Third Sunday of Easter 14th April 2013

It is the Lord!

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32. 40-41.  We are witnesses of these things

Psalm: 29  I will praise you Lord for you have rescued me.

Second Reading:  Revelations 5:11-14. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

Alleluia Verse:  Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation; he has shown pity on all people. Alleluia

Gospel: John 21: 1-4. Cast the net over the right side of the boat

Com. Antiphon: Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat. And he took bread and gave it to them. Alleluia


Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant:  Through Christ resurrection, new light and peace and life come into the world. Rejoicing in the grace of his presence, we confidently offer our prayers of intercession.

Leader:  We pray for all leaders of the Church: (Pause)
People:  May they continue to break open the Scriptures to reveal the Good News of the Resurrection.
Celebrant:  Let us pray to the Lord
All:  Lord, hear our prayer

Leader:  We pray for all members of the Body of Christ:
(Pause)
People:  In renewing our baptismal commitment, may we bear faithful witness to our Easter faith
Celebrant:  Let us pray to the Lord
All:  Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:  We pray for deacons and priests:
(Pause)
People:  May their ministry may lead others to recognize Jesus in Word and Sacrament.
Celebrant:  Let us pray to the Lord
All:  Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:  We pray for Christian unity (Pause)
People:  As our separated communities recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread, may he heal what divides us. (Pause)
Celebrant:  Let us pray to the Lord
All:  Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:  We pray for all the children and who will receive the first Holy Communion this year.
(Pause)
People:  May they come to believe and appreciate Jesus’ gift of love in the Eucharist.

EASTER IN ACTION:

The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well.

From The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. (Gadium et Spes) from Vatican II.

Harvard professor Dr. Simon Greenleaf said, “According to the laws of legal evidence used in courts of law, there is more evidence for the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ than for just about any other event in history.”

Please Pray For:

Sick: Joan Whitehurst, Bridie Kuskey, Lorraine Scofield, Gerardo Del Regno, George Dunne, Trevor Feehan, Clare Fern.
**Living the Gospel: Learning to forgive.**

The thrust of today’s readings is introduced in the First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles. The Jewish court expects Peter and John to blame them for crucifying Jesus. But they do not. Instead the apostles speak of repentance and forgiveness. Forgiveness, because God wants them as he wants us to ‘live to the full’. Repentance, because they, like ourselves, cannot welcome God’s offer of forgiveness without a change of heart. God is not blaming them. God is offering them the grace to change and the grace of forgiveness. The killing of Jesus was an awful crime. The way Jesus kept trusting and kept believing and kept loving and being in Jesus’ risen life and praising the Lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world.

The Gospel is a beautiful scene of forgiveness. It is a reflection on the success of the ministry of the apostles, no longer catching fish in the lake of Galilee, but now welcoming people into the community of believers in which we share the Eucharist around a coal fire on the shore of the lake. This remarkable success - which continues in our day as the Church grows in numbers and in holiness - is not due to the expertise of the missionaries. We are told that they fished all night and caught nothing. Rather, the catch comes when the missionaries listen to the Spirit of the risen Jesus and follow his directions. I am sure that we have all reflected often on the sensitive and extremely delicate way in which Jesus offers forgiveness to Peter for his three-fold denial.

Well, then, if the thrust of the readings is about forgiveness what do we do with the images of an angry, punishing God? To our shame, the Church is no stranger to using fear as an instrument of power, though it would probably be call instruction. This is a far worse crime and it must be challenged head on. Yet it seems, at first glance, to receive support from the Bible, which frequently speaks of God’s anger, and of God’s punishment. What are we to make of this language?

God is love, and he loves each of us **passionately**. God is stirred to anger by injustice, by mistreatment of people based on racial, religious, sexual prejudice. But it is **NOT** the anger of a fickle God losing patience with us, and not the anger that seeks to destroy those who oppose him, but the anger of passionate love that cares enough to correct us with a view to our changing and choosing life; with a view, as Peter said in today’s First Reading, of our reflecting to our changing and choosing life; with a view, as Peter said in today’s First Reading, of our repenting and experiencing forgiveness.

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**PARISH NOTICES AND COMING EVENTS**

**Weekly Collections:** Last Week: 1st Collection: $879.55
2nd Cash Collection: $974.20 Direct Debit: $265.00

**PLEASE RETURN PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES BEFORE MONDAY 15TH APRIL.** Collection so far: $2386.30.

**APRIL CALENDAR**

- **Sunday 14th**  Third Sunday of Easter. Syro Malabar Mass at 10.30 am. Parish Council at 10.00 am
- **Thursday 18th**  First holy Communion Parents and children meeting at 6pm
- **Wednesday 24th** Anzac Day liturgy at St Paul’s School.
- **Thursday 25th** Anzac Day. Mass at 8.00 am.
- **Sunday 28th** Children’s Mass with presentation of the children for First Holy Communion. Please bring a plate for morning tea.