

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave your orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

St Mary's Parish

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents



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17th May, 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR A

FIRST READING:

Acts 8.5-8, 14-17

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING:

First letter of Peter 3.15-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

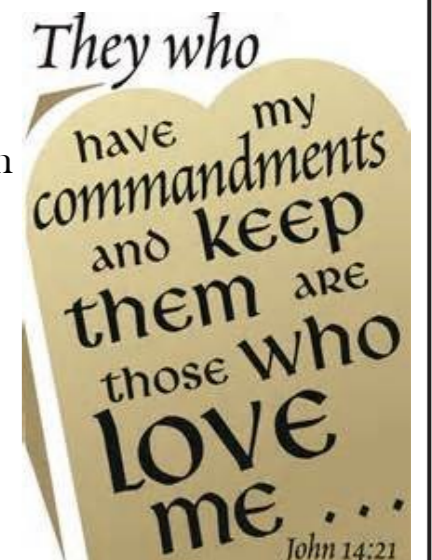
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14.15-21



"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor

knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."



Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall

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Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian

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Monday, Tuesday

9am - 3.30pm

Parish Office Manager-Secretary

Heidi Zahra

Tuesday 8:30am - 4pm

Thursday 8:30am - 4pm

Friday 8:30am - 4pm

Wednesday Secretary

Kylie Skinner

8.30am—3.30pm

St. Mary's School

Principal

Anthony Hockey

Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes.

Saturday at 6:30pm

Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Wednesday

Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly

7.00pm at Parish Centre.

Baptism must be booked

prior to attending

Preparation Night.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for, Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Barrie Poulton, Bridget Walsh, Cathryn Walsh.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Kay Magee, Clement Charles Peterson, Dr. Tony Huang, Andre Mande, Katica Bozanic, Desanka Repanic, Racheline Soccio, Maria Hoszylyk, Nicola Nardo, James Wills, Kathy Bednarek, Margaret Wills, Patrick O'Sullivan, Jack Taylor, Gordon Grainger, Vern Lawrence, Him McLaren, Patrick Quirk, Collin Maher, Ignazio Kucich, Frank Labb, Mary Geddes, Maria Napoli, Mary Lewer, Chris Carter, Charlie Axelson, John Bancell, Marion Brumby,

Charles Brincat, Tony McKie, Chloe Avery, Margaret Black, Albert Baily, Eileen Cooney, David Rowan, Des Brophy, Joan Shumway, James McAleese, Leo Doran, Arthur McKean, June Ellis, Catherine Doyle, Lenore Hay, John Bartolo, George Lewis, Matthew Costello, Alicia and Jan Oruba, Kathryn and Joseph Bojanowski, Rosaria, Alberto, Celestina, Emanuele, Giuseppe, Carmelo, Margherita, Felice, Ersilia, Natalino and George Mangion, Agostino, Margherita, Pasquale, Pietro, Rita, Francesca, Benedetto, Ignazio and Giuseppina Saragozza, Mario Camilleri, Maria Meloni, Natalino and Angela Meilak, Blondina and Lawrence Sammut, Michael Meilak and Joan Spiteri, whose anniversaries are at this time.



Dear Parishioners, Parents and People of Good Will,

Only 10 people will be allowed at this stage at any Mass in the parish. Since restrictions have eased a slight amount then in the next phase about 20 people might be able to be allowed at a Sunday Mass. At the moment I am trying to give more people an extra opportunity for Mass by putting on a 4:30pm Mass of a Sunday afternoon as well as the normal three Masses of the weekend: 5:30pm Saturday night. 8:30 and 10:30am Sunday morning but we are only allowed 10 people! I can't get around to everyone but if you wish to be part of the next phase of 20 people at each Mass, could you please be in touch by phone 0400 524 363. You can then advise me the Mass time of your preference. At this stage, I will be operating a curtailed schedule for weekday Masses and they will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9:15am. After each Mass, in accordance with Government regulations I need to have the names recorded of attendees, and also disinfect the Church immediately afterwards. Adoration will be back Wednesday afternoons. I am still operating the youtube site: fathergreg.online as an opportunity for Masses online, and also a sermon from myself. Hope the above helps somewhat. Fr. Greg 15/5/2020

SERMON EASTER 6A



Some time back I read the story about a person who saw an angel walking down the street. The angel was carrying a torch in one hand and a bucket of water in the other. "What are you going to do with that torch and that bucket of water?" the person asked. The angel stopped abruptly, looked at the bystander and said, "With the torch, I'm going to burn down the mansions of heaven, and with the bucket of water, I'm going to put out the fires of hell. Then we're going to see who really loves God." The angel's point is that **some people obey God's commandments out of fear of punishment in hell or hope of reward in heaven. They don't obey them out of love:** "If you love me," Jesus says in today's gospel, "you will obey my commandments." Let's take a closer look at the commandments of Jesus.

There are three ways we can look upon the commandments of Jesus. Take the command to "turn the other cheek". **First, we can look upon this command as a restriction to our freedom.**

It's something we sometimes hate to do, but have to do. It's something we'd rather get out of doing. When we look upon Jesus' command to turn the other cheek as merely as an unpleasant restriction – something we'd like to get out of – we can become angered by it and resent it saying: "Why forgive our enemies? Why not show them they can't push us around? Why not adopt the attitude of Nikita Khrushchev?" People generally know who Vladimir Putin is, but Khrushchev was an even more daunting Prime Minister of Russia. Strange as it may seem for a communist leader in the 1960's, he stated that he admired many of the teachings of Jesus! But he also disagreed with some teachings of Jesus. For example, he didn't agree with Jesus' teaching to turn your cheek when someone wrongs you. "If someone wrongs me," said Khrushchev, "I won't turn my cheek, I'll hit the other guy back so hard that his head may fall off!!"

Continued.....



This brings us to the **second way that we can look upon the commands of Jesus. We can look at them as guides to our growth.** Again, take Jesus' command to forgive our enemies. About 20 years ago, a worldwide medical association surveyed several thousand general practitioners. They asked these doctors this question: What percentage of people that you see in a week have needs that you

feel qualified to treat with your medical skills? The answers to that question were amazing. The doctors responded that they felt qualified to treat only about 10 percent of their patients. When questioned about the other 90 per cent, the doctors said that these patients suffered from real pain! But their problem wasn't a chemical or physical one; it was psychological. In other words, it was a "life problem" that defied normal medical treatment. The real causes of their illness were factors such as: anger, loneliness, negative feelings, or destructive lifestyles. These are problems that many normal doctors back 20 years ago could not fully handle, as he/she was a doctor and not a psychologist or a psychiatrist! Commenting on the effect these things have on health, Bruce Larson, from the Swedish Medical Centre Behavioural Health Unit wrote: "Doctors are quick to admit that there is little in their medical training to equip them to help patients with these life problems." Of course, **what happens now in a medical doctor's training would be different from the past, as decade by decade strategies improve in helping people with life problems.** However, the point is still valid that **when we hold a grudge, refuse to forgive, or seek revenge, we hurt ourselves as much as we hurt our enemy.** To put it in a more dramatic way, **the sword we use to hurt our enemy passes first through our own body.** The ancient Chinese had a proverb that warned against evil. It said: 'When you pursue revenge, dig two graves: one for your enemy and one for yourself!' In short, Jesus' command to forgive our enemies is not merely a restriction to our freedom, it is a guide to own health and welfare.

Finally, we look upon Jesus' command a third way: as an invitation to love. This is the way Jesus proposes in today's gospel: "If you love me," says Jesus, "you will obey my commandments." Jesus presents his commandments as opportunities to express our love for him. In other words, we may not understand why we should forgive others by turning the other cheek, but **we do it because Jesus wants us to. We look upon the commandments as an invitation to show our love for Jesus. That surely is not a bad thing!**

Fr. Greg 15/5/2020

