

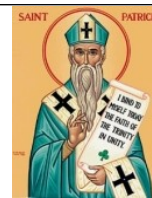
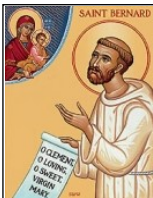
KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus'

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 17th May 2020 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter ~ Year A

Let all the earth cry out to God with Joy.

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pet 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21



Our Mission Statement: 'Help others to recognise, through their experiences, that Jesus who died and is risen is the truth that lights up their lives'

Our Vision Statement: 'That the parishioners of Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish grow as missionary disciples and live as community in Christ inviting all people into our Parish, welcoming them to our Parish life and embracing the rich diversity of our community'



REFLECTION

© Dianne Bergant CSA

We live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.

We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God's love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

Dear Friends,

It is our strong belief that there is only One God, but there are three persons in that One God.

God – The Father, God the Son - Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit. God loves the Son and gives Himself totally to the Son.

Jesus loves God the Father and surrendered totally to the Father.

Out of the love of God the Father and God the Son, the Holy Spirit evolved as our Advocate.

In this Trinitarian concept of God, lies the basis of our faith. In fact, each time we bless ourselves it is God we call upon in the Trinitarian – as God reveals Himself to be three co-equal and co-eternal persons.

The One God loves, shares, surrenders and indwells with the Son and Holy Spirit.

We are born in the image and likeness of God and we are called to follow the relationship which God has ordained ... to love, to share, to surrender and indwell with Him, His Son, the Holy Spirit and all humanity.

In the beginning of time the human who sinned against God destroyed this image of God in all subsequent human beings.

So, God sent His only Son to the world to restore it. Jn 3:16, says "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Jesus so loved us that He gave up His life in order to get Eternal life for us. But still, many humans rejected Him.

When Jesus knew that it was time to go back to the Father, He promised the disciples that there was no need for distress or worry about His absence. Jn 14:16-17 says "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." What a consoling thought and encouraging words these are.

We are not orphaned by Jesus leaving us.... Jesus never leaves us during our times of trial and distress.

The only condition Jesus hinted at is ... "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (Jn 14:15)

If you who follow my commandments and love me and my Father, We in turn, will love you and will dwell within you.

Commandments are to be lived as an act of love. If we love someone, we do whatever we can to please them. This is why the Holy Spirit takes the brunt of our troubles. He not only lives inside us but He also walks beside us.

Jesus does not want his disciples to live in anxiety and distress, so He offers a promise of presence and a sense of meaning embedded in sharing God's life. The power of the Spirit is the rock of Christian hope. Without the Spirit, the followers of Jesus would be thrown back on their own resources.

YOU MAY ASK, HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT WORK?

Today's second reading speaks about, the reason for having hope. The Holy Spirit gifts us with Hope but His power only becomes real if we let Him work in and through us. Living our lives during a worldwide pandemic was probably not something many of us ever envisaged. Confronting facts are thrown at us daily.

On Wednesday just passed, we were told more than 289,000 people have died from this virus and there were more than 4.2 million known cases of people who have succumbed to this viral attack in the world.

World economies are unstable and in a downward spiral causing millions of people to become unemployed or lose financial security in old age from falling investments. This is causing anxiety and distress to many who have lost their sense of purpose, self-respect and security for the future.

It is now we need Hope. It is now we need the Holy Spirit, to provide a sense that we are not abandoned.

God is forever faithful to His people and God provides us with Hope. He will bring out the best there is in us always and especially in times of adversity because He loves us and dwells within us.

Jesus is the solution to our problems. He has been here, with us, on earth. Walked the pathways we walk and left behind the legacy of the commandments. He has shown us the way, we now must be open to taking up His challenge.

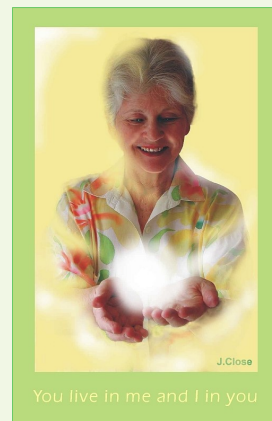
The Holy Spirit is all around us, just waiting to have a personal relationship with us, even bringing us gifts. Especially important gifts in these troubling times are:

Fortitude: to help us to overcome difficulties with faith;

Counsel: to encourage us to follow the solution that most matches the glory of God and the good of others.

Wisdom: to help us see all things in the light of God and to impel us to seek Him above all things.

I ASK THAT YOU TAKE SOME TIME IN FAMILY AND PERSONAL PRAYER THIS WEEK AND RECOGNISE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU.



You live in me and I in you

PASTORAL CENTRE: 1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082 P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082

Phone: (02) 9456 2450

Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3.30pm

Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Ku-ring-gai-Chase-Catholic-Parish-1789189034642054/

Parish Priest: Fr Shaju John, **OSH Assistant Priest:** Fr Joy Thomas, OSH

Emergency sick calls 0468 341 841 (Out of office hours only) - HOSPITAL ADMISSION: If you are admitted to hospital, please write down your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services. *Be sure to notify the Pastoral Centre if hospitalised and you would like our own priests to attend.*

THIS WEEK'S READINGS and PRAYERS

EASTERTIDE

Monday 18/05

Mass of the day/Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4

Tuesday 19/05

Mass of the day/Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday 20/05

Mass of the day/Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Jn 16:12-15

Thursday 21/05

Mass of the day/Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20

Friday 22/05

Mass of the day/Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23

Saturday 23/05

Mass of the day/Preface of Easter I-V
Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23-28

Ku-ring-gai Chase Parish Remembers & prayers for...

RECENTLY DECEASED: Emilia Corpuz, Eddie Mulligan, K J John, Gerald McCulloch, Patrick (Pat) Read, Patricia Clough, Don Matheson, Clare Daley.

ANNIVERSARIES: C J John, Donna & Peter O'Donohue, Ida O'Halloran, Peter O'Halloran, Kevin & Nancy Hester, Jim Treacy, Joseph Treacy, James Treacy

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Maureen Brophy, John Cosgrove (Snr), Marie Mickelson, Margaret Hinton, Dan Leavy, Alfredo R De Ramos, Marie Mickelson, Doug Hawkins, Felicity Fone, Graeme Kachel, Antonio, Anna Nicholson, Pat Bowden, Peter Brooks, Brian Treacy, Erick Enriquez, Charles Abela, Elaine Estrellado, Maureen Sharpe, Eve Davis (baby), Penny Rigor, Jwona Nowak, Irena Fellmann, Elaine Longmuir, Michael McGauley, Estrellado, Cathy Gleeson, Rosalinda de Ramos, Jaz Pitts, Georgia Meyers, Angela Smith, Matthew Franklin, Jeanette Bakker, Ewa Rakozy, Jean Cook, Betty Borg, Morrie Ramsden, Brian Neary, Edwina Subramany, Aiko Concepcion, John Buckley, Ellen Asistente, Sam Calacoci, Barbara Jones, Arlene Josen, Kath Lock, Cadia Maestri, Marcelina De Ramos, Matthew Conlon, Patrick Dorahy, John Macy, Tom Dawson, Narelle Cartwright, Mary Fernandes, Patricia Sanders, Monique Leyden, Frederick Novak, Barbara & Maciej Maciejewski, Alfredo De Ramos Sr.



Remember that volunteer job we asked for help with? Well.....

We got a quote for part of the job and were so impressed we sought a quote for the volunteer part. Turns out the quote for the job by the professional was simply too good to refuse ! We thank Ray Wood and Elaine Maatouk for their generous offer of assistance, but they are now off the hook ! ... well, until the next "little job" pops up !! **If you can, your financial assistance towards this restoration would be appreciated. Big or small it matters not. As the older generation said .. "If you look after the pennies the pounds will take care of themselves".**

Whilst the stars burned brightly over Thursday night/Friday morning allowing a limited number of parishioners to attend Public Masses again, it happened to coincide with the

TEMPORARY CLOSURE of ST BERNARD'S CHURCH,

Berowra Heights whilst restoration works take place.

We apologise for any inconvenience to our parishioners, but it is a blessing that this vital work can be carried out safely whilst numbers attending mass are still restricted — at least that is something (almost) good to come from Covid-19 ! We will re-open the church as soon as possible.

Additional Masses have been scheduled at St Patrick's Asquith in the meantime, and they are as follows:

Vigil Masses: 5pm and 6pm

Sunday Masses: 8am and 9am and 10am

Weekday Masses: Monday to Friday — 8am and 9am

A **Limit of 10 people per Mass** applies and **bookings MUST be made** through the Parish Office via phone: 9456 2450 or email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au

Thank you for your understanding during this time. *Fr Shaju & Fr Joy.*

KCCP BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

We are delighted that we are able to support the faith needs of our Catholic community and grateful we are still here and able to assist you. Please show your support for your parish and the commitments we have made, by giving whatever you can.

As Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". (Matthew 6:21).

BSB: 062 784 **Account:** 1238 8001 **Name:** Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish—Church Account

When making donations to our bank account please be specific if you wish to split your donations between the 1st and 2nd collections.

Perhaps send us an email with your wishes clearly indicated, so we may honour your intentions exactly.

1st Collection: Goes to Pastoral Revenue and is used to support the welfare of our priests, both active and retired. **2nd Collection:** Is retained in the parish and used to pay regular outgoings and honour commitments to maintain and improve parish life. *More information: Call 9456 2450.*

A letter to the People of God in the Diocese of Broken Bay ~ [Bishop Anthony 12 May 2020]

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This week I am writing to you from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Bishops of Australia meet in Plenary twice a year, in the months of May and November. Normally we gather in North Sydney at the shrine of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, but lately due to building works, we have been gathering in Melbourne. This year, as we continue to find new ways of living in a COVID-19 environment, I am in the Diocese and we are meeting via video conference.

To be honest, constant video-conferencing is a challenge as not everyone is IT savvy. I am also finding that by the end of each day I am mentally fatigued, so I take to the footpath for a run or walk to clear my head. The experience has given me an even deeper respect for our teachers who have been working double-time to ensure that our children, especially in our Catholic Schools, are able to continue with their studies. The experience has also reinforced for me the marvellous work being carried out by so many parents and carers as technology plays a greater part in family life and learning.

As the Government gradually lifts some of the restrictions, many of us are asking when will we be able to gather once more in our churches for prayer and worship? The Catholic Bishops of NSW/ACT have written to the Premier offering our recommendations regarding the gradual reopening of our churches. Key to our proposal is the reassurance that our people will continue to maintain the physical distancing required during the health crisis. We would also want to ensure that there is a high level of safety due to thorough cleaning programs. As we continue to dialogue with the Government, I would ask you to pray for the best outcome – the safe reopening of our churches.

In the meantime, I would like to thank the priests, deacons and parish community leaders who are tirelessly reaching out via livestreaming and ongoing pastoral care. A special word of gratitude to the members of my Chancery and Office of the Bishop. Over the past few weeks, I have received numerous messages from people who are staying connected as well as from people who had been away from our community of the Church and who are reconnecting. It is great to have you with us again as we strive to live as disciples of the Lord.

Please continue to pray for me and the other Australian bishops ... and be reassured of my constant prayers for you as I bring your needs and intentions to the altar of the Lord.

Blessings and thanks, + *Anthony*

The 250 Club!

Week 04: 12/05/2020 ~

Number: 053 ~ Winner: Unfinancial ~ Amount: \$500.00



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May 2020: For Deacons ~ We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

CWF Charitable Works Fund Appeal

Thank you to all who have contributed to this years CWF Appeal. We understand that circumstances are very different at present but we want you to know how much we appreciate your generosity always. We will let you know the final figure raised as soon as we can. Last minute donations can still be accepted by calling the parish office on 9456 2450 or via our website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp.

Donations \$2.00 and over are tax-deductible.



MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY:

“Mary Who Unties Knots”

Sometimes we cannot unravel our own knots,
or our own pain without help.

Mary Who Unties Knots is there for us.
The devotion of the Blessed Mother under the title
“Mary Who Unties Knots”

(sometimes known as “Mary Undoer of Knots”)
is based on a painting that was commissioned
as an offering of thanksgiving for a favour received.

This painting can still be seen at the
Church of Sankt Peter and Perlach in Augsburg, Germany.

**"We present our difficulties, our knots to her, especially the ones which
affect the Christian life of our family" – Pope Francis**

PRAYER TO “MARY WHO UNTIES KNOTS”.

Holy Mary, full of the presence of God during your life
you accepted with great humility the Holy Will of the Father
and legacy of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Evil never dared to entangle you with its confusion.

Since then you have interceded for all of our difficulties.
With all simplicity and patience you have given us examples
on how to untangle the knots in our complicated lives.
By being our Mother forever, you arrange and make clear
the path that unites us to our Lord.

Holy Mary, Mother of God and ours,
with your maternal heart, untie the knots that upset our lives.

We ask you to receive in your hands (*mention who or prayer request*)
and deliver us from the chains and confusions that have us restrained.

Blessed Virgin Mary, through your grace, your intercession, and by your example,
deliver us from evil and untie the knots that keep us from uniting with God,
so that once free of every confusion and error, we may find Him in all things,
have Him in our hearts and serve Him always in our brothers and sisters. **Amen.**

The latest from the Diocese:
A Message from Bishop Anthony
~ see previous page.

The latest information from KCCP:
Please join us for Mass, live-streamed
to your home via our Facebook page
at your choice of time and venue.

5pm Saturday evenings
@ St Bernard’s
9am Sunday mornings
@ St Patrick’s

To live-stream Mass from our parish, simply ‘like’
our Facebook page and you’ll be all set.
<https://www.facebook.com/Ku-ring-gai-Chase-Catholic-Parish-1789189034642054/>

Please stay in touch with us ~ we miss you!

Contact us via: **Phone:** 9456 2450

Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au;

And we will stay in touch with you ~ using our:

KCCP Website: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp/>

KCCP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Ku-ring-gai-Chase-Catholic-Parish-1789189034642054/>

KCCP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Ku-ring-gai-Chase-Catholic-Parish-1789189034642054/>

Diocese of Broken Bay Website: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/>

Friday mailouts: Not receiving yours?

Please send us an email to

parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au and insert

“Please add this email to the Friday Mailout List”, in the subject line. **WHO** misses you?

*We’re in this together and
we’re still here for each
and everyone of you!*
KCCP Staff.



ART SPACE: Way of Salvation, Andrea Bonaiuti da Firenze 1365-68,

fresco, Capella Spagnuolo, Santa Maria Novella, Florence

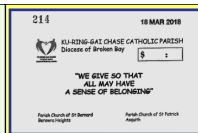


Pope Francis has again prayed for artists stating
“I would like to ask the Lord to bless them
because through artists we understand beauty,
and without beauty we cannot understand the
Gospel,” (7 May 2020).

The Pope stated “It is artists who often interpret
this silent groan which weighs on every creature
and is expressed above all in the heart of men
and women, for “man is a beggar before God.”
In today’s Art Space, we reflect on all “artists”,
not just those who paint, but for all those who
create and consider themselves “artists”.
Perhaps you have noticed around the streets, the
increased number of “artworks” or “cartoons”
done by children (and some adults) in chalk.

*The Way of Salvation is part of a series of
frescoes started as “cartoons” (preparatory full
scale chalk drawings on walls that are later
filled in with coloured plaster) on the walls of
the Guidalotti Chapel. Each wall depicts a
different biblical narrative, including a wall
devoted to the Crucifixion and Resurrection.
This wall, whilst incredibly detailed includes
the unfinished side view of the Duomo of*

*Florence, symbolising the Universal church. The Pope sits outside the Duomo and running through the streets are
the black and white dogs of God “Domini Canes” or Dominican Friars. There is so much to admire in these
artworks, and so whilst your own church is closed, perhaps a virtual visit to the **SANTA MARIA NOVELLA,**
[<http://www.travelingintuscany.com/art/andreadibuonaiuto/spanishchapel.htm>] might be your way of
honouring the artists and connecting to our faith.*



The July 2020 - June 2021 Planned Giving Envelopes have arrived in the Parish Office.

It is hoped that these will be sorted, prepared and available for distribution soon - we just have to work out "how" to do this effectively and safely.

Fewer boxes have been ordered this year to "close the gaps", so you may not have the same number as last financial year.

Please **DON'T PANIC** if your number changes, our recording process seamlessly takes care of the transition and be reassured that whatever you give is definitely recorded against your name. *Cheers, Twito.*

PARALLEL TRUTHS © Fr Michael Tate

In ancient Jewish theology, there were various names for diabolical evil. 'Satan' was amongst them. Satan was the adversary of humankind. In particular, Satan was a prosecutor appearing before the throne of God accusing human beings of their offences and demanding retribution, that the punishment fit the crime. On the contrary, our Lord had a very different image of himself in relating to us, the opposite of the satanic prosecutor. Did you notice in today's Gospel, knowing he was departing from his followers, he says: 'I will send you another Advocate to be with you forever.' (This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'.) Our Lord was a *Paraclete*, and he would send *another*.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-ll-el. They run alongside each other.

A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and uses his voice on their behalf. A paraclete is a person who stands shoulder to shoulder with someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself in relation to his disciples. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor par excellence, to be the best character witness one might ever hope to have. We see our Lord in this role with the woman taken in adultery. He saves her from death by stoning, engages her in conversation and, most importantly, refuses to condemn her.

But, our Lord's visible earthly mission was coming to an end. Hence he made a promise. That another Paraclete, another advocate, would be sent to dwell in the body of the disciples. This is a most fantastic gift. Dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, is the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, giving voice to our deepest aspirations.

This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth, always reminding us of the reality about our Lord Jesus Christ. For us, that includes trying to live according to the pattern revealed in His ministry, and that will have its challenges, its failures, its successes and its doubts.

And one of the challenges is to check on our tendency to condemn. Discernment is necessary. I lecture at the Law School on crimes against humanity and genocide. Obviously, one has to condemn those who perpetrate these atrocities which violate our common humanity. But Pope Francis has indicated that the Church needs to move away from strident moralistic hectoring in a condemnatory tone. In a recent interview he said:

'In Buenos Aires I used to receive letters from homosexuals persons who are "socially wounded". They tell me that they feel like the Church has always condemned them... 'A person once asked me, in a provocative manner, if I approved of homosexuality. I replied with another question: 'Tell me: when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of that person with love, or reject and condemn that person?'"

THE POPE ANSWERS OF COURSE

THAT GOD ACCOMPANIES THAT PERSON WITH LOVE AND MERCY.

Adopting this approach, with discernment, we will find a deep peace, the sort of peace the world cannot give. It is a deep down assurance that we are on the right track, that we are living our lives Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

In another Gospel, it is said that Jesus had a mystical experience in which he saw Satan falling from heaven (Luke 10:18). That is, Satan the prosecutor is no longer standing before God accusing human beings of various faults and felonies, seeking their punishment.

The one standing before God is Our Risen Lord. He stands before the Father as the 'Paraclete', pleading our case, acting as our character witness. And here on our earthly pilgrimage, the Holy Spirit of Truth is walking alongside us as the 'other Paraclete', shoulder to shoulder, helping us to combat Satan who still roams the earth.

This revelation of the fall of Satan from Heaven, and the assistance of the divine Paracletes, is the cause of our Peace, a peace the world cannot give, the Peace which is our Lord's Easter gift to us. **ALLELUIA!**



Position Vacant - Director, Office for Evangelisation, Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay: The Chancery of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay is recruiting for the role of Director, Office for Evangelisation. This is a full time role based at Pennant Hills.

The Director supports Bishop Anthony Randazzo to achieve his pastoral priorities; provides strategic direction; and leads the Office for Evangelisation to meet present and future opportunities for Christian mission. The Office for Evangelisation works across the areas of Pastoral Planning, Sacramental Life, Liturgy and RCIA, Life, Marriage and Family; Catholic Life, Mission, and Faith Formation; Catholic Youth and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. It works closely with the parishes of the Diocese and provides significant support as they carry out the mission of the Catholic Church. Applications close: **Sunday, 24 May 2020.**

For the full advertisement see the **Positions Vacant** page of the Diocesan website: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/people/positions-vacant>

Liturgy of the Word

Sunday 17 May 2020
6th Sunday of Easter - Year A

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Penitential Act:

(All.) I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **(and, striking their breast, they say):** through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; **(then they continue):** therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the

Lord our God.

(P.) May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

(R.) Amen.

The Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17 ~ A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Pt 3:15-18 ~ A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

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 you 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord (R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow).

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Communion Antiphon:

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.