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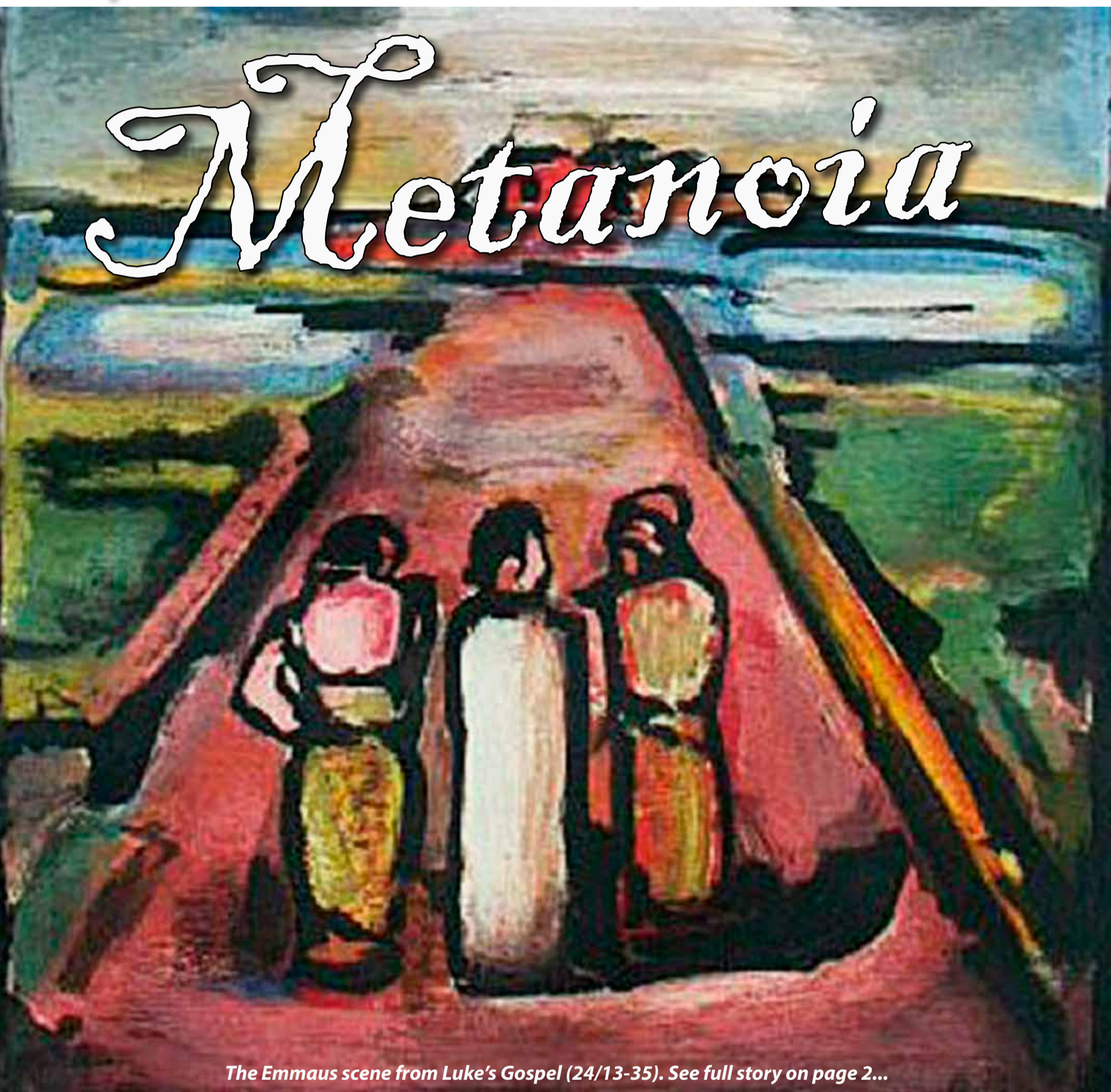
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FREE

MAY 2020 #1

Metanoia



The Emmaus scene from Luke's Gospel (24/13-35). See full story on page 2...

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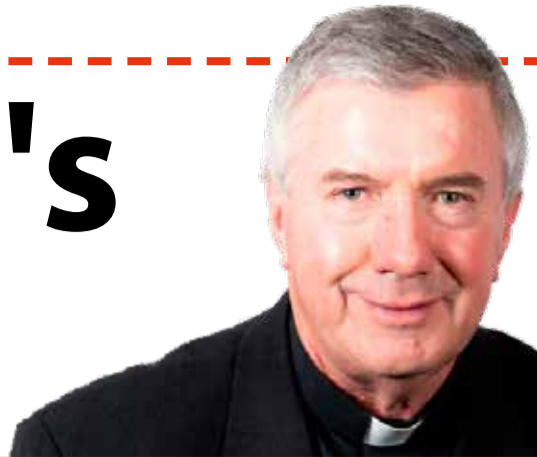


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Cover Art: Georges Rouault – The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus

Emmaus backflip

The Emmaus scene from Luke's Gospel (24/13-35) is well known and loved.

There seems to be three parts to this Easter encounter.

In the first part we find two of the disciples on their way to Emmaus. They are travelling "from Jerusalem." In other words, they are travelling away from the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

They are talking with "their faces downcast" and are bitterly disappointed that Jesus has not met their expectations.

Now let us turn to the third segment of this encounter. They have done an Emmaus backflip!

They are now returning "that instant to Jerusalem" to meet the other apostles. Their hearts are "burning within them".

What has happened? We now turn to the middle part.

Without recognising Him, the Risen Lord walks alongside them. He describes them as "foolish." He explains the Scriptures to them and they are intrigued.

They mention "the day is almost over." This is surely a reference not simply to the time of the day but their relationship with the Risen Lord. Their friendship with Jesus is almost over.

During this pandemic, many of us feel fragile, lost and fearful.

We have the Scriptures explained in the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word.

The disciples move towards repentance and find room for something unexpected and the greatest surprise of their life – He is Risen! In biblical language this is called "Metanoia." It is a return to the Lord with their hearts in repentance and faith. Inviting their fellow traveller for a meal, they go to the equivalent of the Emmaus inn/pub. The key words here are significant. With the bread, the Risen Lord "took...blessed...broke...and handed it to them." These are key words used in the Eucharist. In other

words, Jesus is celebrating Mass with them!

The Mass is the meeting point for us with the Risen Lord. Absenting ourselves from the Mass is missing out on the gift Jesus wants to give us. With the pandemic we are not physically at Mass but we are trying our best through online Mass and spiritual communion.

We are at the Emmaus pub for a counter tea! There are only two items on the menu during this pandemic; the "couch potato" and the "Emmaus backflip." Let's all choose the "Emmaus backflip" and return to the Lord with all our hearts.

Amen!

Jesus, I trust in you

We are celebrating Easter with an uninvited guest: the coronavirus. Don't we all know it!

Jesus is with us in all this mess.

He too knew of a crown ("corona") of thorns. The Passion Readings of scripture tell us it was literally forced into his skull.

But Easter brings THE transformation of everything.

It is suggested in St Paul's letter to the Colossians. He says: "But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him."

There is a key Easter word here: GLORY.

Easter brings the transformation from a crown of thorns to a crown of glory! Here is the life-changing moment for all humanity: at the very moment we felt all was lost, all is found! Thorns become glory!

We see this so clearly in the Easter Gospel from St John 20.

The crown of thorns are felt in Mary Magdalen's words of terrible lament: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put him."

These are our words in this pandemic. All seems lost. But this is not the case. The pandemic will pass. Hope is present.

In this gospel passage from St John, it is the young disciple John, the one Jesus

loved, who encounters this.

Peter and John run to the empty tomb. John, being younger, arrives first. He gives way to Peter, the first Pope, as the symbol of apostolic authority. Peter goes into the empty tomb first. He examines the scene in almost a forensic manner. John is different. He enters later. The scripture is clear: "He saw and he believed."

Love recognises love. Heart speaks to heart. Easter love ignites in the heart enlarged with hope and anticipation for love's initiative of grace.

Even St Peter eventually experiences this Easter encounter. We all love St Peter and his bumbling life journey. He is like us all.

For St Peter, Easter faith took some time to bloom. It takes us time in this pandemic to come to a similar reaffirmation that this time of thorns is a time of glory – an Easter time.

Jesus is far more patient with us than we are with ourselves and each other. Let us be patient with each other. We are not to lose hope.

As the Divine Mercy Sunday approaches (2nd Sunday of Easter), let us respond to the Risen Lord and say "Jesus, I trust in you".

Alleluia!



Prayer Intention for May - Pray with Pope Francis

For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:

<http://popesprayerusa.net/category/pope-video/>



**Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network**

APOSTLES OF PRAYER

<http://popesprayerusa.net/pop-es-intentions/>

Most of us know that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, chose to be called after St. Francis of Assisi. Many of us assume that St. Francis was a priest. Rather, St. Francis was a deacon who beautifully lived his ordination of "diakonia" of service to others, especially the poor.

His service was rooted in the deacons of the early Church who served "at table" tending to the corporal needs of the growing faithful. A restored diaconate continues its pastoral service today as well as liturgical service and worship connecting a ministry of word and a ministry of service.

This ministry of service and word is the ministry of the first deacons of the early Church such as St. Stephen, of St. Francis

in the 12th century and of deacons today as we have embarked on the next decade of this millennium in 2020.

St. Francis as deacon preached, tended to the poor, and – above all – loved. Indeed, he loved all of God's creation. St. Francis serves as a model for our deacons today and for all of us of how to live, how to act and how to "be" culminating in his famous attribution, "Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." Following this example, deacons today are called to renew and strengthen their love of God and his people. Deacons enter in their own unique mode into Christ's mission for the Church, as we all hope to do in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.



Prayer for the election of a Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern Your flock with unfailing care, grant in Your

boundless fatherly love a Bishop for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga who will please You by his holiness and to us show watchful care. 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.

Suddenly becoming a domestic Church

We are often told that ‘the family is a domestic church’. It’s one of those memorable phrases we hear without ever thinking through. In the case of my wife and I and our four children, our family is really only like a Church in that it’s hard to find anyone to do the cleaning.

by Paul Chigwidden

Living through Holy Week and Easter in the time of social isolation has forced us to confront this phrase.

Our children were naturally keen to mark the season. We found online liturgies through St Mary’s Cathedral and, more recently, our own parish church. Mass online is a poor substitute. But my children have enjoyed the fact that they can ask questions throughout. Ironically, this has led them to being far more observant. My five-year-old son might well be recumbent on the ground for much of the Mass but he wants to know why the priest puts water in with the wine. My search for an answer has

been helpful for my own faith. Our three sons have been completing their schoolwork at home (with very mixed results). Our three-year-old daughter has also wanted to be involved. A parish subscription to *Formed.org* has allowed her to enjoy some religion lessons of her own while the boys do theirs. Once again, however, the surprising result of being directly involved in our children’s religious education has been the conversations as a family. What does it mean when it says Jesus ‘descended to the dead’? Once again, my scramble for answers helped me.



As they grow, many parents naturally worry about their children’s attitude to the faith. Numerous studies clearly show parental conversations and sharing religious practices as a family are the biggest factor in whether young people remain engaged with their faith. This lock-down period has inadvertently explained why that might be. Our domestic church is nothing like the

plaster images of family one might see in an actual church – my sons are not above throwing the odd punch during night prayers. However, conversations that we might not otherwise have had, and the practical necessity of praying as a family in lieu of anything else, have definitely led to a more conscious and shared experience of our faith. For that I am grateful.

Online Ministries across our Diocese



News from St Joseph’s Leeton:
Like all churches at this time, it is a very quiet scene here at St Joseph’s. Fr Anthony has been busy guiding the Parishioners through the new circumstances that we have found ourselves in during Covid 19. It has been a steep learning learning curve for all involved including Fr

Anthony.
Thank you to the tech savy family members who have been helping bring Mass into the lounge rooms of all their loved ones via YouTube. Mass is streamed live via You Tube. Our channel is Leeton Parish. Easter like we have never seen it before from our lounge room chairs!!!!

Participate in your local Parish Mass, live-streamed via the links below:

- St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChmAFVVMUJQ2H6o8JmEIHRg/live>
- Sacred Heart Parish, Griffith:
<https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartgriffith/live/>
(please note schedule available on parish page)
Perpetual adoration: <https://www.facebook.com/101284641526659/live/>
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- Syro-Malabar Mass: <https://youtu.be/nJJXCRDZgp0>
- The Parishes of Lockhart and Urana:
[https://www.facebook.com/ pages/category/Public-Figure/ Fada-Henry-Ibe-Page- 193502854470671/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Public-Figure/Fada-Henry-Ibe-Page-193502854470671/)
- Daily Mass from St Joseph's Leeton is now being live streamed on YouTube from Monday to Saturday at 9.00am and on Sunday at 10.00am via the "Leeton Parish" channel at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCITFKLLDsP9oR_OxIK44aiA

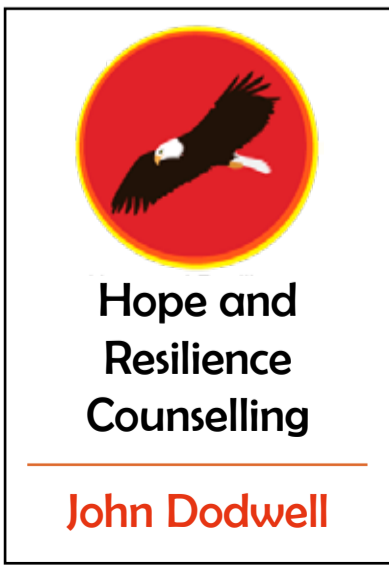


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Winter warmth sought for needy people and families

Temperatures have dived and the heaters are on. For Vinnies, that means a call out for blankets, jackets and other warm items to give to people in need.

As the weather cools down many people will turn to Vinnies for support and assistance... we are asking the community to help us by donating quality blankets, doonas and sleeping bags.

You can take your blankets to Micah Hub (53 Gurwood St, Wagga) between 9am and 1:30pm, Monday to Friday. Your donations can be placed in the containers by the front door and our members will collect the donations and ensure they are ready to hand out to those who need assistance. Please do not leave donations at Micah Hub outside of these hours.

Donations of non-perishable food would also be greatly appreciated at Micah Hub, as our members continue to deliver food hampers for those in our community who need support and assistance.

Vinnies has also launched a COVID-19 Crisis Appeal to raise funds to support families and people struggling due to the pandemic.

The charity said the pandemic crisis will increase demand on Vinnies services to help poor and needy families.

“Already we have seen an

exponential demand from vulnerable people needing food supplies following panic buying in supermarkets,” a Vinnies spokeswoman said.

Vinnies cannot run an appeal through schools and parishes so is encouraging people to donate online at www.vinnies.org.au/covid19crisisappeal or by calling 13 18 12.



It's not just Australians who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 that are suffering.

Recent government directed shutdowns will have an extraordinary financial impact on workers involved restaurants, bars, cinemas, the airline industry and many, many others.

The effects of this will be felt long after symptoms of the virus have passed.

Already Vinnies is seeing the closure of some of its stores and stocks of basic necessities have been stripped bare by people desperate for supplies.

Without your support Vinnies will be unable to continue to provide assistance to those struggling as a result of this crisis.

Your help is urgently needed.



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Isolation reflection

When I asked myself, “where does Jesus want to meet us today during the Covid-19 epidemic?” I think about the woman at the well. The woman was in her place of solitude and retreat. She was alone and in a place socially distant in the hottest part of the day to avoid others.

by Christopher Gilroy

We notice as we read through the scriptural telling that Jesus was already sitting beside the well before the woman arrived.

It was actually the woman who had to approach Jesus, which reminds us of the non imposing love of God. I imagine she would have seen him from a distance and felt uneasy, her plans of social distancing by using the heat of the day had fallen through but her thirst still needed to be quenched. Anxious the woman approaches Jesus, she can see he is a Jew and she assumes she will be shunned. But what we see is a response of love by Jesus. He enters into her situation and offers her a living water that will leave her to never thirst again.

Where are God's people today? They are socially distant and in their personal isolation within their homes. They too may feel anxious and uneasy. As Christians we ought to be waiting for them too in a sense, as Jesus was sitting by the well. We have to be ready to respond and offer them Jesus and His life giving water.

In today’s day and age it’s safe to assume our young people are spending large portions of their time in the silence of their room behind a closed door on their devices. They continue to consume without satisfaction but we

need to step in and quench their thirst with an offer of God’s love. We ought to offer spiritual drink and a genuine invitation to have a relationship with Jesus and walk with them online using our time and beautiful, good and true media resources.

I’ve experienced this in my Youth Minister role. The Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese produced a fantastic, professionally made Easter reflection resource called Encounter. A colleague and I reached out to three year ten students and invited them to pray this resource with us daily online for the duration of Holy Week. To my joy the conversations over the laptop screen flourished, I asked the students to light their own candles and set up their prayer space before we would pray, discuss, journal and meditate. This would often last up to an hour and a half. The professionally produced Encounter resource begins with a great introductory video, a scripture focus and a reflection. I found that my students more than ever were more receptive to entering into deep prayer and having a beautiful resource at hand was perfect.

Visiting them in an online chat room in their isolation was stirring within them a woman at the well experience. Jesus was pouring out the Father’s



grace in their hearts. Together we would begin to journal, which was when the deep prayer and reflecting would happen. I would simply ask the students to mute their microphones while I played worship reflection music in the background. Sometimes this lasted up to 20 minutes. The sharing that followed had such profound substance and was entirely centred on Christ in their hearts. On a few occasions I myself was moved to tears by their sharing.

Practically after our initial Monday reflection session we would discuss a mutual time for the next day and meet again online. Every student out of their own personal desire tuned in daily for the entire week. They started posting photos of their prayer spaces on their own social media platforms. One student’s photo reached 1000 of her peers and her friends began requesting to join the prayer group. This action of

them sharing gave them courage and affirmation in their faith. They were beginning to come to know the heart of Jesus and they couldn’t help but want to make Jesus known.

We decided to schedule an online youth group for Holy Saturday and invite all the young people in the parish to attend. Two of those students from that prayer group shared their personal testimonies for the first time speaking passionately and maturely about their personal relationship with Jesus to their peers.

By the end of the week each student committed 6 hours of their own personal time to prayer! **We need to respond like Jesus in this time of isolation and introduce our young people to that life giving water that will satisfy the real thirst and desire deeply planted in their hearts by a loving God.**

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Please pray for those priests whose anniversary of death occurs in May:

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7 May 1944	Fr Aeneas Francis Hennessy
8 May 1973	Fr William James Gilby
9 May 2014	Fr Sean Conroy
16 May 1908	Fr Thomas Joseph Carroll
19 May 2001	Fr John Anthony McGrath
23 May 1895	Fr Richard J Carr
24 May 1959	Fr Percival Edward McVeigh

These faithful servants, Lord, put their wholehearted trust in you - Grant that they may live in your love.

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Family reflections for: May

10th May - Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A
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 behavioral 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.

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19
1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12

17th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A
The mystery of the Trinity can be difficult for us to grasp. Today's Gospel invites us to consider how the three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—work together so that God's salvation is made known to us. Jesus' mission is continued through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his disciples. We have received this same Spirit through our Baptisms. The Spirit, living and working within us, reveals the mystery of God's love for us. Just as the first disciples were not left orphaned, we are not orphaned; we remain in God's embrace through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Gather your family and invite each family member to say what he or she knows about the Holy Spirit. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 14:15-21. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do for the disciples? Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we come to share in the love of God made known to us in Jesus. Pray together, thanking God for this gift of the Holy Spirit by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8,14-17 Psalm 66:1-7,16,20
1 Peter 3:15-18 John 14:15-21

24th May - Seventh Sunday of Easter, Cycle A
In today's Gospel we glimpse Jesus' prayer for his disciples. If we read further in John's Gospel, we find that Jesus prayed for his disciples' protection from the evil one. Jesus also prayed for all those who would have faith in him because of the disciples' teaching. That means that Jesus prayed for us as well, even before his death on the cross. Our faith tells us that Jesus continues to intercede for us at the Father's right hand.

Gather together as a family and think about the tradition of praying for other people. Who do you pray for? What do

you ask for in your prayers?

In today's Gospel we find an example of Jesus' prayer to the Father. Read together today's Gospel, John 17:1-11a. Think about Jesus' prayer for his disciples. We know that Jesus continues to intercede for us at the Father's right hand. What might Jesus' prayer be for you and your family? Conclude by praying together in thanks for the great love that Jesus shows you. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14 Psalm 27:1,4,7-8
1 Peter 4:13-16 John 17:1-11a

31st May - Pentecost Sunday, Cycle A
Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic Church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation.

As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or an issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's Psalm or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another a Sign of Peace.

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13 John 20:19-23

St Vincent de Paul in Leeton is still available to provide help and support

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all parts of life, but its those who were already doing it tough, that have been among those continuing to suffer.

by Talia Pattison

Organisations such as St Vincent de Paul are always available to help, including during a global pandemic.

While the Leeton store in Kurrajong Avenue is currently closed, residents searching for an extra helping hand need not worry as services are still available.

St Vincent de Paul regional president and Leeton resident Marianne Hoskinson will be manning a hotline every Monday to Friday.

Residents can call 0477 735 932 from 11am to 2pm to speak with Mrs Hoskinson if they need help, especially when it comes to food, general inquiries and accessing warm clothes.

A further number, which is manned outside of Leeton, will likely be up and running next week at 13 18 12, with the website www.vinnies.org.au also able to provide direction.

"We want to make people aware that we are still here to help," Mrs Hoskinson said.

"It's important to reach out if you do need any assistance because that's what we are here to do.

"Obviously we have had to make some changes to what we are doing, like everyone else has had to, but we're still here to help where we can."

With the cool weather now appearing to settle in and tough economic times expected to remain, the role of St Vincent de Paul remains as important as ever.

Leeton conference president Eileen Edwards remained concerned for those in the community who may be doing it tough.

"Especially coming into winter ... it will be hard out there for a lot of people," he said.

"There a homeless people in our community, so it is important for them and everyone to know we can still help despite everything else that is going on."

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia operates at the grass roots and provides material and personal support to individuals and families in local communities such as Leeton.

"We just want people to get in touch and we'll see what we can do to help ... it's important to reach out," Mrs Hoskinson said.



St Vincent de Paul Leeton conference president Eileen Edwards (left) and regional president Marianne Hoskinson can offer help. Photo: Talia Pattison

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Phone: 6937 0017 Email: tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au

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Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury

An independant school offering traditional Christian education and instruction in the Catholic faith, promoting the virtues and excellence of character in a personal and nurturing environment.

- K to Year 12
- Small classes in a rural setting
- Single-sex classes where numbers permit
- Academic excellence and committed staff

Urana Street, PO Box 310, Jindera NSW 2642
bmmcalbury@gmail.com Phone 02 6045 9422

St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton

ANZAC Day - Lest We Forget. St. Joseph's School leaders leading from their driveways.



Holy Spirit School, Lavington

One of Holy Spirit's Year 6 students was featured in the Daily Telegraph as part of their ANZAC Day focus. Aliera's inspiration is her grandfather, David, a veteran and captain in the army for 25 years, served in Vietnam and is on the RSL board for Victoria. We are incredibly proud of Aliera.



Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga



St Joseph's Primary, Finley

So grateful for the talented Damien Mitchell and Luke Vineburg who have transformed the side of St Joseph's staffroom into this amazing masterpiece! The students have loved watching it evolve. Thank you!

