

HOMILY OF FR GERARD FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA MASS
IN THE GROTTO AT LOURDES, FRANCE
THURSDAY 4 MAY 2023

Good morning and welcome to this celebration of Mass on the sixty fifth year of the Order of Malta's pilgrimage to Lourdes. A special welcome to any visitors joining us this morning. The opening words of today's gospel, "After he washed the feet of his disciples, Jesus said to them:" These words of Jesus begin what is known as the 'Last Supper Discourse or the Farewell Discourse beginning in John Chapter 13 and finishing at the end of John Chapter 17. Five chapters in all. To understand the significance of today's gospel and its importance for us as pilgrims to Lourdes and focusing on the words of Our Blessed Lady to Bernadette 1858: "Go and tell the priests to build a chapel here and that people should come in procession". To deepen our appreciation of the meaning, these words spoken by the Virgin Mary are broken into phrases and presented by the Shrine of Lourdes in three different years: "Go and tell the priests..." (2022); "...to build a chapel here..." (2023); "...and that people should come in procession..." (2024). Theme for the year 2023 "Go and tell the priests to build a chapel here." Bernadette did go and tell the priests; the chapel has been built and the people have come in their millions. What is the point of a chapel without its people? A chapel is only a building, but it truly becomes a church "the living stones of the temple" when the people gather to worship and break the bread. The foundation of God's building is His Son, Jesus Christ, the "living Stone." The "living stones," in turn, are believers who come to Jesus and place their lives upon his foundation. The living Stone is "precious" to those who believe (1 Peter 2:7), but some people reject the living Stone in order to build their lives their own way, not God's way, they cast this living Stone aside, not caring that Jesus is the only true foundation upon which they can build securely. Jesus described himself as the chief cornerstone. Peter references Jesus as the cornerstone in the Acts of the Apostles, stating that "salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men and women by which we must be saved." God accepts no one who refuses to become a part of His building. And God is just like all builders—He has a foundation upon which all workers must be built. (Matthew 7:24–27). Believers, then, are the "living stones" of the church that Jesus promised to build. As living stones, we have new life in Christ. As integral parts of the building of God, we have security in Christ. As the Master Builder, God places His living stones just where He wants us to be. As living stones, we are connected to one another in the body of Christ. Our Lord, the foundation Stone, is alive forevermore and will never crumble. He will support us eternally. Peter goes on to describe the function of the living stones: to "declare the praises" of Him who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of life and glory (1 Peter 2:9). What is the "job description" of a living stone? To be a speaker of praise and peace, a declarer of truth of love and light. The spiritual house God is building is designed for His glory, and we, the living stones, glorify the Lord in all we do especially in our service to our brothers and sisters. The motto of the Order, "Obsequium Pauperum, Tuitio Fidei" to care for the poor and the sick and defend the faith is best expressed in Jesus' action at the Last Supper. Jesus knows that his "hour" has come to depart from this world and return to the Father. He knows that the Father has given all things into his hands, and that he has come from God and is going to God. Knowing all this, he chooses to demonstrate his love for his disciples in a dramatic way by taking the role of a slave and washing their feet. Jesus' act of service recalls what Mary of Bethany had done for Jesus just a few days earlier, washing his feet with expensive perfume and drying them with her hair. Jesus interprets her extravagant act of love and service as an anointing for his burial. In washing his disciples' feet, Jesus simply uses water and a towel, yet the extravagance is no less. Indeed, it is nothing short of scandalous that the one who comes from God and is going to God should take on the menial task of a slave. This act points to the even greater scandal to come in the dark hours ahead, when Jesus will lay down his life, crucified on a Roman cross — the form of execution reserved for rebels and slaves. Peter gives voice to the scandal of Jesus' actions. "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" When Jesus says that Peter will understand later what he is doing, Peter objects even more strongly: "You will never wash my feet." Jesus corrects Peter: "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." To which Peter responds, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" It is astonishing that Jesus takes the role of a slave and washes the dirty feet of his disciples, but even more astounding is the fact that he does so knowing full well that they will all fail him miserably in his hour of greatest need. Jesus' example suggests that loving as he has loved means taking the role of a servant, caring for the needs of others without expecting anything in return. His example suggests that it is to do this not only for those who treat us well, but even for those who disappoint and hurt and betray us. Left to our human resources, this kind of love and forgiveness would be inconceivable. But it is possible because of the one who loves us fully and completely, the one who loves us to the end, even to the cross and grave and back is the "Living Stone who has called us out of darkness into his own wonderful light."

Readings The Ascension of the Lord 21 May 2023
Acts 1:1-11; Ps 46:2-3,6-9; Ephesians 1:17-23;
Matthew 28:16-20

2023 First Holy Communion
Sacramental Program

Family Meeting

Saturday, 10 June @ 10.00 am to 12noon
or 1.00pm to 3.00pm
at Mary Immaculate Church - Ashmore

Practice

Wednesday 14 June @ 4.00pm

First Communion

Saturday, 17 June 4.30pm (1st Session)
Sunday, 18 June 9.30am (2nd Session)
both at Mary Immaculate Church

If you have any queries please contact
Lisa Perkins on 5510 2222 ext 3 or
email sacramental@scp.org.



A REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

To grow in your love for God,
keep God in your thoughts.



A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Lord God,
through your creative power you give birth to all
and love all as a mother loves her child.
Bless these women who are mothers.
When they worry for their child,
hold them in your care.
When they work to provide a home for their child,
stand beside them.
If they mourn for their child,
hold them in your love.
When the joy of their child overtakes them,
laugh with them.
Bless them, and may they each be a living
symbol of your love;
a symbol to their children and all who they encounter.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

When the COVID pandemic struck, I joined other bishops in deciding for a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

Now that the pandemic seems to be receding, it is good for us to reflect not only upon the Sunday obligation but upon the meaning of Sunday itself.

To call the first day of the week Sunday recalls the Roman name, but from the first Christians always called it the Lord's Day, in honour of the Risen Christ who is the true light of the world and the source of life.

The Lord's Day was the weekly Easter and the weekly Pentecost, because on the first day Jesus Christ rose from the dead and breathed the Holy Spirit into the Church.

It was the day that looked back to the first day of creation and forward to the last day of the Lord's return in glory.

Even in times of persecution, Christians remained faithful unto death to the assembly of the Lord's Day. The spontaneous practice of the early days eventually became Church law. Yet it is not law that draws us to Mass but the Lord's desire to eat the Passover with us (cf Luke 22:15).

The deepest reason we go to Mass on Sunday is not because we have decided or because the Church's requires it but because we are drawn there by his desire for us. In coming to Mass, we surrender to the Lord's love and let ourselves be drawn by him who wants to speak to our heart and share his feast with us.

Therefore, in the Archdiocese of Brisbane from Pentecost Sunday of this year (28 May) the pandemic dispensation will be withdrawn and the Sunday obligation will be restored, so that all of us, responding to the Risen Lord's call, may say with one heart and voice, "This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:24).

+ Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane



Brisbane City Pops Orchestra

joined by our own School choirs

Guardian Angels Church, Southport
Sunday 23 July 2023 at 2.00pm

Please save the date

STOPLINE

receives information about suspected abuse,
(information can be provided anonymously)
misconduct & serious policy breaches by Archdiocesan
clergy, employees or volunteers.
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)

Kerri Kleidon

Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan
Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy.
We are committed to high standards of recruitment,
screening and selection of all our employees and
volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to
maintain a safe and healthy ministry
environment for all.

1300 304 550

aob@stopline.com.au

www.bne.catholic.stoplinereport.com



The month of May is dedicated to

*The Blessed
Virgin Mary*



Reach out. Give life.

Join Catholic Mission online to honour
Mother Mary during the month of May
by praying the rosary.

Monday – Friday at 2.00pm—join Zoom meeting
<https://tinyurl.com/cmprayers>

Meeting ID: 885 9061 9139

Password: 855274

Baptisms

During April we welcomed the
following children into God's family

Arman Patel, Camilla Furman, Davie Co,
Ginora Smart, Damon Whalan,
Leanna & Allora McCulloch, Dominique
Ivy Brennan, Mia Dziejwirska



FAITHFUL DEPARTED



Audrey Tuesley
(Trish Litfin's mother)



Please pray for all whose names are
in the Book of Remembrance



BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE AND SICK

Each Church has one of each of the above books. If
you would like the name of deceased or sick family
or friends placed in the book, please contact the
Parish office.

ANNIVERSARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

We are happy to place the names of the above in the
Newsletter, provided the family has given approval

**Month of May
SPECIAL DISCOUNTS**

Shop 2/115 Scarborough Street Southport

OPEN
Monday to Friday
9.00am to 4.00pm

**Mary Immaculate Church
is open for private prayer
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
from 8.00am—3.30pm**

Angels Kitchen

If you wish to support Angels Kitchen and the great
work they do in feeding the homeless, you can
contribute by donating to the following
bank account details
BSB 064 786

St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Mass

8.00am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday 7.00am

1st Wednesday 7.00pm

1st Saturday 9.00am

Rosary

Monday & Wednesday 6.00am

1st Wednesday 6.00pm

1st Saturday 8.30am

Novena

Wednesday 6.00pm

Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am

Vietnamese Mass

2nd & 4th Sunday 12.00pm

Adoration & Rosary

Tuesday & Thursday 7.45am

Gold Coast University Hospital

Rosary & Mass

Friday 10.00am

Guardian Angels Church

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation Saturday 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm

Sunday 7.00am & 9.00am

Korean Mass

Sunday 3.30pm

한인미사 일요일 오후 3시 30분

Filipino Mass

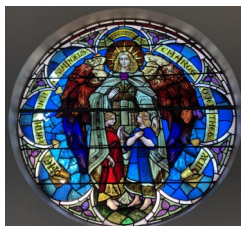
1st Sunday 12.00pm

Prayer & Adoration

Wednesday 12.00pm

Rosary & Mass

Friday 12.00pm



PARISH CONTACTS

Ph 07 5510 2222

<https://scp.org.au>

Parish office Ashmore

Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am-4.30pm

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

Parish office Southport & Gift Shop

Monday-Friday 9.00am-4.30pm

115 Scarborough Street, Southport, 4215

Office Support

Catherine Francis parish@scp.org.au

Finance Officer

Therese Rogers accounts@scp.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Lisa Perkins sacramental@scp.org.au

Associate Pastor

Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

Associate Pastor

Fr Marce Singon

Parish Priest

Fr Gerard McMorrow PP