



Pius News

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

21st May 2017

COMING FULL CIRCLE – FROM STORYBOOKS TO SPIRITUALITY

My first love was literature, novels and poetry. As a child, I loved storybooks, mysteries and adventures. In grade school, I was made to memorize poetry and loved the exercise. High School introduced me to more serious literature, Shakespeare, Kipling, Keats, Wordsworth, Browning. On the side, I still read storybooks, cowboy tales from the old West, taken from my dad's bookshelf.

During my undergraduate university years, literature was a major part of the curriculum and I learned then that literature wasn't just about stories, but also about social and religious commentary; as well as about form and beauty as ends in themselves. In classes then we read classic novels: *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Heart of Darkness*, *The Heart of the Matter*, *East of Eden*. The curriculum at that time in Canada heavily favored British writers. Only later, on my own, would I discover the richness in Canadian, USA, African, Indian, Russian, and Swedish writers. I had been solidly catechized in my youth and, while the catechism held my faith, literature held my theology.

But after literature came philosophy. As part of preparation for ordination we were required to do a degree in Philosophy. I was blessed with some fine teachers and fell into first fervor in terms of my love of philosophy. The courses then heavily favored Scholasticism (Aristotle, Plato, Augustine, Aquinas) but we were also given a sound history of philosophy and a basic grounding in Existentialism and some of the contemporary philosophical movements. I was smitten; philosophy became my theology.

But after philosophy came theology. After our philosophical studies, we were required to take a four-year degree in theology prior to ordination. Again, I was blessed with good teachers and blessed to be studying theology just as Vatican II and a rich new theological scholarship were beginning to penetrate theological schools and seminaries. There was theological excitement aplenty, and I shared in it. In Roman Catholic circles, we were reading Congar, Rahner, Schillebeeckx, Schnackenburg, and Raymond Brown. Protestant circles were giving us Barth, Tillich, Niebuhr, and a bevy of wonderful scripture scholars. The faith of my youth was finally finding the intellectual grounding it had forever longed for. Theology became my new passion.

But after theology came spirituality. After ordination, I was given the opportunity to do a further graduate degree in theology. That degree deepened immeasurably my love for and commitment to theology. It also landed me a teaching job and for the next six years I taught theology at a graduate level. These were wonderful years; I was where I most wanted to be, in a theology classroom. However, during those six years, I began to explore the writings of the mystics and tentatively launch some courses in spirituality, beginning with a course on the great Spanish mystic, John of the Cross.

My doctoral studies followed those years and while I focused on Systematic theology, writing my thesis in the area of natural theology, something had begun to shift in me. I found myself more and more, both in teaching and writing, shifting more into the area of spirituality, so much so that after a few years I could no longer justify calling some of my former courses in Systematic theology by their old catalogue titles. Honesty compelled me now to name them courses in spirituality. (Continued over page)

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(Ron Rolheiser continued)

And what is spirituality? How is it different from theology? At one level, there's no difference. Spirituality is, in effect, applied theology. They are of one and the same piece, either ends of the same sock. But here's a difference: Theology defines the playing field, defines the doctrines, distinguishes truth from falsehood, and seeks to enflame the intellectual imagination. It is what it classically claims itself to be: *Faith seeking understanding*.

But, rich and important as that is, it's not the game. Theology makes up the rules for the game, but it doesn't do the playing nor decide the outcome. That's role of spirituality, even as it needs to be obedient to theology. Without sound theology, spirituality always falls into unbridled piety, unhealthy individualism, and self-serving fundamentalism. Only good, rigorous, academic theology saves us from these.

But without spirituality, theology too-easily becomes only an intellectual aesthetics, however beautiful. It's one thing to have coherent truth and sound doctrine; it's another thing to give that actual human flesh, on the streets, in our homes, and inside our own restless questioning and doubt. Theology needs to give us truth; spirituality needs to break open that truth.

And so I've come full circle: From the story books of my childhood, through the Shakespeare of my high school, through the novelists and poets of my undergraduate years, through the philosophy of Aristotle and Aquinas, through the theology of Rahner and Tillich, through the scripture scholarship of Raymond Brown and Ernst Kasemann, through the hermeneutics of the Post-Modernists of my post-graduate years, through forty years of teaching theology, I've landed where I started – still searching for good stories that feed the soul. (The front page with Ron Rolheiser will not be a regular feature as from 1st weekend of June. If you would like to continue reading Ron he can be found on <http://ronrolheiser.com/>)

Thank you to the recent volunteers – the groups are now:

- **Liturgy** – Jos Hensing chairperson, Malcolm Davies, Cynthia Thompson & Janine Crowe.
- **RCIA** – Kay Morrison—Leader, Janine Crowe & Phillip Matthews.
- **Child Protection Representatives** 6.30pm Kath Kelly, 9.30am Rebecca Jessop—Contact Person & 5.30pm Judith Mohan



Soup Sunday

Vinnies invite you to join them on Sunday 4th June after the 9.30am Mass in the hall for a cup of soup. The Dernancourt Vinnies would welcome new members to help with their work in our local area. If you can give an hour or so of your time each week, please contact Annette Stone on 8266 0773 or Margaret Roberts 0411 097 562

Call to Ministry

It is strongly advisable for those currently on the rosters and those wishing to become new ministers to attend the meetings being held in June. Following these meetings commissioning will be held in the Parish.

Call to Ministry

Thank you to all the parishioners who over the last few months have volunteered for various Ministries with in our parish community. Training will commence in June. Extraordinary Ministers of Communion training either Tuesday 13th or Thursday 15th at 7pm – 8pm, Readers training either Tuesday 20th June & Thursday 22nd 7pm – 8pm. Training for Computer operators for power points at Masses will be advised at a later date. **For Extraordinary Ministers and readers please indicate which session you are attending on the clipboard in the foyer.**

Prayer for Oblate Province Gathering in May

Loving God I pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the Oblates gather for the Provincial Congress in Melbourne from 21st until 24th of May. Under the patronage and care of Mary and St Eugene may they continue to find ways to leave nothing undared for the Kingdom of God. Amen.



St Vincent de Paul Food Bank

This week—**WEETBIX, BREAKFAST CEREAL, RICE, FULL CREAM LONG LIFE MILK, PASTA, PASTA SAUCE**, Cans of Tomatoes, Jam, Milo, Vegemite.

Items for baby layettes: cotton vests, socks or booties, nappies, nappy pins, disposable nappies, cotton blankets, cotton sheets, towels, soap, wipes, wash cloths, baby shampoo, bibs, onesies, wool. Items can be left in foyer.

Feast day of the Week

Our Lady Help of Christians

Wednesday May 24th

The invocation "Auxilium Christianorum" (Help of Christians) originated in the 16th century, but this feast in Our Lady's honour was instituted by Pius VII in 1815, on the anniversary of his release from Napoleon's captivity. It became the patronal feast of Australia in 1844, the first time a nation had chosen Mary, under the title "Help of Christians", as principal Patroness. The country was rededicated to her in 2001, the Centenary of the Federation of the Commonwealth.

Project Compassion 2017

This year **\$4,689.50** has been collected and forward to Caritas from your kind donations.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH IN YOUR PRAYERS

Charlie Bell, Cynthia Edwards, Elisabeth Burns, Graham Smith, Helen Durkin, Ian Wallace, Margaret Vaughn, Marie Kelly, Mary Meatheringham, Tony Petrie.

Please Note:

The parish sick list has recently been updated. Names will now be left on for a maximum of 6 weeks. If you would like to be added some one from the parish please contact the parish office on 82612428 or dernancourt@oblates.com.au

Mass times at St Pius X

Saturday vigil 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm
Tue & Wed 9.15am
Thurs 9.30am
Fri 9.15am

Daily Morning Prayer:

Tues, Wed, Fri 8.40am
 Thurs 8.55am
Rosary: Tues, Wed & Fri 8.55am
 Thurs 9.10am

Reconciliation: Sat 11.30am—12 noon



Next Week's Readings Ascension of the Lord Year A: Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20



Parish Prayer Network:

Prayers for any need.

All you need to do is call one of the following:
 Marie 8264 9569, Maureen 8261 6906
 or Beth 8396 2079

MINISTRY ROSTER 27/28 May 2017

6.30pm

9.30am

5.30pm

Ministers Please Note:

This roster follows the original roster. If you have made any changes they will not be reflected here. Please check the notice board at the back of the church for updates.

C Rod Hern
 R1 Patricia Beaven
 R2 Keith Collins
 EM1 Jaippee Paje
 Em2 Bill Edmonds
 Em3 Patricia Rice
 Em4 Sr Pat Keane
 M James Lloyd

C Margaret Duggan
 R1 Bernadette Davies
 R2 John McManus
 Em1 Tommy Morrison
 Em2 Charlie Baldacchino
 Em3 Annette Stone
 Em4 Jos Hensing
 M

C Heather Hier
 R1 Michelle v d Kieboom
 R2 Mark McCarthy
 Em1 Judith Mohan
 Em2 Michael Wright
 Em3 Esmā Gagliardi
 Em4
 M Sonia & Group

Church Cleaners: Team C: Anderson/Matthews/Goss

Altar Linen: 28th May: Dot

First Reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20.

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'