

# TRINITY NEWS

## Easter 5 Caretakers of the Cherished Memories of the Radiant Ones

One of the most beautiful parts of Christian teaching is its insistence on the connection that we have with God through the operation and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Christ himself senses its immediacy and draws on its communicative power in his prayers. Wherever he walks there is the Holy Spirit.

This Holy Spirit motivates the nurturing grace that brought us to birth as a person. This same Holy Spirit plotted the path of the stars long before we were first able to see them.

This Holy Spirit waits at the door of our self-made prisons wherein we keep all of our past hurts and failures and our inability to overcome the power of others to manipulate our lives. This same Holy Spirit opens our prison doors and lets the Spirit of Love flow in and around us, protecting and guiding.

A smile that illuminates our face and shines into someone else's heart is a great way to start the day. We begin by smiling at the day to come. When we set out to enjoy each moment of the day and to be mindful of what is life-giving and enhancing, tinged with the soft yet radiant colours of love, then we have set the stage for a beautiful day. It is also true that just as soon as we have resolved to do this and felt really good about ourselves and others, then we bump into a negative opposing shiftiness somewhere that will oppose us. The main purpose of this smothering negativity is to wipe the smile off our face.

The words in the Gospel today were said by Jesus when he was with his disciples in an Upper Room in Jerusalem towards the end of the Last Supper. Jesus had just told Judas to do quickly what he had to do. Some thought that as Judas held the common purse, Jesus was telling him to buy something for the Passover Festival or to give something to the poor. Jesus had insights into what Judas would do. If we do not walk the talk with money then we will not walk the talk with our moral life or authenticate our honour by living our life with integrity.

Jesus does not openly attack the integrity of Judas. Even when integrity has been violated, it is wise to look for the possibility of redemption. We are the “care takers of the memories” of people in the world while they are with us and when they have gone before us. Jesus knows that Judas and others will contribute to his death, but he still cries out that the Son of Man will be glorified in what is to happen.

Jesus tells them that he will only be with them a little longer. He has to go to the Cross alone. Those whom he will recognise beyond the Cross will be those who obey the ever-new commandment to love one another. When we meditate on chapter 13 of John’s gospel we look into the scene in an upper room and witness Jesus washing his disciple’s feet. Though it is the Last Supper only a few details are given about it. We do not have the institution of the Lord’s Supper as we have it in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Instead we are ushered into some of the incidents that John considers to be significant. It is as if he is saying, “You know how our Lord instituted the Supper with the bread and the wine, and now I will tell you about some of the things that happened there in a little more detail”. These ‘inserts’ are enormously important to us and we hold them close to our hearts.

Such a meditation should not only occur during a few minutes in the morning or evening. It should be with us all day as we go about our tasks. We do not walk alone. Our faith is not a mental construct or a series of mental processes. It is the greatest trust of all, trust in the unseen, trust in an invisible yet potent Spirit who guides us and loves us and keeps us safe on the road. Judas went out and **it was night**, darkness. But if he had seen the stars and let them refresh his soul with the light of the Creator, he may have taken a different path. We all need a greater consciousness of the presence of the Spirit of God. We all need a greater trust in the love that God pours into us through the Holy Spirit every day. We all need to make love the main item of our agenda every day, even when we are threatened by others or mocked and placed in positions where we do not want to go. When real love comes into a room, wearing the garland of a softening smile, then the negatives rush for the door. We all have the choice of being a wet blanket, feeding off the negatives of others, or being an eikon of love in the world, making an impact that will be remembered long after.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**



### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

Acts 14:8-18; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:22-22:5; John 14:23-29

---

### **TO PLAN:**

May 1, Wednesday.

*Office closed.* (Labor Day,  
National Holiday)

- Bible study, 10am.
- Group discussion about Christian Meditation on the Scriptures, 7:30pm, Parish office.

**Booklet: When God Speaks** (*by Henry & Richard Blackaby*)

May 2, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.