



*Easter greetings to all members of the Boonah Catholic community and beyond on this Fifth Sunday of Easter!*

I had to check my diary for the date of Easter this year. It was the 12<sup>th</sup> April. So that means that this Sunday is Day 29 of the Easter Season . . . the twenty-ninth day out of fifty days! We are 3/5 done! Our Easter days of 2020 are different and yet I am grateful to be on the receiving end over each week of written and texted messages, comments, phone calls and suggestions about our bulletin from readers. Thank you for taking the time and care to be in touch!

1. **LITURGY BRISBANE**, from our own archdiocese continues to provide Sunday Readings for home reflection. Click on the link below for today's texts.

We all know the drill: the first document contains the Sunday readings with associated commentaries and prayers. It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together:

<https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/sunday-readings-at-home.html/>

The second resource is designed for families with young children. An extract from the Sunday gospel is provided, along with several reflection questions, a family activity and a worksheet for children:

<https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/family-prayer-week-by-week.html/>



2. **A REFLECTION ON THE SUNDAY WORD.** On the last few Sundays, we have carried a Sunday reflection. Today's reflection is offered by Donna L. Ciango, a Dominican sister of Caldwell, New Jersey, USA. We are glad to offer it via YouTube and in print:

<https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/05102020>

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

DONNA L. CIANGIO, OP

On this fifth Sunday of Easter, we hear rich words that should gladden our hearts and fill us with energy for the Gospel mission of Jesus!

The two lines from the Gospel that jump out at me are:

1. "Where I am you also may be." and
2. "Whoever believes in me will do the work I do."

I recently heard a lovely story of a small boy who packs his backpack with Twinkies (*a golden sponge cake with a cream filling*) and juice boxes (*a popper*) and goes to leave the house.

His Mum says, "Where are you going?" The boy says, "I am going to find God." So off he goes.

He ends up in a local park and sits on a bench next to a homeless woman.

He takes out a Twinkie and a juice box and starts to unwrap them.

The woman watches and smiles at him and he laughs and offers her a Twinkie and a juice box. They both eat, talk, laugh and enjoy each other.

Soon, the boy says goodbye and sets off for home. The woman leaves and goes off to find her friends.

When the boy gets home his mother asks, "Did you find God?"

He says enthusiastically, Yes, and God is a woman!"

The homeless woman meets up with her friends and says, "I met God in the park today – and he is a little boy!"

These two lines that I heard in the Gospel today are illustrated by this story:

"Where I am you also may be" and "Whoever believes in me will do the work that I do."

Both the boy and the woman manifested God where they were, what they were doing, and how they related to each other.



Each of these phrases is essential for us. We bring Christ wherever we are.

We are given the work to carry on the mission of Christ in our time and in various ways.

This is so well illustrated in a poem prayer by Teresa of Avila (written around 1571):

*Christ has no body now but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

On this Fifth Sunday of Easter in the Eastern Church, the feast of St. Photine is celebrated.

St. Photine is the name given to the Samaritan Woman whom Jesus spoke with at the well. The name means “luminous one” because she heard the words of Christ and recognized him as the saviour.

We don’t celebrate or name her in the western church. In one way we celebrate her as a critical person in the Gospel, and in another way she is invisible.

Yet, this woman is a major evangelizer and a prophet. It is through her words and witness that a whole village comes to believe in the Christ of the living water.

Think of what you do each day to witness Christ to others. Think of the things you say and do to advance the mission of Jesus. Just like those in our first reading from Acts, “we devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” to continue to spread the word of God and increase the number of the disciples in our families, our work, and ministries.

We know that the women of Scripture have played pivotal roles as prophets, preachers, evangelizers, deacons, and leaders of prayer and Christian communities.

Today we continue to have opportunities and obligations to step up and lead in those same roles. People so often tell me that they are grateful for the leadership of women in the Church and that they are eager to hear their voices more often.

As hard as it is, we need to seek those roles and see ourselves as prophets manifesting the Word of God to all. And we must help others do the same.

As Jesus said, “Where I am you also may be.”  
and “Whoever believes in me will do the work I do.”

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” It is up to us! Amen

### **Reflection**

I would like to leave you with two questions for reflection:

- Who were the prophets you met this week who manifested God to you?
- In what ways were you a prophet for others?

3. When I was at Banyo Seminary, I saved my pennies from December - January holiday work at the Mater Public Hospital (scrubbing surgical instruments in CSSD) and bought myself a beautiful classical guitar around 1987/88. It was a handmade Maton, an Australian guitar. I learned a setting of *St Theresa’s Prayer* by John Michael Talbot. You may enjoy this recording from JMT and the accompanying power-point show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqVbLQh-ITO>

4. We pray with and for those who are sick in our parish and beyond: all across the globe infected with COVID-19; former pastor of Boonah parish Fr. Ellis Clifford, Chris Healy, Bill Castley, Paul White, Thyrlene Devin, Bridget Muller, Liliana Toohill, Libby Shields, Jonathon Hancock, Pio Artesi, Marko Babic, Dermot Peters, Max Gardiner, Nicole Wimmer, Bernice Lippiatt, Pat Toohill, Trish Merlehan, Kath Pascoe, Suzy Collyer, Pat Shannon, and Paul Maschio.

*O God, hear our prayer for our sick sisters and brothers.  
Help them and restore their health. Amen.*

5. This past Thursday the immediate family of Pat Treacy together with small number of friends and health-care staff celebrated the Funeral Mass at Holy Cross church, Redcliffe parish.

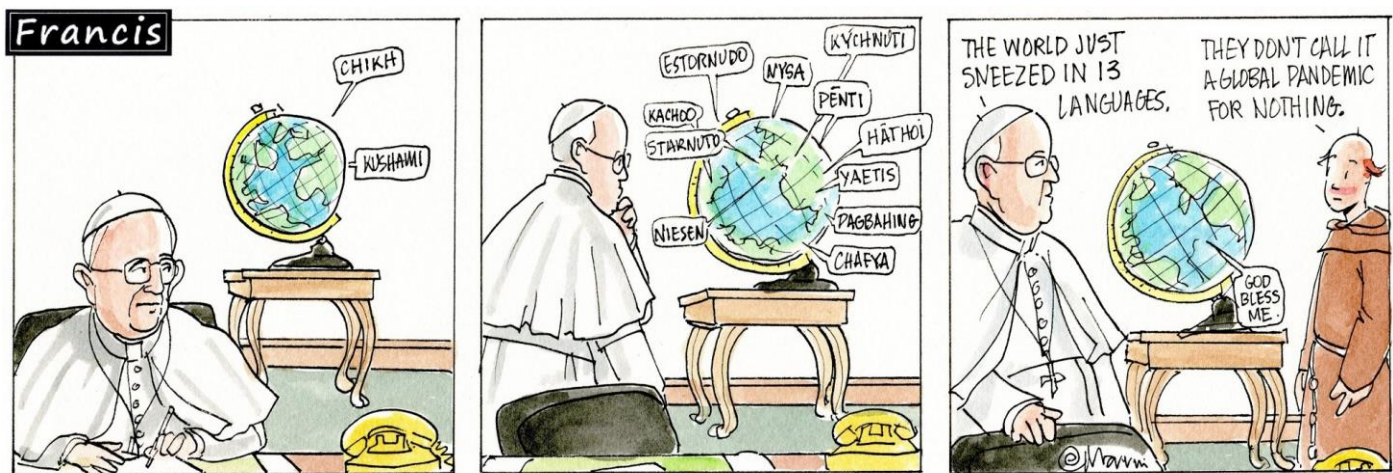
I thank Fr Bob Harwood, pastor, for his warm welcome, and Holy Cross Funerals for the care they extended to the Treacy's. Pat, with her spouse, Kevin, was a long-time parishioner of the St. Peter's Coolum Beach community at the northern end of M'dore parish. Kevin died six months ago. Pat and Kevin were joined in Christian marriage for 64 years. May Pat rest in peace, as well as the thousands who died this week across God's earth and for all who mourn.

#### 6. FRANCIS, THE COMIC STRIP by Pat Marrin.



NCRonline.org/cartoons

5th May 2020



NCRonline.org/cartoons

7th May 2020

7. Close to the end of the week + Ken Howell, auxiliary bishop of the Church of Brisbane, is sending an update on the state of church things related to the pandemic. The restrictions for parishes and gatherings remain in place over the next week which include a limit of five people for weddings, a limit of 10 people for funerals (plus a further 3 who are conducting the service), a limit of 5 people for baptisms and any livestreamed Masses or services are limited to five people including the camera operator.

From the 15<sup>th</sup> May the Queensland Government has announced an easing of restrictions from 11:59pm on 15th May. This which will allow for gatherings of up to 10 people for weddings, places of worship and religious ceremonies. Funerals will be increased to a maximum capacity of 20 people indoors and 30 people outdoors. This news requires further consultation in regards to implementation for parishes and workplaces. **A statement will be released from Archbishop Coleridge next week to outline how these new guidelines will be implemented within the Archdiocese of Brisbane.**

8. The parish is like a family when it comes to funding our daily life and activities: we need income to operate day by day. Our parish has monthly bills like your household. Thanks to all who have given over this week and to those who sent their envelopes in.

9. Liturgy Brisbane compiles a regular education piece for us. The most recent is titled: *What have we learned from lockdown?*

There are three feature readings in this current issue:

\* **Church after Coronavirus**

*This article is a series of extracts from recent articles in the National Catholic Reporter. Various commentators share their views on the new understandings of social mission which have arisen for the Church.*

\* **Virus and Vocation**

*Fr Tom O'Loughlin discusses the challenging version of discipleship which has emerged while our world has been upside-down and wonders whether our new ways of listening and doing might persist.*

\* **Real Presence and Virtual Liturgies**

*Fr Felix Just SJ explains that there are different kinds of "reality" and "presence" and points to ways in which technology makes it possible to be "really present", in ways we have not experienced before.*

<https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/>

10. Our Archdiocese of Brisbane has now launched the **PARISH GIVING APP**. It can be used as a one-off and accepts all forms of debit and credit cards including MasterCard and Visa. Our church bank, the Archdiocesan Development Fund, assure us that no card details are held as part of the application. The highest industry standard is applicable on this app. Try it out!

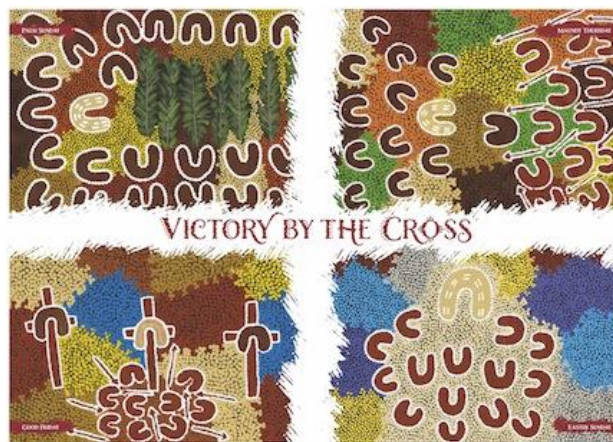
<https://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au/slides/> All gifts are gratefully received . . .



*'I have good news and bad news,' the defence lawyer told his client. 'I'll give you the bad news first. The blood test came back, and your DNA is an exact match with that found at the crime scene.' Oh, no!' cried the client. 'What's the good news?' 'Your cholesterol is only 3.5.'*



11. THE CATHOLIC LEADER digital edition is currently delivered free to your inbox every Thursday morning. Sign up here <https://bit.ly/2ShdcSZ> A free subscription is available while Masses are suspended across the Archdiocese of Brisbane due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The editor and his team hopes this offer gives us all a sense of connection, inspiration and renewal in the faith, at a time when living the faith has changed.



12. In gratitude for friends who send on clips that make me LOL . . .



VIDEO-2020-04-04-  
12-58-48.mp4

13. I offer this article for reflection this week. It is long but it is worth persevering as the writer is a fine Catholic thinker named Fr. Tomáš Halík from Prague. Click on the icon and enjoy!



Christianity in a  
time of sickness^J T

To reach the port of heaven we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it –  
but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.  
Oliver W. Holmes, American Supreme Court Justice + 1935

Wishing you and yours the joy of the Risen Jesus.

John  
pastor  
Boonah Catholic community