

'PROFESS LOVE, NOT HATRED'

3rd Sunday of Easter – 5th May 2019

This weekend we continue to profess love, not hatred.
We begin by learning from children
and by requests for prayer here and overseas.
And then we focus on the Gospel in two parts.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Thank you to **St Joseph's School** this week as a group of Year Two students acted out last week's Gospel on Friday.
It helped us to understand how the doubts of Thomas in us.
**Year Two thanked Jesus for his love,
and that the light of God overcomes darkness.**

ST JOHN FISHER COLLEGE

Thank you to **St John Fisher College** this week as Year Seven students acted out this Sunday's Gospel at McAuley House Mass on Tuesday.
They showed particularly, the energy in pulling in the nets.
The energy of our daily mission.
The energy of God's love working through us to overcome hatred.

PRAY FOR AFRICA

Pope Francis requests the Church in the month of May to [pray for the Church in Africa](#).
His prayer intention is as follows:

'The ethnic, linguistic, and tribal divisions in Africa can be overcome by promoting unity in diversity.'

I want to thank the religious sisters, priests, laity, and missionaries for their work to create dialogue and reconciliation among the various sectors of African society.

Let us pray this month that the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.'

PRAY FOR SOUTH SUDAN

Following on the recent prayer at the Vatican Retreat,
we pray for South Sudan, its leaders and its people at this critical time approaching the **deadline of May 12th** for reform.
We pray for peace and for healing in South Sudan.

STILL NO PUBLIC MASSES IN SRI LANKA – OUR PRAYER FOR THEM

This weekend, **Sri Lanka Church** authorities have stated again that it is **not safe there to go to Mass**.
We continue as a parish to pray
for safety and peace for them as a nation.
Our prayer for them is available on our [Prayer Page](#).

Our prayer and message of solidarity was sent to the Church in Sri Lanka. Included in a recent note from the Archdiocese Secretariat in Sri Lanka was a plea and a thank you to our parish:

*'Please continue to pray for our Country and its people.
Also convey our sincere thanks to your parish community.
May the good Lord bless and reward them.'*

SOLIDARITY IN PRAYER

The past few weeks have seen the terrible murders of people while at worship. Christchurch and Sri Lanka have received particular media attention. The coming together of **Brisbane people in prayerful solidarity continues**, including the interfaith service last Saturday the Memorial Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral last Sunday the prayer service at Brisbane Synagogue on last Friday night and next weekend's interfaith service in Logan.

AUSTRALIAN ELECTION

Leading up to the national election, the Australian Catholic Bishops have released a prayer and a resource, which is available online ['Politics in the Service of Peace'](#).

A prayer sheet is available at the front tables in our church. One on side is the prayer for the election and on the other side, the prayer for Sri Lanka.

GOSPEL OF JOHN 21:1-19

Today we reflect on the Gospel passage in two parts.

Part 1: THE NET AND THE CHARCOAL FIRE

The energy in today's Gospel also reminds us of the energy we need **through the power of God's love to overcome hatred in its many forms.**

Let us reflect on a part of the Gospel passage.

*'But the other disciples came in the boat,
dragging the net full of fish,
for they were not far from the land,
only about a hundred yards off.*

*When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there,
with fish on it, and bread.*

*Jesus said to them,
'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.'
So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore,
full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them;
and though there were so many, the net was not torn.*

*Jesus said to them,
'Come and have breakfast.'*

As the disciples dragged in the net full of fish, the net did not break.
We will not break as we cast the message of Gods' love into the world around us
and pull in the net together.
The word 'together' We need each other.
Jesus watched and instructed the disciples to cast the net and where to cast it.
Jesus offered hospitality and rest as they came to shore.

May we be open to follow the directions of Jesus
and be open to receive the hospitality of Jesus.

Hospitality is part of the scene above.
We note from parish members from the Middle East,
their tradition in placing important discussions within the context of hospitality.
We see this in the Gospels.
Jesus, risen from death, offers breakfast to the disciples.

In love, we work together
to overcome hatred
and to bring light.

Part 2: DO YOU LOVE ME?

In the second part of today's Gospel, we learn that love is essential to the mission.
Let us read it slowly.

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,
'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?'
He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.'
Jesus said to him,
'Feed my lambs.'*

*A second time he said to him,
'Simon son of John, do you love me?'
He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.'
Jesus said to him,
'Tend my sheep.'*

*He said to him the third time,
'Simon son of John, do you love me?'
Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time,
'Do you love me?'
And he said to him,
'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.'
Jesus said to him,
'Feed my sheep.
Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger,*

*you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished.
But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands,
and someone else will fasten a belt around you
and take you where you do not wish to go.'*

*(He said this to indicate the kind of death
by which he would glorify God.)'*

LET US TAKE A MOMENT

Let us take a moment to think of the times when we fail God.
We remember Peter, warming himself at the charcoal fire
during his time of denying Jesus.
And Peter denied Jesus three times.
He deserted Jesus during his passion and crucifixion.
He failed, as a leader, to be a role model.
Failed to inspire the apostles, failed to challenge them.
Failed to trust God. Failed himself. Failed God.
Yet some didn't fail Jesus.
Mary the mother of Jesus, some of the women disciples,
and the disciple of John's community was there for Jesus.

OURSELVES

HOW COULD WE GET OUR LIVES TOGETHER AFTER SUCH FAILURE?
HOW CAN WE LOOK OTHERS IN THE EYE?
HOW CAN WE FORGIVE OURSELVES?
HOW DO WE LET OTHERS FORGIVE US?
HOW DO WE LET GOD FORGIVE US?

Let us turn to the Gospel and see how Jesus responded to Peter.
Jesus, now risen from death, challenged Peter three times,

"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Simon son of John, do you love me?"

"Do you love me?"

We are invited to choose three recent failings
in our individual and communal lives.
We take time during the week to name them.
Then, in prayer to each failing,
we allow Jesus to say to us – **Do you love me?**
And each time we allow Jesus to direct us.
To Peter he said,

'Feed my lambs.'

'Tend my sheep.'

'Feed my sheep.'

Let us discover what Jesus says to us on each of the three occasions.

[pause]

Thank you
to Year Two at St Joseph's School,
to Year Seven in McAuley House at St John Fisher College,
and to all who encourage us to pray for our neighbours in need.

In our **energy** to serve God,
In our **love** that overcomes hatred,
In our bringing the **light** of God into the darkness of hatred,
In our **prayerful solidarity** with others in need,
In our **openness** to the healing power of Jesus
as he says to each of us – do you love me?
let us follow Jesus.

Today's Gospel passage concludes with these words:

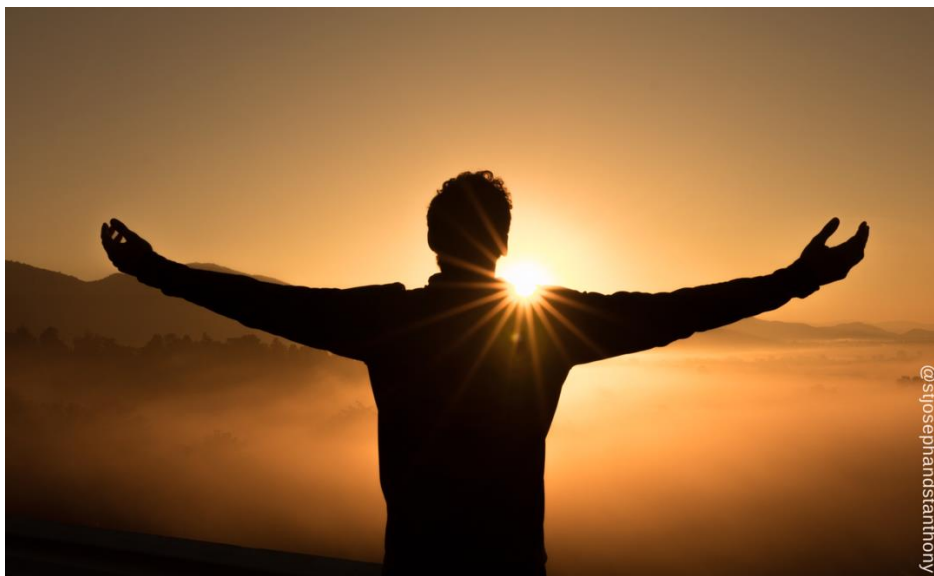
'After this he said to him, **'Follow me.'** '

Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/050519.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook05052019>]



“Do you love me?”

Gospel of John 21:17

Homily: Profess Love, not Hatred