



George Rouault, *Christ and the Apostles* (1937-38).

*Sunday greetings to the members of the Boonah Catholic community and beyond on the 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.*

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

The first link 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. REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNDAY WORD.** We share two reflections on the Sunday scriptures our church chooses for this Sunday.

We are able to hear the Word being reflected upon from female and male faith perspectives . . .

♦ Today's Sunday preaching is offered by Joan S. Grey. Joan's biography is fascinating and includes this line: *Injuries during an Army parachute jump ended her military career but opened her eyes to hospital chaplaincy. Serving as a chaplain in trauma centres, she discovered few people expect illness, injury, or death.* The link below offers a video of her reflection, text and some background of our preacher:



<https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/06212020>

♦ The second commentary on the readings is offered by Laurie Woods, an Aussie scripture scholar:

#### **Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A**

The first reading is a passage from the book of Jeremiah that is so typical of the prophet. Jeremiah is one of those characters who had an exceptionally bad time. He never wanted to be a prophet, and the first chapter of the book tells how he tried to dodge his responsibility by saying that he was too young to go public with the unpopular message of a prophet. The Lord's response was to tell the young Jeremiah not to put up excuses but to get on with the job. As things turned out, Jeremiah's prophetic message was so filled with recriminations toward a people who had strayed from following God's way that he quickly became an unpopular figure.

**Jeremiah 20:10-13** Prior to uttering this depressing cry Jeremiah prophesied in the temple warning that punishment lay ahead for the people of Judah because of their idolatry and infidelity to God. The temple's chief officer, Pashhur, took great exception to Jeremiah's prophecy and ordered him to be beaten and put in the stocks. The next morning,

when Pashhur released Jeremiah, the prophet foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the citizens. All this took place around 597 B.C. and ten years later the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem and took the leading citizens off to Babylon to endure an exile that lasted around 50 years.

#### **In a state of depression, the prophet still had confidence in God's care**

In his lament Jeremiah tells how his so-called friends abandoned him while others denounced him. What is extraordinary about Jeremiah's lament in these verses is that in his state of depression he is still very confident that God will look after him. He rests secure in the knowledge that his enemies will not get the better of him but will be put in their place by the Lord. Jeremiah is a child of that Hebrew spirituality that knows God's track record of having delivered the oppressed and needy in time of distress and has always 'come to the aid of those who call on the name of the Lord.' Mary the

mother of Jesus gives expression to the same idea in her *Magnificat* when she acknowledges that God lifts up the lowly and scatters the proud; provides for the needy and gives dignity to the disadvantaged.

It is a common theme in the Hebrew Scriptures that God will come to the aid of those who are powerless in society. This includes the economically poor, the battlers who had just enough to survive on, the disabled who were hampered by mental or physical affliction, the oppressed who were preyed upon by the rich and powerful, the socially impotent who had no way of gaining justice in the face of corruption. Where such people were honest toilers striving to live good lives, they could count on divine support. Jesus saw his mission as taking up the cause of these disadvantaged ones and bringing them the good news that God was on their side. Speaking in the synagogue at Nazareth he expressed himself in the words of the anonymous prophet we refer to as Second Isaiah:

18 *'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*  
Luke 4:18-19 (NRSV)

Notice there is nothing deeply theological here, but it is certainly focused on relationships – the kind of relationships that contribute to quality life and the promotion of the reign or community of God in human society. The mission of Jesus was to untie the knots in people's lives and show them the way to God. All that is required is that we follow Jesus' way, live by his values and establish our priorities in life according to his teaching and example.

### **God is the compassionate one who provides help that never fails**

The very same sentiments come through in the responsorial psalm where the psalmist sings of the love of God and the confidence he has in the Lord. The psalmist acknowledges his sinfulness and his human weakness but he feels the attack of his enemies is unjust and he calls on the Lord for vindication. The psalmist describes God as the compassionate one who provides help that never fails. Jesus himself reinforces this same idea when he promises that if we seek we shall find, if we knock the door will be opened and if we ask we shall not be disappointed.

**Romans 5:12-15** The reading from St Paul to the Romans contains the apostle's classic statement of his contrast between Adam and Christ. He draws a parallel between the two, showing how Christ restored what humanity, in the person of Adam, damaged through sin. Paul argues that Christ is the perfect human being. In fact, he is what we all might aspire to be. In Jesus Christ we have the model for our own lives.

**Matthew 10:26-33** The gospel reading comes from the tenth chapter of Matthew which deals with Jesus' commissioning of the apostles. Jesus has already given the apostles the power to heal and sends them out. The last part of the chapter that includes the verses in this reading is really a collection of Jesus' sayings about discipleship.

Jesus tells the disciples that his teaching has only reached a limited number of people but through the wider mission of the disciples the message will reach many more people. The disciples will in turn bring in more committed followers and so the good news will spread. In the next saying Jesus assures the disciples that they should have no fear of anyone who would harm them physically. Rather, they should be more wary of those who are capable of destroying the whole person by leading them astray or seducing them into a way of life that would alienate them from God.

Jesus says that God cares as much for a sparrow as for a person (Matthew 6:26). The sparrow was one of the cheapest items sold in the market. The point here is that nothing happens without God's knowledge and it follows that God's care for those who are in an intelligent and loving relationship with God will be particularly looked after, in much the same way as is implied in the earlier readings of today.

### **Commitment to Christ implies ongoing loyalty to Christian values**

Finally, Jesus urges his followers to be prepared to align themselves with him in the public forum. Discipleship of Jesus is not a private thing because the implications of discipleship are that the committed disciple will live the Christian lifestyle. Without putting on a show the follower of Christ will implicitly telegraph the kind of faithfulness to values and beliefs that reflect the attitudes of Jesus Christ. Those who confess their allegiance to Christ and live accordingly will be embraced by the Lord at the end of the day. Those who deny Christ will not have the door opened to them when they knock



– not because they have been rejected but because they have *chosen* to reject Christ.

This last saying touches on the nobility of loyalty and there is a story in the life of Augustus Caesar where a veteran soldier was involved in a lawsuit that was likely to go against him. He approached his former commander and asked if he would appear on his behalf in court. Augustus appointed

one of his team as the soldier's lawyer and introduced him to the veteran. The former legionary rolled up his sleeve, showed his scars and said to the emperor. *'When you were in danger at the battle of Actium I did not choose a substitute but fought for you in person.'*

Augustus, suitably chastened, appeared in court on the veteran's behalf.

3. 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, Marko Babic, Dermot Peters, Max Gardiner, Nicole Wimmer, Bernice Lippiatt, Pat Toohill, Trish Merlehan, Suzy Collyer, Pat Shannon, and Paul Maschio.

*Jesuscristo sana, sana, ya!* (Jesus Christ heals!)

JESUCRISTO REINA YA (ANON., ARGENTINA)

from *Together in Song Australian Hymn Book II* (1999)

4. Last Sunday I updated us on our June Parish Pastoral Council meeting. A small subgroup of the Council meets today to put-together our parish plan to gather again for Sunday eucharist as well as eucharist during the week. Several parishioners generously offered to be available to put in place any requirements of State and Church. *Thanks so much.* I also mention to us all that our two bishops stay in touch with the pastors of the Church of Brisbane on a very regular basis. We are very grateful for this.

5. I again encourage us to continue praying at home in our household/s. If it helps you to pray, prayerfully watch live-recordings of communities celebrating eucharist especially in our Cathedral of St. Stephen, Brisbane. This link takes you to the live-streaming page:

<https://www.cathedralofststephen.org.au/mass-times.html>



6. 2020 is the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si* – Pope Francis’ letter to all people of goodwill concerning human care for creation *for the common good*. It was ground-breaking and remains so. For five Sundays starting on the Ascension, we are promoting the anniversary of *Laudato Si*. The new Vatican department for Promoting Integral Human Development prepared this prayer:

# COMMON PRAYER

for the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
**Laudato Si'**

**Loving God,**  
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
You created us in your own image and made us  
stewards of all your creation.  
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land  
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.  
Help us to be conscious that our common home  
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to  
all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to  
preserve it.  
May we help each person secure the food and  
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,  
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being  
left behind.  
Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope  
and fraternity so that we may experience a true  
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the  
consequences of this global pandemic,  
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are  
needed in search of the common good,  
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all  
interconnected and interdependent,  
Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth  
and the cry of the poor.  
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more  
fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we  
make this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

**LAUDATO SI'  
WEEK 2020**

DICASTERO PER IL SERVIZIO  
DELLO SVILUPPO UMANO INTEGRALE

7. On 8th June David McGovern from Catholic Mission - Brisbane visited our parish. It was good to see David again as it had been a few years since we caught up. We enjoyed local café hospitality downtown! David takes great pics:



In addition to visiting us, David featured our parish on their social media platform a few weeks back: <https://www.facebook.com/catholicmissionbrisbane>. It is part of their *June Us on Facebook* campaign this month.

This is a message from David:

In a recent address to the Pontifical Mission Societies, of which Catholic Mission is a part, Pope Francis reflects on the importance of joy, as an essential quality for evangelisation to occur. It is because of our own joy, as Christians, that impel us to share the Gospel and to be missionary in our own right and according to our specific contexts.

It is with that joy that we are conducting this social media campaign. Last month, we used Facebook to invite people to join with us in praying the rosary. We posted daily, with the details of the Zoom 'meeting' in which the rosary would be offered. Each day, people from a range of locations joined us online to pray the rosary. During the time of COVID 19, many parishes have been using social media, including Facebook to implement new ways of 'being church', including offering Mass. It has

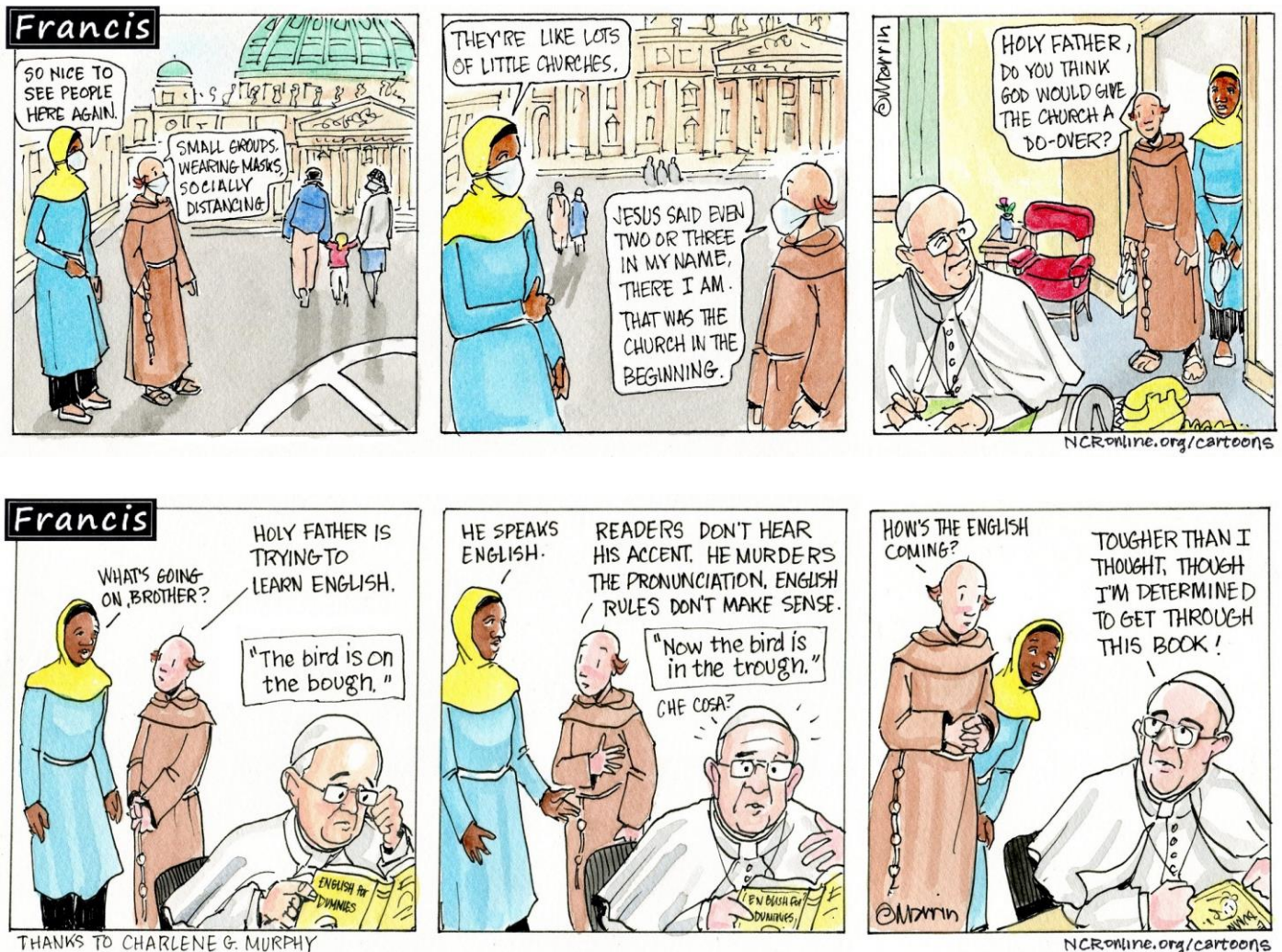
been inspiring to see how many communities have seized the moment to 'lean into' social media and modern technology to reach out to those, both within their congregations, and beyond. We are hoping that this simple campaign, of endorsing one another's Facebook page, will help keep that momentum going.

In doing so, we commit our efforts – to like, to share, to promote – to the Holy Spirit. As the Pope observed in his PMS address: *"If we recognise that the Holy Spirit ignites and preserves the faith in our hearts, everything changes. Indeed, the Spirit enkindles and enlivens the Church's mission, bestowing all those individual accents and styles that make the proclamation of the Gospel and the confession of the Christian faith something different from all political, cultural, psychological or religious forms of proselytism."* To which, we would simply add to "individual accents and styles",



"your parish Facebook page." And also the one for [Catholic Mission – Brisbane](#).

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

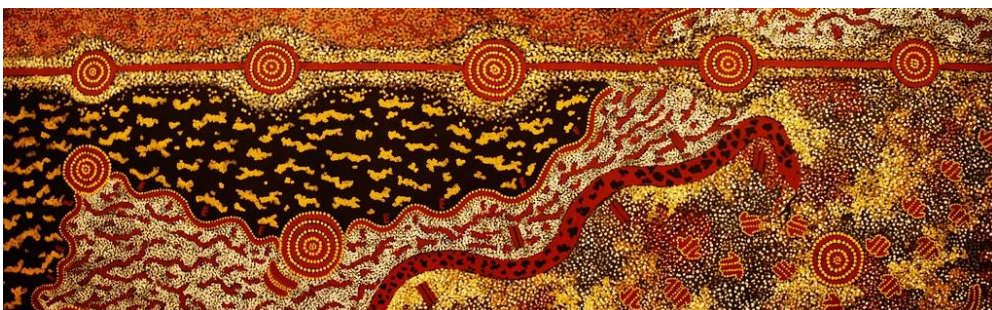


16th and 18th June 2020

9. During the week, Liturgy Brisbane sent parishes the latest edition of *LITed* which looks ahead to what the Church may look like in light of Coronavirus and reflects upon how we may have learned to see differently. The feature articles in this issue are:

### ❖ 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

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

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.

The current edition is now ready to view: <https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/>

10. **THE CATHOLIC LEADER** digital edition is currently delivered free to your inbox every Thursday morning while we have these restrictions. A free subscription is available while Masses are suspended across the Archdiocese of Brisbane due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sign up on <https://bit.ly/2ShdcSZ>. 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.

11. During the week, the USA Benedictine publishing house, *The Liturgical Press*, sent a statement to their customers. It strikes me as a prophetic example of confession which is the fruit of reflecting upon events there and making a decision to do something differently:

From THE LITURGICAL PRESS:  
**Black Lives Matter.**

We join the world in mourning George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and untold thousands of other people—Black, Brown, and Indigenous men, women, and children who have been murdered in the United States and its predecessor colonies and settlements over the past five hundred years. We acknowledge our complicity in the sin of racism and the evil inflicted on people of colour in our country and the Church we serve.

As an apostolate of Saint John's Abbey, Liturgical Press is guided by the Rule of St. Benedict, wherein we are called to "Listen . . . with the ear of our hearts." In recent weeks, as we have listened to the outpouring of grief and rage, I have reflected on our failures as a company to live up to our mission: "To publish the Good News of Jesus Christ . . . to deepen the faith and knowledge of a *richly diverse* Church."

#### **In what we have done and what we have failed to do.**

We have published good and wonderful and important works of many kinds. And we are grateful for the authors and customers we have served. At the same time, we confess:

We could and should have done more to work against the structures of privilege that encode racism in the fabric of our culture and our Church.

We could and should have done more to employ and mentor people of colour, to open our hearts and minds to the manifold richness of God's creation in the human spirit.

We could and should have done more to engage with and publish Black, Brown, and Indigenous authors to authentically serve readers, ministers, and worshipers of all races.



We could and should have done more to sow the Word of God, in various media and a multitude of voices, for a richly diverse Church and for all peoples regardless of faith.

**Our commitment.**

We commit ourselves to redress these failures. We commit to work, with humility and hospitality, toward becoming a publishing company that represents and reflects and serves the whole People of God.

In Christ,



12. The **PARISH GIVING APP** is now up and working. Choose BOONAH PARISH. If you are having problems with the app, call the Archdiocese for some help!  
<https://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au/slides/> Thanks again to all who are continuing their weekly giving.

13. During the week, ABC radio was promoting musical performances from the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO).

I have listened to performances from this world-class orchestra for over 20 years when they perform in Brisbane.

You may enjoy this HomeCasts offering by director Richard Tognetti, a short piece from one of Bach's violin pieces:

<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianChamberOrchestra/videos/257356662032191/>

Tognetti has been the visionary leader of our ACO for 30 years!

14. Finally, I enjoy the weekly radio ABC Radio National programme *The Religion and Ethics Report*. It is presented by Andrew West. Andrew conducted a recent interview with Fr Brian Massingale SJ who we featured last week in this bulletin. The recent events in the US are deeply concerning and there is now global reckoning on practices of racism – *alleluia!* In this interview Fr Massingale shares a very personal experience he had of supplying in a parish as well as exploring uncomfortable questions about the role of religious people in such practices:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/religionandethicsreport/palestinian-israel-annexation/9523930>

As Jesus teaches his disciples this week, *do not be afraid*,

John

*pastor,*

*Boonah Catholic community*