



6th Sunday of Easter

21 May 2017



Year A



Next Week's Readings

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11
2nd Reading: Ephesians:17-23
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

RESPONSE

Let all the earth
cry out to God
with joy.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father
will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Initially after the resurrection, the friends and followers of Jesus went in to hiding for fear of their lives. They had seen their close friend and Master betrayed, denied, condemned and crucified. They had lost all heart. But eventually they began to find the courage and strength to believe in Jesus and in themselves. Jesus had appeared to them several times to strengthen and encourage them. So they began to go into the streets and villages and proclaim the good news of the resurrection. They began to preach, heal and teach. They did not do any of this by themselves. They were filled with the Spirit of the risen Jesus. The followers of Jesus lay their hands on the people and they receive the Holy Spirit.

When we were baptised, we too had hands laid on us. We were given a name, we were anointed and we were filled with the gift of the exact same Holy Spirit. This simple but profound ritual was repeated when we celebrated our Confirmation. We were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Just as the first followers of Jesus proclaimed and announced the good news of his resurrection, we in our time and in our way are called to do the same. Today, we are the people who are called to be witnesses and messengers of the resurrection. We do this in our homes, our communities and in our workplaces; wherever and however we can.

Excerpted from the Gospel Reflection of Michael Moore OMI available at <http://oblates.ie/pray-with-us/weekly-reflections/>



If you love me
and keep my
commandments,
I will pray to
the Father &
He will give
you another
Advocate
to be with you
for ever.

~ Jesus
John 14:15-21

CHAPLAINCY SUNDAY APPEAL TODAY CHAPLAINS - OUR COMPANIONS OF HOPE

Give Hope by Giving generously to our dedicated Catholic Chaplains. The role of the Catholic Chaplains is to walk with people as they seek out new possibilities in their lives and support them as they invite God and others to join them in this journey.

Donations will go towards supporting Chaplains who work with:

- Young people in youth justice facilities
- Patients and their families in public hospitals
- People living with HIV/AIDS. Men and women in Prisons
- Seafarers

"We must open the doors of opportunity.
But we must also equip our
people to walk through those doors."

LYNDON B JOHNSON,
36TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



THE PROVISION OF PAIN RELIEF IS NOT EUTHANASIA

Every person is entitled to good pain relief to alleviate suffering at the end of life, such as that offered by palliative care. The provision of such pain relief is not euthanasia, even if a person's life may be shortened. It is a vastly different action to euthanasia where the decision is made to **intentionally** kill someone.

To find out more about the issue, contact the Life, Marriage & Family Office on 9287 5587/ lmf@cam.org.au or visit: www.cam.org.au/euthanasia

Euthanasia
& Physician
Assisted
Suicide –
Why are we
concerned?

THANKSGIVING

♦ CHURCH: \$ 1,706.60 PRIEST: \$ 1,216.00
(RETIRED PRIESTS & ARCHDIOCESE)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES

ANNIVERSARIES: Brian Watt, Antonio Turk, Linda Blaauw, Ronan Hart, Alice Read, Thelma Treverton, Harry Harrison.

SICK: Mary Edmonds, Brian Taggart, Pauline Muscat, Marta Kristan, Kala Lindsay, Geoff Bell, Stan Piergrosse, Dorothy Reilly, Ted Davies, Peter Lisle, Vince Mariniello



CARDINAL PELL RESPONDS TO BOOK, CONSIDERS DEFAMATION ACTION

The office of Cardinal Pell has released the following statement in response to the publication of *Cardinal: The Rise and Fall of George Pell*, written by ABC journalist Louise Milligan and published by Melbourne University Press.

The Cardinal is grateful for the enormous support and encouragement he has received following the publication of this MUP book. Each and every allegation of abuse and cover up against him is false. The book is an exercise in character assassination.

The decision by MUP to bring forward the publication of the book prior to any findings by the Royal Commission and while allegations are still under consideration by the Victorian Office of Public Prosecutions is a blatant attempt to interfere in the course of justice.

Unlike MUP, the Cardinal will not interfere with the course of justice. He will await the outcome of due process before launching defamation action.

Source: Melbourne Catholic website

BLASPHEMY: DOUBLE STANDARD FOR MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS IN JAKARTA

International groups have expressed grave reservations about human rights and religious tolerance in Indonesia following the jailing of Jakarta's Christian Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama for blasphemy. The governor, known as Ahok, was jailed for two years on May 9 following a lengthy trial.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian Catholic Students Association has called on police to process their blasphemy complaint against prominent Islamic cleric Muhammad Rizieq Syihab. Angelo Wake Kako, the student's chairman, said the government must ensure that the law is equally implemented.

"The verdict on Ahok demonstrates the inherent injustice of Indonesia's blasphemy law, which should be repealed immediately," said Champa Patel, Amnesty International's Director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. "The verdict will tarnish Indonesia's reputation for tolerance," he said in a statement.

Priests, nuns and lay Catholics joined hundreds of people at a candle-lit rally outside a Jakarta prison last May 9 to give moral support to Ahok.

Full story available at www.ucanindia.in

SOME 20,000 PEOPLE REPORTEDLY BECOME CATHOLICS ON THE MAINLAND CHINA

There were 4,446 new Catholics baptized in China's northern Hebei province during Easter, the highest amount in the country during the same time. Other provinces with over 1,000 new baptisms include 1,593 from central Shanxi, 1,327 from southern Guangdong, 1,234 from northwestern Shaanxi, 1,169 from eastern Shandong, 1,168 from eastern Zhejiang and 1,097 from central Henan.

Hebei is the largest Catholic province in China with nearly 1 million Catholics and is a stronghold of the underground Catholic community. Shaanxi, Shanxi and Zhejiang are also traditional Catholic provinces, each with more than 200,000 Catholics. Full story available at www.ucanindia.in

FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, 24 MAY

The Feast Day of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive.

The Australian Catholic community remained faithful to Mary and Australia was the first nation to choose her under the title, 'Mary Help of Christians' as principle Patroness.



ASYLUM SEEKERS MUST BE BROUGHT TO AUSTRALIA NOW

The St Vincent de Paul Society says it is now a matter of utmost urgency for the more than 800 asylum seekers and refugees at



the Manus Island detention centre to be brought to Australia, as no other option is available to them.

Media reports indicate the men have been told by PNG immigration officials they must leave the centre to make way for the demolition of some of its accommodation blocks.

'It is not an option for people found to be refugees to instead relocate to a so-called transit centre in the PNG community,' the Society's National Council CEO Dr John Falzon said. 'It is well known that refugees who have already tried settling into the PNG community have found it too hard or too dangerous.'

The Society is also critical of reports that those whose claims for asylum have been rejected should return to their countries of origin before the end of August, when a \$20,000 cash incentive from the Australian Government will cease.

Full report is available at www.melbournecatholic.org.au

MULTICULTURAL MASS SUNDAY, 4TH JUNE 2017

Registration is still on going for our Multicultural Mass.

Please come and participate in the celebration of our unity in this diverse community in our parish.

Many People, One Parish

