

AND I WILL ASK THE FATHER,
AND HE WILL GIVE YOU
ANOTHER COUNSELOR
TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER
- THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.
JOHN 14: 16-17

“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

*Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine.
Voice of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.*

*Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine.
Kindle every high desire,
purify me with your fire.*

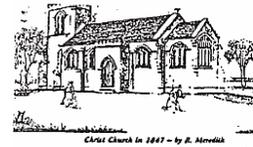
*Holy Spirit, power divine,
fill and nerve this will of mine.
Boldly may I always live,
bravely serve, and gladly give.*

*Holy Spirit, law divine,
reign within this soul of mine.
By my law, and I shall be
firmly bound, forever free.*

*Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine.
Speak to calm this tossing sea,
grant me your tranquillity.*

*Holy Spirit, joy divine,
gladden now this heart of mine.
In the desert ways I sing -
spring, O Living Water, spring!*

[Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)]



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



“A community of faith in service to others”

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

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Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

17th May 2020

Liturgical Colour: White

Sentence

‘Those who love me will keep my word,’ Jesus promises, ‘and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.’

Prayer of the Day *

**O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen**



The Vicar Writes



Jesus said eternal life is to know the Father and the Christ he has sent. This knowing of the Lord who is beyond all creation is possible by coming to know the Christ who is God within creation, God with us, the Lord who is within our heart and is the source of our life and wisdom. Coming to know God with us or within us is achieved through the process of devotion that begins with surrender to the Lord.

Saint Peter advises us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt us in due time. After we have suffered for a while, Peter says, the God of grace who has called us to eternal glory in Christ will Himself restore, support, strengthen and establish us. The suffering Peter refers to is not just the difficulties of material life but the suffering involved in pursuing a spiritual life amidst the duties and difficulties that this physical life offers. Taking time for spiritual life and service to the Lord doesn't require an abandoning of ordinary duties, it means redirecting our motives that they aim at satisfying the Lord and taking extra time to serve the Lord's servants and spend time with Him in prayer and contemplation. This is a divine sacrifice that involves difficulties at first but that become a source of great inner satisfaction in the end.

The path of devotion increases our capacity to perceive the Lord and the great mysteries associated with the Lord. Mysteries such as the Lord's Ascension into heaven. This divine act was seen by the Apostles whose service and sacrifice prepared their hearts to a degree that they could receive the grace of the Lord to witness the divine act of the Lord ascending in glory. As our psalm tells us today, how wonderful is God in His holy places, He rides in the heavens, His ancient heavens, He sends forth His voice, His mighty voice! The ascension the disciples witnessed was not a theoretical experience it was a divine perception bestowed upon the disciples by the Lord Himself.

To the spiritually undeveloped the stories told by saints and their visions seem like impossible fantasies and so they speculate about what the disciples or other saints might have actually seen. They think that the visions of saints are delusions brought about by superstitious minds. This is the difference between theoretical wisdom and divine wisdom. Divine wisdom is the fruit of intuition brought about by the process of surrender, sacrifice, service and prayer to God. Theoretical wisdom is the armchair philosophy of the un-surrendered. One poor fellow conjectured that the disciples didn't see the Lord ascend, a cloud came over them and the Lord walked away. Theoretical arm chair wisdom at its worst.

The Lord didn't ascend to the moon or a physical planet in the physical sky. He opened the hearts of the disciples to see the heavenly dimension and they saw him descend into that heavenly glorious atmosphere. The disciples were purified by spending time with the Lord. We too may receive the same mercy and awaken to heavenly visions by spending time with the lord every day and offering our work and lives to Him. The Lord will draw us into deeper revelations of Himself until we see glories in heaven and the spiritual worlds we could never dream of.

The Lord be with you,

Fr Russell

WINTER WOOLLIES' MARKET UPDATE!

Unfortunately, the Market will not be held on the long weekend in June.
But, do not despair It will be held....
So please watch this space!!!



THE CHRONICLE



The next regular edition of the *Chronicle* will be delivered early in June. "I'm working on the *Chronicle* now... and would appreciate if you could get your contribution to me by early in the week beginning Monday, 25th May."

Please send your contribution to: spswain@westnet.com.au or phone Phillip on 5221 9956!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Doctors and nurses as they deal with those affected by Covid-19. Those suffering the aftermath of the fire that tore through a Rohingya refugee camp in south-eastern Bangladesh.

THE CHURCH: Anglican Church of Korea; Diocese of Bendigo; Diocesan Risk Management and Insurance; St Mary's Sunbury; Church of the Province of South East Asia; the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: All those grappling with technology to bring services, studies and so on out from the church into people's homes. May God's love be shared every wider this way (*Source: ABM*)

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: Our own departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Cynthia Cranstoun; Dale Firth; Syd Tate). We remember with thanks: Ascension Day (Thursday).

REST IN PEACE: Heather Fullarton and David Peek

NEXT SUNDAY -24TH MAY – SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

Readings: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10 & 32-35; 1 Peter 5

Gospel: John 17:1-11

