

# Weekend of May 9, 2021

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Mother's Day

This new Mass schedule will stay in effect until the Covid-19 crisis is over. Thanks for your patience.

**Barona:**

**Mass:** Tuesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

**Sunday:** Sunday 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

**Confessions:** By appointment only

**Adoration:** 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

**Viejas:**

**Sunday:** Sunday, 10:30 AM. @ Church

**Confessions:** By appointment only.

**Sycuan:**

**Sunday:** Sunday Mass 12:00 noon @ the Church

**Confessions:** By appointment only



Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, A. J. Samot, Angelo Samot, Donna Berardi, Daniel Vicaldo, Kash Osuna-Sutton, Anthony and Diana Pico, Dolly Albano, Ray Mayor, Mike Montes, Bobbie Turner, Helen Cadiente, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Agnes Ruiz, Deacon Bill Clarke, Rosario Ravasco, Minerva Mayor, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Alicia Castro, Debbie Gonzalez, Barbara Reeves, Nancy Rourke, Anthony Harut Haurutyunian, Bobby Curo, Abraham Pascual, Eugene "Gino" Vicaldo, Skylar Rosas, Richard Padua, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Joyce Martinez, Elvira Hapin, Lisa Black, Jan Jacobs, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Loucks

*Please check prayer list and add names as desired.*

by livestreaming with Fr. Herman  
*Please note weekday Mass time change*  
Weekdays, Tues-Friday at 8:00 AM,  
Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM  
Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel

**Saturday, May 22** – *Viejas Grave blessing and cleaning*

**Sunday, May 30** – 10:30 AM – *Viejas May Crowning*

### **Prayer for Mothers**

Loving god,  
*As a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,  
so you watch over your Church.  
Bless our mother.  
Let the example of her faith and love shine forth.  
Grant that we, her family,  
may honor her always  
with a spirit of profound respect.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

*-Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

## God's Love: His Greatest Gift to Us

**A reflection on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

If someone were to ask you what is the most overworked word in our language, what would you reply? Maybe a toddler would say (or his or her

### UPCOMING EVENTS

PARTICIPATE IN MASS

parents would say) NO. Perhaps a young adult might say, MUST, or parents would say of children WHY. Some would say we use the pronoun I far too often, maybe it's WHATEVER.

I would propose the most overworked word in our language is **LOVE**. And I would propose its overuse is linked to its importance. But sadly, talking about love, hoping for love, longing for love isn't loving, and doesn't make love happen. Please don't misunderstand me that I'm against love, rather I hope that this reflection will give us a way to really embrace life and love.

Both today's second reading and Gospel of the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter point out one of love's most challenging truths: Love is not something we create; rather it is a gift from God to which we respond. "Love is this, not that we have loved God, but rather that God has loved us", "You did not choose me, I chose you, to go forth and bear fruit".

Children must be loved if they are to grow and develop, there is in fact a medical condition for infants who have not been sufficiently held, cuddled, fondled, fed, and given love. It is called "failure to thrive". Literally these children do not grow, put on weight, and learn to walk, or speak. Without love we die. Children cannot love themselves into life and growth; we must do it for them. And when we do, they are on the road to living in a way that will allow them to recognize the love of God for them, and in turn give that love to others.

You cannot "make" friends, you can be a friend, and act in loving ways toward another, but love is always a response. The greatest challenge we are given as God's sons and daughters is to see, know, recognize, and cherish God's love for us. Can you say in several sentences how you know, and are absolutely convinced that God loves you? Or what is God's preeminent sign of love in your life? This knowledge is essential, for from it flows our response, and without it our responses can be easily manipulated, misused, or misdirected. I'm sure I've met some grossly selfish people in my life, but I'm more convinced that I've loved badly, as have others, not for selfish reasons, but rather because I've tried to chase after and create love from within myself alone, or I longed for it so desperately that I mistook a variety of things for love.

I am not a slave any longer, but a friend of God's; called to go forth and bear fruit. I am loved by God, into life, into my call, into all that I can be and do. If I hold love for me, afraid to give or share it, then I thwart the call of God, the plan of God. It is a gift given, and cannot be created, but once given it remains a gift only if shared. This is an obligation, not a wish. Not to choose to live the love given us by God diminishes and undoes us. And so, what we do absolutely matters, and love is never easy, and will always demand all of us, and all we can be and give all the time. So, we will spend our whole lives learning to return to God, by prayer, service, and love of others, in fact all others, the love God has given us. We cannot live without love, and it is life's greatest challenge. All made possible, really possible for us by God's overwhelming, overflowing, never ending love for us. A love we cannot create, deserve, or earn; a love freely given; a love tangibly given to us in Christ Jesus.

So, do you know, really know how much God loves you? Can you say this in concrete tangible terms? What is God's greatest manifestation of love in your life? What is God calling you to be and do because you are loved? How are you responding? How could your response be fuller? How have you failed in a loving response and what can lead you to move forward?

We are loved by God! Thanks be to God! What a gift! What a call!

**God is good all the time! All the time, God is good!**

**A Mother's love is God's love**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!**