

St Patricks Parish Church Hill

Under the Pastoral Care of the Marist Fathers since 1868



5 May 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B

The joy of knowing you are loved

In today's Gospel – John 15:9-16 – Jesus follows the allegory of the vine with a core teaching: “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love”. Abide in my love! One scholar says that this “is perhaps the nearest approach to an authoritative command (in John) to obey a moral or spiritual precept” (Cited by Raymond E Brown, *The Gospel according to John (XIII-XXI): Introduction, translation, and notes* (Vol. 29A), Yale University Press, 2008, 663). The significance of this “moral precept” should not be underestimated. That it is the most radical of all “moral precepts”, is made evident in John’s First Letter: “In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins .. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them” (4:10 & 16).

Pope Benedict XVI writes: “John also offers a kind of summary of the Christian life: ‘We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us’. We have come to believe in God’s love: in these words the Christian can express the fundamental decision of his or her life. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (*Deus caritas est* (December 25, 2005)).

The knowledge that we are loved is not an abstraction. It is an experience. It is also a gift. It is not merited. Though we can discover it anywhere, anytime. If we pause long enough to listen and reflect in the ordinary moments of our days, we will slowly come to recognize that we are loved. And knowing that we are loved is the greatest source of joy available to us!

St Paul describes Christian virtue as the fruit of the Spirit: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity etc” (Galatians 5:22-23). True virtue is born of obedience to that fundamental “moral precept”: “Abide in my love!”

See www.aquinas-academy.org.au for background material on the Gospel text.

Michael Whelan SM, Parish Priest

OUR SYNODAL JOURNEY

“Lay women and men, religious, priests and deacons are now directly nominated by the pope to participate in synods. All have an equal say and an equal vote. But the most significant change was the redefinition of the synod as a ‘conversation in the Spirit.’”

Blase J. Cupich, America, April 24, 2024

The Feast of St Dymphna We will commence the novena to St Dymphna Thursday 9 May and celebrate her feast on Thursday 16 May. St Dymphna is the patron saint for all those suffering from mental and emotional distress – especially those who have been sexually abused. The icon of St Dymphna will be placed at the front of the church for veneration. At all the Masses on the feast of St Dymphna there will be a blessing with the icon. Prayer cards are available at the pews.

Sr Fidelis - will be on holiday from May - July. Let us wish her every blessing and safe travels to Ireland to rest and spend time with her family.

Charitable Works Fund: This weekend 4 and 5 May is the first of our three Archdiocesan Charitable Works Fund Appeals for 2024. All donations from the Appeal will be spread across the six agencies CWF supports. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives!

St Pats Synodal Gatherings - St Patricks Parish is on a Synodal Journey. As part of that journey there are Synodal Gatherings in small groups both in the Crypt and on Zoom. The spirit of synodal gatherings is praying, sharing, listening and entering into dialogue. You are welcome at the next gathering in the Crypt – On Sunday 12th May at either 10am or 11am. Option for a gathering via Zoom during the week of Sunday 12th May. Register your interest with Paul Bullen using the QR code.



Coffee Shop Volunteers needed - for Wednesdays and Sundays, training provided, contact Michael Borromeo 9254-9855, office@stpatschurchhill.org

Upcoming processions - the Fatima Procession on Saturday 11 May and the Walk with Christ Eucharistic Procession on Sunday 2 June. More information in the parish notice-board.

Temporary Parish Office Hours in May - our office hours will be temporarily adjusted during the month of May: Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

WISDOM FROM TRADITION

“Malice will never drive out malice. But if someone does evil to you, you should do good to him, so that by your good work you may destroy his malice”

Thomas Merton, *The Wisdom of the Desert*, A New Directions Book, 1960.

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Tues 7 May Meditation Group - Crypt 12.00 noon
Wed 8 May Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena 12.30pm
Thur 9 May Rosary Group - 12.30pm, Crypt Fri 10 May St John de Avila

The parish of St Patrick's acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 10:25-26, 34-3(NRSV)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles On Peter's arrival at Caesarea, Cornelius, a centurion of the Roman cohort, met him, and falling at his feet, worshipped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal."Then Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius,'I truly understand that God shows no partiality,but in every nation anyone who fears himand does what is right is acceptable to him.While Peter was still speaking,the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astoundedthat the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these peoplewho have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"So he ordered them to be baptizedin the name of Jesus Christ.Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Response to the Psalm

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power

A reading from the First letter of John 1Jn 4:7-10 (NRSV)

Beloved, let us love one another,because love is from God;everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God,for God is love.God's love was revealed among us in this way:God sent his only Son into the world so

that we might live through him.In this is love,not that we loved God but that he loved usand sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

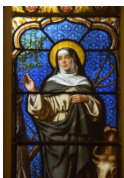
A reading from the holy Gospel of John 15:9-17 (NRSV)

Jesus said to his disciples:"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;abide in my love. if you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."I have said these things to youso that my joy may be in you,and that your joy may be complete.This is my commandment,that you love one another as I have loved you.No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. "You are my friends if you do what I command you.I do not call you servants any longer,because the servant does not know what the master is doing;but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everythingthat I have heard from my Father."You did not choose me but I chose you.And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

St Brigid's Church,
14-16 Kent Street, Millers Point

Did you know - St Brigid's, designed by colonial architect Ambrose Hallen, is the oldest surviving place of Catholic worship in Australia? Governor Richard Bourke approved the site and building plan in 1833.



**Join our community
for Mass - Sundays at 9.00am**

Visit our **Piety Store and Book Store** in the William Davis Courtyard every Sunday from 10 am. Discover good finds pre-loved books, prayer cards and gift items

Electronic Donations: We have two tap machines for electronic donations near the entry to the church. For regular donations from your credit card, please contact the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

MONDAY - THURSDAY:
7.30 - 7.55 am; 10.00am - 11.00am;
12.00 noon - 1.00pm; 5.00 - 6.00pm

FRIDAY: 7.30am - 7.55am; 10.00am - 1.00pm; 5.00pm - 6.00pm

SATURDAY: 7.30am - 7.55am; 10.30am - 12.30pm; 5.30pm - 5.55pm

SUNDAY: 7.45am - 8.30am; 8.45 am -12.45 pm; 2.45 pm - 4.45 pm; 5.30 pm - 5.55 pm.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 7.30am - 7.55am;
11.30 am - 11.55am; 4.45pm - 5.20 pm

PARISH OFFICE

Address: 141 Harrington Street, Sydney
Office hours: Monday to Friday,
10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Telephone: 9254 9855 Fax: 9252 3431
Email: office@stpatschurchhill.org
Website: www.stpatschurchhill.org
St Patrick's Church: 20 Grosvenor Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000

**A MESSAGE FROM THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

ST. PATRICK'S COFFEE SHOP

**Open Tuesday - Friday 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
Sunday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm**

Sunday First Collection: Support of the Marist Community at St Patrick's
Sunday Second Collection: General Parish Expenses and Maintenance.

MASS PROGRAM

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8.00am, 10.30am, 12.00noon & 5.30pm.
***Church open from 7.30am - 6pm**

SATURDAY: 8.00am, 12.00 noon
Vigil Mass at 6.00pm.
***Church open from 7.30am - 6.45pm**

SUNDAY: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12 noon, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm
***Church open from 7.45am - 6.45pm**

St. Brigid's, Millers Point: 9.00am Mass

PUBLIC HOLIDAY: 8.00 am, 12 noon, 5.30 pm
***Church open from 7.30am - 6.00pm**

St Patrick's Parish

Fr. Michael Whelan, SM <i>Parish Priest</i>	Br Terry Garrett, SM Michael Borromeo <i>Coffee Shop</i>
Fr. Bernie McFadyen, SM	Andrew Carter, <i>Maintenance Manager</i>
Fr. Peter McMurrich, SM	Karen Larkman, Teresa Seric - <i>Safeguarding</i>
Fr. Paul Mahony, SM	Helen Nejaime, <i>Sacristan</i>
Fr. Paul Hachey, SM	Mona Redito, <i>Secretary</i>
Fr Michael Carroll SM	
Sr. Fidelis McTeigue, SM <i>Pastoral work</i>	

The church is fitted with an audio loop for the hearing impaired