



Rembrandt's "Christ Walking on the Water" 1638, from the British Museum

Sunday greetings to the members of the Boonah Catholic community and beyond on the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

1. **LITURGY BRISBANE** currently 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 selects for this Sunday.

The first Sunday preaching is offered by Emily John who currently lives in Milwaukee, WI. Throughout her career, she has striven to use her talents best to serve the poor.

Initially, she served as Co-Director of the Newman Center at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She received her MA and PhD from St. Michael's College, Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto. Her master's thesis was on Karl Rahner, SJ and her dissertation was a feminist analysis of the theological anthropology of Langdon Gilkey.

... Emily directed Outreach and Development at St. John's Cathedral, where she raised money for and directed the Open Cafe, providing daily meals for the homeless and working poor. Since 1990, Emily continues to work for the Cardinal Felix Foundation, raising funds for the poor on the Caribbean islands of St. Lucia and Dominica. Emily also enjoys playing piano and watercolour painting, having had two successful one-woman shows.



<https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/08092020>

The second reflection on the readings for today is offered by William Grimm MM, a Catholic priest, who is part of the ministry team of the Union of Catholic Asian News.

It is also a video reflection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW1xp2e1pwo>

3. For those of us unable to gather for Sunday eucharist today, you may wish to 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>

Live-streamed daily eucharist continues at Lavender Bay, Sydney . . . prayerful and uplifting. Start time is 0730 Mon-Fri:

<https://www.northsydneycatholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand>

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, Marko Babic, Dermot Peters, Max Gardiner, Nicole Wimmer, Bernice Lippiatt, Pat Toohill, Trish Merlehan, Suzy Collyer, Clare Conway, Pat Shannon, and sick members of parish families.

Jesus had compassion on them and cured their sick (Matthew 13: 14ff)



My uncle, Adrian Farrelly (Mum's youngest brother), was ordained a priest for the Church of Brisbane on this day in 1973. I sent AG a short message on his 47th anniversary as well as this image of Jesus the good shepherd from an Indian artist.

5. *Boonah Parish happenings . . .*

- ♦ Our Boonah parish Pastoral Council met last Monday evening.

The first part of our meeting looked at the following themes from a recent Instruction from the Congregation for Clergy (Rome) on parishes:

THE PARISH IS MISSION;

THE EUCHARIST AND THE POOR SHOULD BE CENTRAL TO PARISH LIFE;

PARISH BOUNDARIES MATTER BUT CAN'T BE A LIMIT;

STRUCTURES ARE FOR MISSION;

THE PARISH MISSION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL AND EACH HAS A ROLE;

THE PARISH IS A FAMILY OF GOD THAT WALKS THROUGH HISTORY WITH *OUTGOING DYNAMISM*.

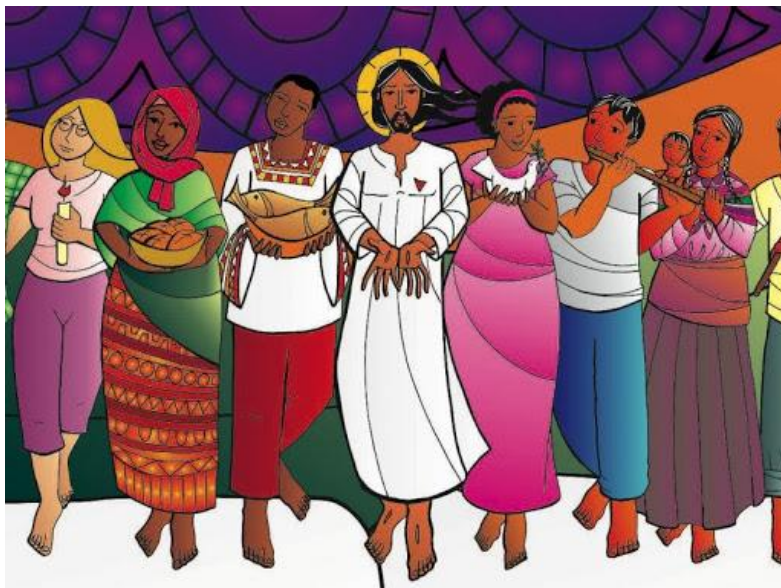
The second part of the meeting considered progress reports and discussion on how we were going with implementing the COVID-19 Safe Plan on Sundays.

The work of the team led by Fiona Hogeveen and Anne Artesi was formally acknowledged. Again I thank them on our behalf.

For the next Council meeting in September, councillors will bring some prepared ideas for 6, 12 and 18 month planning. They have been invited to do this in teams of three or four. This will save time at the meeting. Don't be surprised if you are asked as parishioners for your thoughts and ideas.

Looking ahead, I suggested that we consider exploring the formation of small groups that would drive and oversee key aspects of parish life: social justice or Peace, Justice and the Integrity of Creation; hospitality and outreach; social gatherings; liturgy preparation; sacraments of initiation for children and adults; spirituality; adult formation.

We also discussed regathering our parish youth group *Arise!* and possible steps to do this. The February plan to gather the group on Palm Sunday didn't happen for obvious reasons.



I forgot to mention at the PPC an initiative from the Vatican department for Promoting Integral Human Development. Its aim is for all communities within the Catholic family to implement the vision of *Laudato Si'* over seven years.

This is a great list of goals:

MEASURING INTEGRAL ECOLOGY IN THE SPIRIT OF LAUDATO SI' (*Laudato Si'* Goals - LSGs)

1. Response to the **Cry of the Earth** (greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, efforts to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.)
2. Response to the **Cry of the Poor** (defence of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.)
3. Ecological **Economics** (sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.)
4. Adoption of **Simple Lifestyles** (sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.)
5. Ecological **Education** (re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education etc.)
6. Ecological **Spirituality** (recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude, promote creation-centred liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.)
7. Emphasis on **Community involvement and participatory action** to care for creation at the local, regional, national and international levels (promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighbourhood ecosystems, etc.)

More information:

<http://www.humandevelopment.va/content/dam/sviluppoumano/documenti/LAUDATO%20SI'%20Special%20Anniversary%20Year%20Plans.pdf>

♦ Bishop Ken Howell is communicating directly with pastors of parishes on Thursday mornings with COVID-19 Updates.

I want to flag for us that the celebration of weekday eucharist requires the same amount of care we are giving to Sundays as well as the same procedures. Once I am assured we have a plan in place, we will begin to celebrate some eucharists during the week.

I remain very concerned that cases could re-emerge in Queensland as they have down south. I am hearing that some organisations in the community are preparing for this possibility. They are judging right now that it is better to be safe than sorry. I concur.

The health and safety of parishioners in all areas of parish life, especially the sacramental life of the people is my primary priority as pastor. I know our Parish Pastoral Council believes the same.

♦ I also want to thank the local COVID Crews who prepare the churches before and after our celebrations. Wonderful people! The parish school also donated a big pack of wipes for our use: thanks Shane and school!

6. FRANCIS, THE COMIC STRIP by Pat Marrin.



4th August 2020

7. There is a highly recommended podcast series by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. It is on St. Paul: *As we enter a change of era it is opportune to reflect on St Paul's role during a previous change of era and reflect on learnings that may help the church blaze a trail into new territory.* Thanks Archbishop Coleridge!

Episodes available now:

1. Getting to know St Paul;
2. Paul and the persecution of Christians;
3. The Road to Damascus; and
4. Spreading the Good News

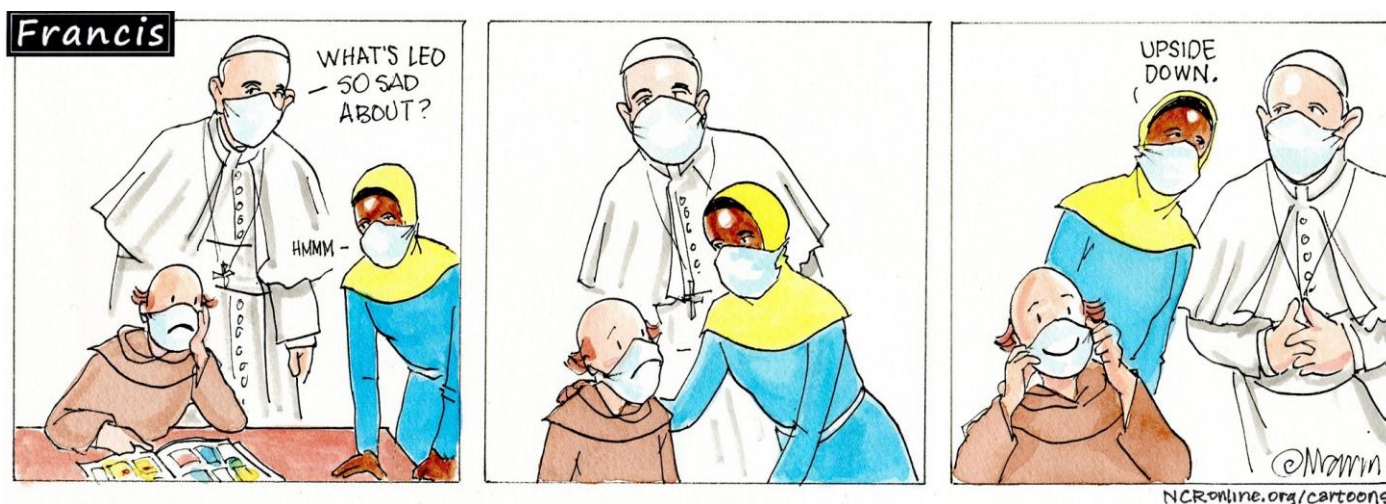
<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/articles/podcast-series-on-st-paul-the-birth-of-the-church-why-the-loser-won/>



8. **THE CATHOLIC LEADER** digital edition is available free at the moment and can be sent to your inbox every Thursday morning while the pandemic is still with us. 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.



9. **FRANCIS, THE COMIC STRIP** by Pat Marrin.



6th August 2020

10. Read Australian Jesuit Andy Hamilton's piece: "An age of communal and civic responsibility?" He writes from Melbourne and in the first week of the six week lockdown: <https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/an-age-of-communal-and-civic-responsibility>

11. For Flannery O'Connor buffs, this is a thoughtful piece in light of current discussion on race and the past. The author begins: *The deed is done. A week after the decision by Loyola University Maryland to remove Flannery O'Connor's name from one of its buildings, the cherry-pickers arrived on the school's bucolic campus in northeast Baltimore and, letter by letter, the name of one America's most iconic Catholic writers disappeared from the dormitory that had been known for more than a decade as Flannery O'Connor Hall.*



<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/cancelling-flannery-oconnor>



Prayer for the people of Beirut Light of new hope

God of refuge,
hear our prayer
as we hold the people of Beirut
in our hearts at this time.
Fill us with compassion
and move us to reach out in love.

In your mercy,
bring comfort to those who mourn,
healing to those who are injured,
shelter to those who are homeless
sustenance to those who hunger.

Give strength to those who are working
to rebuild shattered lives,
and protect those who are vulnerable
especially in a time of coronavirus.

Lead us in your ways
so that together we may bring
the light of new hope
wherever there is destruction and despair.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Pray-for-Beirut>

Have a good week!

John

pastor, Boonah Catholic community