au) hit the "Make a Payment" button on the front page select the biller code "Planned Giving" and complete the other details.

Thank you for your continued support

Parish Finance Committee

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Parish Finance Committee is, as always, considering the financial situation of the Parish. The following matters may be of interest to parishioners:

- With no public Masses, we expect a very significant shortfall in income over the next 6-9 months. In addition, we cannot hire out the hall, thus cutting off another revenue source.
- We still have all our bills to pay including insurance, utilities, upkeep of computer programs and printers, phones etc.
- To address this shortfall, we have suspended loan repayments temporarily, all staff have been reduced to minimum hours, and we will seek to delay other payments if possible.
- The Parish has registered and enrolled for the Jobkeeper allowance, but we are still waiting a response from the Government.
- Some faulty floor tiles in the church have been replaced at no cost to the Parish, and the gutters on the presbytery have been cleaned thanks to Joe the builder.
- The Parish has had to implement a new system of communicating with the ATO so that the quarterly BAS can be submitted. This has now been done.
- The Parish audit this year will be a remote audit in two stages. We must be ready for stage 1 in early May and stage 2 in early July

Please continue to support the parish both financially and by your prayers, and look out for your neighbours and others who might be in need of assistance.

ONLINE ALPHA INFORMATION AND TRAINING.

Our call to invite others to know Jesus is as important as ever. Alpha is a tool that can introduce people to Jesus in a safe and comfortable environment. It can assist in creating and engaging your community – even online. To find out more information about Alpha online, either to host within your own parishes or to be part of a Diocesan team, you are invited to attend a workshop on how to bring Alpha Online to life.

Thursday 23rd April, 7.30pm – 8.30pm Register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lfu-oqzMpHdVhGMqlKYDPMNT6va9Z0HKy>

Monday 27th April, 10am – 11am Register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlTcOyqqz0jEt0u3G91lcUmCFc59H-MprPl>

Registration essential.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The sessions are repeated so you only need to attend one workshop.

For any enquires contact Lisa Bright at lisa.bright@parracatholic.org or 0448 652 720

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ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS



The Catholic Weekly Digital Edition for issue 19 April 2020 is now available. **Please click the link to view.**

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

If you haven't already done so there is a Special Easter Supplement Magazine to view online as well. **Please click the link to view.**

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/650730/>

A special thanks to the young parishioners who helped in many ways to reach out to the older parishioners who needed assistance during the Easter Week. May God bless you and your families.

Father Jolly.

PARISH GOOD NEWS

The power in the church is fully restored and it is ready for Masses after the Coronavirus is finished and will be waiting for all the Parishioners. Hope to see you all soon.

Also, a special thanks to Joe Blasivic who helped by replacing all the broken or chipped tiles in the church.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Elise Doyle (Jacqui Visser's Sister), Patrick Hanson, Patricia De Mattia, Ken Moore, Maureen Purcell, Veronica Blair (Marg Holden and Bly Miers Mother), Merle Catlin (Margaret Richard's Mother), Jim Barrett, Anthony Campbell (Alison Howard's Brother), Hilary Doyle and Denis (Mick) O'Sullivan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Adam Carlyon (Theresa Luczak's Son in Law), Kathleen Schneiders, Maria Macri, Eugene Daley (Margaret Rivas' Friend), Ryder Lopez, Rev. Max Barrett (CSSR) (Jim Barrett's Brother), Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Pam Clyne, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Sophie Hollies, Colleen Nolan, Michelle Anthony and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Cheryl Kirton, James Gormly, Letitia Osborne, Katie Jones, Alicia Snaith, Raymond Roberts, John Tregillgas, Dennis Lohan, Marjorie Aussel and Angela Pereira.

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Reflection on the Gospel

One of the remarkable things about the Risen Jesus is that his friends and followers almost always fail to recognise him at first. In the instance on the road to Emmaus, two of the disciples are walking the road feeling sorry for themselves when Jesus joins them. It is, perhaps, an experience that is not unfamiliar in our own lives: so absorbed by what is happening to us that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ walking the journey with us



– in spirit or in the guise of someone around us. Jesus allows the disciples to share their woes and their grief and then he slowly but surely relates all of what had happened to the scriptures and demonstrates to the disciples that the events of the previous few days were all part of God's plan. The disciples felt that their hopes and beliefs had been misplaced in Jesus; he hadn't delivered all that they had dreamed. But the Risen Jesus makes them realise that their hopes were not misplaced; they were right to trust and hope in Jesus and that belief will still bear fruit.

It is not until Jesus re-enacts the Last Supper breaking of bread that the disciples suddenly recognise him, but at that moment of recognition, Jesus vanishes from their midst. It must have been tantalising and frustrating for the two disciples – when they finally realised who they had been talking with and they could celebrate his presence Jesus disappeared. But the truth of what they had realised didn't abandon them. They reminded one another of the passion they had felt: 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?' They are saying to each other, how stupid must we have been not to recognise Jesus? Only he could make us feel like that!

Reflection by Greg Sunter

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