

# The Home Sunday Worship Supplement

## Sixth Sunday of Easter, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020

*Dear Parishioners,*

**COVID-19 Restrictions.** You may be wondering whether we can now recommence church services and pastoral visiting in the light of the NSW Premier's announcement last Monday.

However, Bishop Murray has directed that regardless of the Premier's announcement, re-commencing church services is not yet authorised by the Bishops. Reasons are detailed on Page 8.

A visit to your home to 'provide essential pastoral care' is allowed so long as appropriate risk assessment and social distancing and hygiene conventions are adhered to. However, Bishop Murray continues to encourage us, to use other methods where possible such as telephone, email or texting. We must minimise the possibility of spreading infection from house to house.

**Jigsaw Appeal.** We are now sending the *Sunday Supplements* to **Autumn Lodge** to help support locked-down residents. Does anyone have any 500 piece, or less, jigsaws that you are willing to donate as

further support? Please let me or Sam know, and I will call to collect them.

It has been encouraging to receive positive feedback on the Home Worship material. I look forward to reading Lesle's reflection on John 14:15-21 this week. The home prayer space featured this week is Pat's –

thanks for sharing it with us, Pat.

*He is Risen*

*Rev Clyde*



## Psalm 66:7-19



- <sup>7</sup> O bless our God, you peoples:  
and cause his praises to resound,
- <sup>8</sup> Who has held our souls in life:  
who has not suffered our feet to slip.
- <sup>9</sup> For you have proved us, O God:  
you have tried us as silver is tried.
- <sup>10</sup> You brought us into the net:  
you laid sharp torment on our loins.
- <sup>11</sup> You let our enemies ride over our heads,  
we went through fire and water:  
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.
- <sup>12</sup> I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:  
and I will pay you my vows,
- <sup>13</sup> The vows that opened my lips:  
that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.
- <sup>14</sup> I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts,  
with the sweet smoke of rams:  
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.
- <sup>15</sup> Come then and hear, all you that fear God:  
and I will tell what he has done for me.
- <sup>16</sup> I called to him with my mouth:  
and his praise was on my tongue.
- <sup>17</sup> If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:  
the Lord would not have heard me.
- <sup>18</sup> But God has heard me:  
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
- <sup>19</sup> Praise be to God:  
who has not turned back my prayer,  
or his steadfast love from me.

## John 14:15-21

### Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

<sup>15</sup> ‘If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.’



## Reflection on John 14:15-21 (Lesle)

My Life Application Study Bible records John 14 verses 15 and 21 with these words.

*If you love me, you will **obey** what I command...*

*Whoever has my commands and **obeys** them, they are the ones who love me.*

What is obedience?

Definition - Doing, or willing to do, what you have been told to do by someone in authority. Cambridge Dictionary

In simple words, obedience is behaviour that's respectful and mindful of rules and laws. Parents, teachers and police all appreciate obedience. During the current coronavirus crisis, each of us has been asked to obey the many rulings that have been issued each day by governments and medical authorities.

For Christians, obedience is -

knowing the better way;

living the better way;

trusting the better way.

*Jesus said, "I am the Way..." (John 14.6)*

Christian obedience requires the abandonment of Self

in favour of the adoption of that better Way.

As Christians, we are asked to obey the law of Christ which is the law of love as it is seen in John 13:34. *“A new command I give you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”*

To love others was not a new command, but to love as Christ loved others was revolutionary. Today's reading intertwines love and obedience for those who follow Jesus.

No other action so expresses love more than trusting our whole self to another person. We recognise in the other person their selfless provision, protection and pleasure in supplying for our needs.

This is the relationship of obedience in love that God offers to all who will follow Jesus. Jesus did not consider himself above the will of his Father but obeyed to the point of dying on the Cross.

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

*Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,*

*but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to death -  
even death on a cross!*

(Philippians 2.5-8)

Like Jesus, we adopt a servant's attitude, obeying out of love for God and for others, not out of guilt or fear. Obedience is our love gift to the One who first loved us – Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

As a consequence of our obedience to his commands, Jesus promises Holy Spirit. Because we submit to the will of God out of love for his Son Jesus, Holy Spirit is set free within us. God's Spirit is alive and active in our daily lives, guiding our attempts to love God and to love one another.

**Trust and obey, for there is no other way,  
to be happy in Jesus than to trust and obey.**

## **Collect**

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

*‘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.’ John 14.23*



### **Next week’s Home Supplement**

will be Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Seventh Sunday of Easter.  
Keep an eye on your email from Thursday.

### **Sunday 31 May 2020 - Day of Pentecost.**



All parishes in Grafton Diocese have been invited to contribute to a combined Diocesan Pentecost Service on Sunday 31 May. Rev Clyde has contributed videos of a reading and welcome. Bishop Murray will preach. This service will be viewed live via the internet. Therefore, we will probably not have a Sunday Supplement for Sun 31 May. More detail on how you can access the live Diocesan Pentecost Service will be provided.

## **Communication from Bishop Murray: Public Worship in the Light of the 3 Step COVID19 Framework**

The NSW Bishops met yesterday in response to recent statements from the Prime Minister and the NSW Premier about the Federal Government's 3 Step Framework. As the letter<sup>1</sup> states, *we do not authorise the opening of churches to Public Worship on Sundays during Step One.*

The decision was based on the following:

- because the requirement that religious worship be for a maximum of only 10 people (this includes the Priest, LLMs, musicians, Wardens etc) this would mean that in many cases only a handful of others could attend;
- there is a requirement that prior to the service, people must register their intention to attend, meaning that parishes would need to use a booking App or some other process for people to register their intention to come to worship;
- on arrival people would need to give their contact details and declare that they are COVID19 free (in order for the Rector and Churchwardens to assess and manage the risk);
- provide for the necessary social distancing at all times;
- after the worship, the church would need to be fully cleaned according to the guidelines, prior to being used again;
- given that the bulk of parishioners could still not attend public worship on this basis, that online worship would still need to be prepared, creating a dual burden on clergy and others to prepare for both;
- we also felt that many parishes would not have the capacity to meet these requirements to create a safe space for Sunday worship;
- finally, that people arriving who hadn't booked in, were not able to provide their contact details etc or who were in excess of the maximum of 10 people would need to be turned away.

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<sup>1</sup> **Public Statement from the Diocesan Bishops of the Anglican Church in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory** 12 May 2020