A new commandment I give you. Love one another as I have loved you

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27. God had opened the doors of faith to the Gentiles

Psalm: 144 I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God


Alleluia Verse: Alleluia, alleluia. I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia

Gospel: John 13:31-35. This is how all will know if you are my disciples if you have love for one another


Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: All will know we are Jesus’ disciples if we love one another, a love that embrace the entire world. We open our hearts in prayer for those most in need of God’s healing, justice, and peace.

Leader: We pray for Pope Francis and the bishops of the Church: (Pause)
People: May their ministry of leadership be led by the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord
All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for our young people: (Pause)
People: May they be open in their search for God, and above all that they may be able to find Him in the depths of their hearts.

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our community: (Pause)
People: May our outreach and our welcome to all bear witness that we are living the Gospel

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the sick, lonely, the disabled: (Pause)
People: May our prayer and support make them feel they are loved. (Pause)

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for 33 children who will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist and their families
People: May they find in us people of great faith and love for the Eucharist so that they may be touched and helped in they journey to “recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread.”

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: O God, bring your love to bear on all that remains unloving and broken in our world. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

EASTER IN ACTION:

Those who have created the evil are those who have made possible the hideous social injustice our people live in. Thus, the poor have shown the Church the true way to go. A Church that does not join the poor in order to speak out from the side of the poor against the injustices committed against them is not the true church of Jesus Christ.

Oscar Romero, assassinated Archbishop of San Salvador, The Violence of Love

Please Pray For:

Recently deceased: Susie Kudra, Fr Binesh’s grandmother.
Sick: Joan Whitehurst, Bridie Kuskey, Lorraine Schofield, Gerardo Del Regno, George Dunne, Trevor Feehan, Clare Fern.
Living the Gospel: Love changes everything.

Jesus often taught by doing. In fact our Gospels are accounts of what he did more than what he said. There are very few words that can be verified as the words of Jesus himself. At times, his actions spoke more powerfully than any words that he used. One of the most striking examples of this is given in the account of the Washing of the Feet of his disciples in St John’s Gospel, which we celebrated on Holy Thursday. In the unfolding drama of the life of Jesus as remembered by John, these were some of the last moments that Jesus would spend with his disciples before his death, so what he does and says at this time carry extra significance. Today’s Gospel is probably one in which there is some close proximity to the actual words of Jesus: I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. When someone knows that he is about to die or leave those he has been with, he chooses his words very carefully and those with him listen that little bit more intently. As Shakespeare says in Richard II: O but they say the tongues of dying men/Enforce attention like deep harmony/Where words are scarce they are seldom spent in vain,/For they breathe truth that breathe their words in pain,/He that no more must say is listened more.

This significant action and teaching of Jesus introduces the following Chapters of John’s Gospel, particularly the great prayer of Jesus for his disciples and those who would follow them, as we will hear in the Gospel readings at Mass in the days leading up to Pentecost. We hear Jesus praying: “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word. It is us gathered here today that Jesus is praying for.

Jesus is showing us by his actions in washing the feet of his disciples, and in these words of farewell in the Gospel today, that his way of being with us, as well as in Eucharist, is also in our service of others, particularly in our Community, and in our willingness to accept the loving care of others in our Community. We sometimes forget that love is a two way street: it is both in giving and in receiving. For us, often the receiving of love and care is more difficult than to give. Yet it is essential to accept the loving service of others in our Community.

The commandment of love will transform our world, with the kind of rejuvenation mentioned in our Second Reading: God’s dwelling is with the human race … He will wipe every tear from their eyes and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away. Behold I make all things new! As we move towards Pentecost, let us ask the grace of this transforming love.

PARISH NOTICES AND COMING EVENTS
Weekly Collections: Last Week: 1st Collection: $ 999.35
2nd Cash Collection: $1189.65. Direct Debit: $701.00
Youth Ministry Special Collection. $532.50.

APRIL CALENDAR
OCHRE CARDS: Renewals due soon. Photocopy to be given to Sr. Rita or Fr. Roy.

Sunday 28th Children’s Mass with presentation of the children for First Holy Communion. Please bring a plate for morning tea.

MAY CALENDAR
Thursday 2nd May at 6pm second First Holy Communion meeting for parents and children. Please try to be present.

Friday 3rd May. NO FIRST FRIDAY VIGIL.


Tuesday 7th May. Reconciliation for Pentecost. Second Rite of Reconciliation (Confessions) at 7.00 pm. This will also be First Reconciliation for RCIA candidates. ALL WELCOME.

Wed. 8th May Feast of St Magdalen of Canossa.

On the same day the interview for parents and children for First Holy Communion will start.

Saturday 11th May. ASCENSION Mass with Bishop Eugene at 6.00 pm commencing the HOURS OF GRACE, concluding on morning of Pentecost 19th May. FILL IN THE ROSTERS ON FRONT TABLE