



The Already and the Not Yet

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

The church celebrates again and again during the Easter season a core truth of Christian thought and belief: “the already and the not yet.” Jesus has already saved us, but we have not yet experienced the fullness of the kingdom. In this belief, there is tension, the experience of standing in the middle, where the tension is lived, and hopefully where balance is achieved.

What makes the tension bearable is that we know we have not been left as orphans. We are not on our own. The Spirit of God is sent to us and enables us to hold fast to what we have known and experienced and what is still unknown to us. Scripture and tradition, dogmas and doctrines, sacraments and sacramentals, practices and disciplines, all inspired by the Spirit of God, provide us with the necessary support and direction and help us remain balanced.

As wonderful as each of these gifts of the Spirit may be, each gift must be received, encountered, enabled, and lived. If the gifts are given but never received—and, even more important, used and shared—we not only refuse a gift freely given by our God but also deprive ourselves of the means to maintain our balance and remain on the path that leads to life and light. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Is there a gift from God I have not received or lived? How can I begin?



[Jesus said to his disciples,]
“I will not leave you
orphans; I will come to you.”

JOHN 14:18



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

53 South Road, Paget PG 03 | P.O. Box HM 727, Hamilton HM CX

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General • Cell: 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am
Saturday 7:00pm (Neo-Catechumenal Mass).

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Administrator:

Karen Marsh
email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com
(c) 799 0842

Pastoral Council CCD Coordinator:

Patricia Carreiro
email: pcarreiro1976@gmail.com
(c) 737 1047

CHANCERY OFFICE
EMAIL orcc.bermuda@gmail.com



Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES . . .

MAY 9/10th - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Lector: Joshua Blee EM: Sara Peniston
10:15AM Lector: Pat Robinson EM: Joyce Lee
Collection: Pat Robinson

May 16/17th - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

5:00PM Lector: Laura DeFrias EM: Susan Shreeve
10:15AM Lector: Lucy Attride-Stirling EM: Pat Robinson
Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS . . .

MAY 9/10th - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM For the Sick and Suffering
10:15AM Theresa Ramdass & For Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, Mothers-to-Be, and Deceased Mothers

May 16/17th - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

5:00PM St. Michael's Parishioners
10:15AM For all the Souls in Purgatory

Thank you for your generosity.



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

May 2/3rd COLLECTION: \$ 1780.00

NEXT WEEKEND will be our

Monthly 2nd Collection for Maintenance

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Pastor's Point . . .

Dear Parishioners,

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity. He is distinct from the Father and the Son but one in being, coequal, and coeternal with them because, like them, He is God in the fullest sense. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit during His homily at the Last Supper, calling Him the "Paraclete" (Advocate) and "the Spirit of Truth" (Jn 14:16-16). The Holy Spirit's mission is to fill and indwell every baptized member of the Body of Christ who is in a state of grace. He is present not only through the gifts of grace, which He dispenses, but also by His uncreated divine nature. His indwelling manifests the love of God the Father and the Son, appropriate to the Holy Spirit. He has the power to bind the people of God in the unity of faith through "life in the Spirit," making it possible for Christ to be present in the lives of the faithful of His Body, the Church.

The **First Reading** addresses the second stage in the expansion of the Church, as commanded by Jesus at His Ascension (Acts 1:8). The first stage was the New Covenant Church's Sacrament of Baptism in Jerusalem with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday (Acts 1:4, 2:1-11). The second stage was the spread of the Gospel throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:5, 40). Finally, the third stage began with the founding of the Church in Gentile lands, such as Antioch, Syria (Acts 11:20), and from there, it reached "to the ends of the earth" (Mt 28:19-20).

In the **Responsorial Psalm**, the psalmist speaks of the salvation of God's people as a unified covenant nation and as individuals. The Psalm begins with an invitation to all the earth to proclaim the glory of the Divine Name. Next, he mentions what God did for Israel in the Exodus liberation before turning from what God has done for Israel to what God has done for him. Finally, he blesses God, who hears his prayers and extends His mercy to the psalmist.

In the **Second Reading**, St. Peter wrote that God the Holy Spirit is the reason for our hope as the Church moves into the third stage of her mission to evangelize the world. He urged the faithful to sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope (1 Pt 3:15, NABRE). St. Peter eloquently stated the mission of Christian witness, which he urged the communities of the Church spread across Asia Minor to accept. Christians must always be ready to give a defense or testimony of the Gospel, which is their hope of salvation, even when confronted with persecution and suffering.

In our **Gospel Reading** from Jesus's discourse at the Last Supper, He told His disciples that He would not remain visibly among them. However, He assured them that He would be with them through the mission of the Holy Spirit, whom He would send as their Advocate, Counselor, and Defender. Jesus identified God the Holy Spirit as a person, not merely a force. He referred to the Holy Spirit using the masculine pronoun "He" and used three prepositions in the Greek text to describe the Spirit's relationship to the believer. Jesus said He would be "with you always," He "remains with/by you," and "will be in you," meaning dwelling within you. Jesus assured every believer that God the Holy Spirit would be "with you" as your companion in fellowship, "by you" in His position as your advocate and counselor, and "in you" as the indwelling personal God who is your source of supernatural life.

The Holy Spirit is probably the least understood and/or least mentioned within the context of the Trinity. This weekend all three readings give us a glimpse of the: reception of the Holy Spirit, the life in the Spirit and the eternal presence of God through the Holy Spirit. From the beginning of time, the Holy Spirit has been present. The good news is that we have access to the Holy Spirit 24/7/365. Amen.

Fr. Joe, Pastor & Vicar General



SOURCE: Agape Bible Study, page 1 of Sixth Sunday of Easter (Cycle A).

Bishops Corner . . .

Dear Fellow-Catholics,
Here we are on Mother's Day again, and again I allow poetry to speak.

Her Hands



Happy Mother's Day!

A blessed weekend and week to all!

+ Wes 
Bishop Wes

HER HANDS by Maggie Pittman

*Her hands held me gently from the day I took my first breath.
Her hands helped to guide me as I took my first step.
Her hands held me close when the tears would start to fall.
Her hands were quick to show me that she would take care of it all.
Her hands were there to brush my hair, or straighten a wayward bow.
Her hands were often there to comfort the hurts that didn't always show.
Her hands helped hold the stars in place, and encouraged me to reach.
Her hands would clap and cheer and praise when I captured them at length.
Her hands would also push me, though not down or in harm's way.
Her hands would punctuate the words, just do what I say.
Her hands sometimes had to discipline, to help bend this young tree.
Her hands would shape and mold me into all she knew I could be
Her hands are now twisting with age and years of work,
Her hand now needs my gentle touch to rub away the hurt.
Her hands are more beautiful than anything can be.
Her hands are the reason I am me.*



WORDS OF LIFE

"Radical solidarity compels us to come alongside vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their reborn children. It requires us to address the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her. We must do all we can to provide mothers, children, and families with the support they need to flourish. This cannot be accomplished by laws or policy alone, but requires the continual transformation of our own hearts, recognizing in every person the face of Christ, and placing their needs before our own."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Radical Solidarity"

Dear Padre,

What are the roles and responsibilities of a parish priest in his church and community?

Primarily, a parish priest is a teacher and sanctifier. As teacher, he is obliged to instruct people in the faith, especially through the homily and catechetical formation—the Catholic education of children and young adults. He fosters “works through which the spirit of the gospel is promoted, even in what pertains to social justice.” With lay assistance, he brings the gospel message “to those who have ceased the practice of their religion or do not profess the true faith” (*Code of Canon Law* 528 §1). As sanctifier, he works “so that the Christian faithful are nourished through the devout celebration of the sacraments,” especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of penance. He is also responsible for ensuring that the Eucharist is central to the faith community by encouraging active participation in the liturgy and parish life so that it’s authentically celebrated. (See *CCL* 528 §2.)

His other pastoral obligations are in the area of governance. These duties include outreach to those entrusted to his care, especially the sick and dying. He fosters growth in the Christian life within the family. “[W]ith particular diligence he is to seek out the poor, the afflicted, the lonely, those exiled from their country, and similarly those weighed down by special difficulties.” Moreover, he is responsible for grounding his local community within the broader universal Church’s mission. (See *CCL* 529.) ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



ZAMRZNIJI TONOV / SHUTTERSTOCK

UP COMING CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE

Bishop Wes returns this week from the Ad Limina visit to the Pope and the Vatican Dicasteries on **the 12th of May 2026**, there will be no Portuguese Mass at 9:00am at St. Theresa's on Saturdays, and at 7:00pm in St. Patrick's on Wednesdays, during the above-mentioned period.

The Saturday 9:00am Mass will resume on the 16th of May, and the Wednesday 7:00pm Mass will resume on the 20th of May.

On the 13th of May there will be a Mass at St. Patrick's for Our Lady of Fatima.

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- **SYNODAL BIBLE STUDY** - each **Wednesday at 3:00pm** in the Pastor's office, is inspired by the method of **Spiritual conversation** used during the Synod on Synodality. It is leading a small group using the texts from the Sacred Scriptures in a structured format emphasising: listening, discernment, and community, fostering a deeper connection with scripture and with each other and make sure to bring your **Catholic Bible**. Any questions contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236.
- EMMAUS Bible Study: Each Tuesday at 3pm
- Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist celebration - Saturdays at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S

- During the winter season St. Theresa's Cathedral will be locked at 4:00pm from Monday to Friday.
- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Noon Day Mass in St. Theresa's Cathedral: The 12:10pm Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- Praying the Rosary is on each Wednesday at 10:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration each Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

- **Opening hours** - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays. Come and see what we have.
- Gift Shop has First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards on sale for only \$2 each, not to mention great Gift ideas too for the special young person in your lives.
- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** Needs at least one volunteer that can assist for 2 hours per week on Saturdays from 12-2PM, or as a fill-in for any absences. If you can assist, please call 292-0416 or drop by in person. Thank you

Upcoming Events



Please join us for our **COFFEE SOCIAL of APPRECIATION** on **May 17th in the Church Hall following the 10:15 Mass**. It will be an appreciation Social for the Couples For Christ (CFC) music ministry and others who have come to assist with bringing Live Music back to St. Michael's. Please join us in welcoming them to St. Michael's and thanking them for their stewardship.

Also a big thank you to the NeoCatechumenal Way members for the kind and generous donation of more than \$8,000 dollars toward our Maintenance Fund.

As always we welcome your support with SWEET & SAVOURY Items to share with all our guests. Everyone is welcome, please support this effort and we look forward to welcoming you all. Any questions please email stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com for details.

CAN YOU HELP? We are looking for a Carpenter to make a Glass and wood display case for a special statue and relic which has been donated to St. Michael's. If you can help would you please email stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com, or call Karen at 799 0842. Thank you in advance.

DISCOVER OR REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM (DORC) is open for anyone - converts, reverts, life-long catholics, the curious, those interested in the faith, those questioning the faith - and is based upon 88 common questions with many answers by using the Sacred Scriptures (SS) and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). We will meet on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30 pm starting on May 27 at St. Michael's Church (South Shore) in the Pastor's Office. This is based upon the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in a casual group discussion setting, Contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236 for further details.

SUMMER LUNCH & MOVIE Bishop Wes and Fr. Dandy are planning to have a Summer Lunch & Movie Thursdays in St. Theresa's Hall. The event will take place on Thursdays in July and August, starting with the 2nd of July and ending on the 27th of August. This event will include lunch (soup + sandwiches/bread + ice-cream + coffee/tea) at 12:00pm, with the movie starting at 12:30pm. We are looking for volunteers to assist with organisation of the lunch. If you want to commit for the entire program time, or just for a part of it, please send an email to sttheresas@northrock.bm or orcc.bermuda@gmail.com

Our Sunday Readings

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES
8:5-8, 14-17
PSALM 66:1-7, 16, 20
1 PETER 3:15-18
JOHN 14:15-21

For the World

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 8:5-8, 14-17

Entering the word

Imagine that you go with Philip to Samaria.

1. What is your opinion of Samaritans?
2. Why are you and Philip going to Samaria?
3. What do you think will happen when you arrive?
4. How does Philip remind you of Jesus?
5. How do the Samaritans respond?
6. How does Philip seem to you?
7. How do Peter and John seem to you when they arrive?
8. Do you hear what they pray (v.15)?
9. Do you pray? If so, what do you pray?
10. How do you know that the Samaritans have received the holy Spirit?

Living the word

11. Does it surprise you to hear an apostle working miracles?
12. What is the mission of the Church?
13. In what ways can you carry out the Church's mission?

THE FIRST READING

Just as Jesus did

Philip is one of the seven men commissioned by the apostles in Acts 6:1-6. Here Philip fulfills the

prophecy of the risen Jesus to be his witnesses *throughout Judea and Samaria...* (Acts 1:8). Philip is an excellent witness: he proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah, and he heals and expels evil just as Jesus did.

Part of the ministry of Jesus is to bring about reconciliation and peace. Once the Samaritans accept Jesus as their Messiah, they become one with the followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, and centuries of division are overcome.

From Jesus to the Gentiles

One of the reasons Luke writes is to assure Gentiles that God includes them in his plan of salvation. One way he demonstrates this is by portraying continuity between the ministry of Jesus and the ministry of Jesus' followers.

1. Philip acts as Jesus did, which he could only do if he had the Spirit of Jesus within him
2. When Peter and John lay hands on the Samaritans, the Spirit becomes manifest, making the Samaritans' conversion official

Having shown that God incorporates Samaritans into salvation, Luke will next tell the story of how God is saving the Gentiles, too.

JOHN 14:15-21**Entering the word**

Imagine that you're one of the disciples listening to Jesus during his last supper.

1. What are Jesus' *commandments*?
2. How well do you think you'll keep Jesus' commandments?
3. How has Jesus been an Advocate for you?
4. What do you think you'll want the next Advocate to do for you?
5. What might the other disciples want the Advocate to do for them?
6. How will this Advocate be different from Jesus?
7. How do you feel about receiving a new Advocate?
8. Why is the world unable to see Jesus?
9. How well do you understand Jesus' relationship with God?
10. How do you think Jesus will *reveal* himself to you in the future?
11. What are you feeling about all of this?

Living the word

12. What does this time of reflection invite you to pray about?
13. What hostility or indifference to Jesus' love must you confront?
14. How will you confront such hostility and indifference?

THE GOSPEL READING**One commandment**

This passage continues the "farewell discourse" in which Jesus tries to prepare his disciples for his death. Here he speaks about his *commandments*, but the only commandment he gives in this Gospel is *love one another* (13:34).

Jesus demonstrates how exactly people ought to love each other by washing the feet of his disciples (13:1f) and then allowing himself to be crucified.

Self-giving love is the basis of the communion between Jesus and his Father: God entrusts the salvation of the world to his Son, and his Son glorifies his Father by perfectly fulfilling that work. Sacrificial love is, therefore, the basis of our communion with Jesus, the Father, and each other.

Advocates

The Greek word John uses to refer to God's holy Spirit is *paraclete*. The word in Latin is *advocate*. The term has a legal connotation. A defendant could call upon a wealthy friend or acquaintance to speak on his behalf during a trial.

Because Jesus has given testimony about himself throughout this Gospel, he is the first Advocate. He promises to send another. This *Spirit of truth* will...

1. guide Jesus' followers in their understanding of Jesus and his life-giving mission
2. help Jesus' followers offer their own testimony about Jesus in the face of a sometimes hostile world
3. bring believers into communion with Jesus, and through Jesus into communion with God

The world

In his Gospel John uses the term *the world* in a particular way. *The world* has so turned away from God that at times it is even hostile to God. Jesus repeatedly encounters this hostility as he tries to testify to the salvation he brings from his Father.

Because *the world* does not accept the truth about Jesus (v.17), it will be unable to see him when he appears to his disciples after the crucifixion (vv.18-20).

Prayer

from Fr. John Hardon's *Catholic Prayer Book*

Holy Spirit,
beloved of my soul, I adore you.
Enlighten me, guide me,
strengthen me, console me.
Tell me what I should do.
Give me your orders.
I promise to submit myself
to all that you desire of me
and to accept all that you permit
to happen to me.
Let me only know your will. Amen.