



St Felix deValois Parish

550 Chapel Road, Bankstown, NSW 2200, Australia

Fr Van Nguyen, Parish Priest

Fr Ronnie Maree, Assistant Priest

Marie Caldareri, Secretary (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

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Fifth Sunday of Easter - Yr A - 10 May 2020

Dear parishioners,

God's love and blessings to you all in this very difficult time!

Whilst we are living through unprecedented events please be assured that the parish is continuing to work to serve you and help you foster your relationship with Our Lord and strengthen our community.

LIVE STREAMING OF HOLY MASS

Sunday - 10 May - 10.00am.

Please follow this link to watch the Mass <https://facebook.com/stfelixdevaloisparishbankstown/>

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

For those with young children, the Cath Family organisation have generously made all their resources for children free in this time our churches are closed. Feel free to have a look at some of their resources that can help children to pray and continue to learn about their faith by clicking this link:

<https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>.

CONNECTING THROUGH PHONE

We are looking to set up a team of people who regularly call and keep in contact with the more isolated in our community. This is a vital service of love our parish community can provide in these usual times. If you are struggling during this time of isolation or know of somebody who is feel free to contact us through this email address or the parish office (9790 1933) and we will see that they are regularly called. If you wish to be part of this apostolate reply to this email and we will contact you during the week.

We will continue update information and publish resources through:

- the parish website <https://www.stfelixparish.org.au/>
- the parish bulletin: <https://www.stfelixparish.org.au/bulletins/>
- our outreach email: stfelix.outreach@gmail.com
- the parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stfelixdevaloisparishbankstown/>
- the parish office: 9790 1933

Please be assured of our continued support, prayers and availability in this time.

***Our Lady, Help of Christians, of Lourdes, and of Good Health, pray for us.
Saint Felix, pray for us.***

Yours in Christ,

Fr Van Nguyen PP
Fr Ronnie Maree

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Penitential Act

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,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
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.

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

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within

us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy
Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

First Reading - Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and
wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was
increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint
against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their
own widows were being overlooked. So the
Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and
addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to
neglect the word of God so as to give out food;
you, brothers, must select from among yourselves
seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit
and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to
them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer
and to the service of the word.' The whole
assembly approved of this proposal and elected
Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit,
together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon,
Parmentas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to
Judaism. They presented these to the apostles,
who prayed and laid their hands on them.
The word of the Lord continued to spread: the
number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly
increased, and a large group of priests made their
submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place
our trust in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel - John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this

time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no

other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Take time to reflect on the Gospel.

You may like to move forward and read the reflections.

The Creed

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

He came down from heaven

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin

Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius

Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the

right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of

life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and

glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: With faith in our risen Saviour who is our way to the Father, we pray:

For the Church, to be guided by the Spirit in leading all to the Father's house, we pray to the Lord:

For world leaders, to act courageously in relieving the suffering of people world-wide, we pray to the Lord:

For all people, especially children, who are troubled and who suffer from violence, oppression, and rejection, we pray to the Lord:

For all gathered here, that we may bear witness to Jesus as the way, the truth and the life, we pray to the Lord:

For the end of the coronavirus pandemic, for all the health care professionals fighting the disease and for all those affected by the virus, we pray to the Lord.

For the gentle repose of the faithful departed, we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Loving God, we take to heart the words of Jesus to not let our hearts be troubled. With confidence we bring our needs to you. Look upon them kindly. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

Due to the restrictions regarding the celebration of Mass join in saying this prayer expressing your desire to be in union with Jesus Christ and to receive Him in the Eucharist. Recite the prayer below slowly, meditating carefully on each word. Believe that Jesus will give you the grace of a real encounter with Him.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace
You as if You were already there and unite
myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be
separated from You. Amen.**

Blessing

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by his blessing.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY

The beauty of a mother is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair.
It is the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she knows, and the beauty of a mother with passing years only grows!

Thank You Mum

And the parish prays that you be blessed with a Happy Mothers' Day.

Update on parish financial situation

Dear St Felix Parishioners,

The COVID-19 crisis has presented many challenges to our society on many different levels. Our parish has shared in these challenges as we have not been able to gather together to worship, to support each other through community events or conduct many activities that make up our pastoral care of the people of Bankstown.

One of the significant challenges we have experienced has been the parish's financial situation. Like many families and businesses, the parish's usual financial arrangements have been disrupted by the crisis.

Most of the income that allows our parish to function comes from your donations during our collections at weekend Masses. The First Collection goes to an Archdiocesan common fund, which is for the upkeep of the priests in the Archdiocese. A donation to the First Collection is not tax deductible.

The Second Collection goes towards our St Felix Church Account which is for the running and maintenance of our parish. From this account the parish pays for all pastoral programs, liturgical expenses, building insurance, wages, utility rates and general maintenance for all the buildings and facilities. A donation to the Second Collection can currently receive a 30% tax deduction. For some time, St Felix has had a Planned Giving Program in place where all regular donations provided belong to the Second Collection account mentioned above.

Not being able to gather has presented challenges to maintaining our income to run the parish. With this in mind I am asking if you would prayerfully consider contributing to the parish in some way during this time. You may consider joining the Planned Giving Program and replace what you would usually contribute to the Second Collection through online giving. The ease of this online payment could also be continued once we are able to gather in the Church again. If you are already on the Planned Giving Program you may consider switching your usual envelope planned giving donations to online direct debit or credit card donations instead.

This request comes with an awareness that some people's own financial circumstances are changing as a result of the pandemic too, and we would not want anyone in those circumstances to feel pressured. However for those who are able this would be a process of simply continuing to support the parish even though we cannot gather together on Sunday.

If you would like to commence Planned Giving or make a donation please contact the parish office at admin@stfelixparish.org.au or 9790 1933.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, all the volunteers and those who have contributed to the life and material needs of our parish. We are blessed to have our beautiful parish, because of our predecessors and all of you who have given your time and money to allow us to enjoy St Felix as it stands today. We pray that we may be soon able to gather again to worship God together and support each other in following Him.

Fr Van

Reflection

Family

Members of the same family often bear close resemblances to one another. Sometimes physical resemblances are shared within a family, but often the similarities are behavioural characteristics and mannerisms. We hear this observation affirmed through a number of common phrases: "He's a chip off the old block" or "She's her mother's daughter." Today's Gospel points to a mystery of faith that might be examined in light of these familial relationships. In Jesus we see and know the Father. Likewise, the Father is known through the life and work of the Son, Jesus.

Talk together as a family about whether people outside of your family recognize common traits of your family. Are there physical resemblances that people recognize and so know each individual as a member of your family? Are there mannerisms that are shared by members of your family? What are some common interests and work that people might associate with your family? As you read today's Gospel, John 14:1-12, keep in mind that members of the same family share many characteristics, even though each person in the family is an individual. What does Jesus tell his disciples about his relationship with the Father? The relationship between the Father and Jesus is so close that Jesus says that those who have seen and known Jesus have also seen and known the Father. Jesus promises his disciples that because of their faith in him and in the Father, they too will be able to do the work of the Father as Jesus did. End your discussion by praying together that others will recognize in your family the work of the Father. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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Mass Intentions Recently Deceased: Sophie Barbara (Dziewa) Robinson.

Deceased: Fahme Abdul Ahad; George Lahood; Tony Malkoun.

Sick: Marie Abi-Saab, Tom Quilty, Jason Timbs & Bart Hennely, Dau (Xuan); Gerard Go; Fatima Fernandes; Marian Periera; Catherine & Lourdes Raspanti; baby Alan Dien Quan Nguyen; Monina Rodriguez Pineda; Tenshi Asriel Magdaleno Arcenas; Rose Nuner; Maria Carta; Teresita Martinez; Maria Kovatsun; Frannie; Madelyn Nicole; Jun Ibarra; Abida Gill; Vo Van Kiet; Maria Bui Thi Don; Josette Ackad; Nivea Wani; Diana Emilie Perez; Billy; Ginette Sharok.

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 safeguardingenquiries@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.

Catechist & Friendship Group: Bev Lamaro 0409 710 703; **Choir:** Alison De Sousa 0421 660 187;
Youth: Aurora Doueihy 0428 755 022; **Pastoral Council:** Patrick Abou-rizk 0416 035 993;
St Vincent de Paul: Diago Rodrigues 9791 5209 ; **Bankstown Josephite Associates:** Robyn Molloy 9707 1292;
Children's Liturgy: Marie El-Chaar 9709 3451; **Cemetery Committee:** Maureen Vincent 9790 4217;
Sacramental co-ordinator: Gloria Booby 0413 294 224; **Safeguarding Officer:** Anthony Chadrawy 9790 1933;
Polish Priests: 8783 0533; **De La Salle Brothers:** 9708 2692;
St. Felix Primary School: 9796 7875 Frances Bonanno - Principal;
LaSalle Catholic College: 9793 5600 Mr Michael Egan - Principal;
Archdiocesan Website: www.sydney.catholic.org.au

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

Would you like to become a credit card contributor to the Parish?

Especially now with the Church forced to close, we have no weekly envelopes to keep us going.

We are asking Parishioners to make their donations via credit card in order for the Parish to function. please send an e-mail with the following details to Marie at admin@stfelixparish.org.au

Name..... Telephone No.:

Address:.....

Email :

Current Envelope Number:..... OR

I would like to commence Planned Giving payments via credit card.