



Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 14:21–27

Rev 21:1–5a

Jn 13:31–33a, 34–35

What's New?

Everyone gets a bit excited with the prospect of something new, whether it's a new job, a new car, or a new iPhone. This new thing might simply be a replacement. However, when it is a new model, an upgrade, we get even more excited. Revelation uses a distinctive Greek word, *kainós*, for this second kind of newness. The new heaven, the new earth, the new Jerusalem (and the new commandment mentioned in the Gospel) suggest radical newness—the kind resulting from an act of God. Centuries earlier, the prophet Isaiah had promised a new heaven and a new earth (see Isaiah 65:17). This metaphor pointed to a time of eschatological peace and fulfillment, a time when the covenant relationship between God and the people would be renewed and last forever. This was a promise the people held dear.

How are we to read this passage from Revelation today? Is it referring to a time in this life? Or, after this life? It may actually refer to both. We believe that, with his death and resurrection, Jesus inaugurated this time of fulfillment. However, its full establishment is not yet complete, hence the new commandment: "Love one another" (John 13:34). When we truly follow this commandment and love each other, we actually make present the new heaven and new earth; we make real the new Jerusalem, God's covenant partner. However, the ultimate fulfillment will come when God finally brings all things to completion. That is when everything will be new.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * *How has the love of other people made you a better person?*
- * *In what ways does your love of others strengthen them?*



[Jesus said,] "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples."

JOHN 13:34–35



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:00am

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

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.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

MINISTRIES

MAY 14/15th - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Peter Marsh
10:00AM Lector: LaVerne Lau EM: Madelena Almeida
 Collection: The Almeidas

MAY 21/22nd - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Lector: Alberta Cannonier EM: Karen Marsh
10:00AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Lucy Attride-Stirling
 Collection: Karen Marsh

MASS INTENTIONS

MAY 14/15th - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

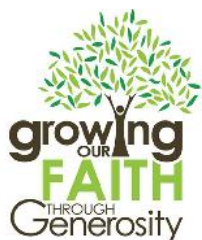
5:00PM Veronica & Herman Tucker
10:00AM First Holy Communion Candidates & Their Families
12 NOON First Holy Communion

MAY 21/22nd - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Adelina & Jose DeFrias ++
 Mary & Benjamin Botelho ++
10:00AM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at
 St. Theresa's - 7:30^{AM} Mon.—Fri. | St Anthony's - 8:00^{AM} Tues.—Fri.

ST. THERESA'S & ST. ANTHONY'S
 Masses are live streamed via the Diocesan Website
 and their Facebook Page



STEWARDSHIP

COLLECTION: \$1,154

VOTIVES: \$36.00 POOR BOX (SVDP): \$10.00

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FLOWERS/ MUSIC MINISTRY: \$940

NB: \$2300/week or \$9200/month in the collection is needed to break even each month.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTION

are welcomed. Consider making a weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction.

When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction."

ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions to support the day-to-day operations of our Parish.

Thank you to those parishioners who continue to answer our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.

Online donations can be made to St. Michael's Church's BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WORD FROM Pope Francis



Temptation in us truly works like this: it begins with something small, a desire, an idea, it grows, it infects others and in the end, it justifies itself....And all of us, when we are conquered by temptation, ...end up feeling calm, because we have found a justification for this sin, for this sinful attitude.

HOMILY, APRIL 4, 2020

The Bishop's Corner



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In an address to the representatives of the leadership of the International Federation of Catholic Pharmacists Pope Francis told them that "Patients value the atmosphere of closeness and family life very much. It gives the human dimension to healthcare." As the Pope said, the COVID-19 Pandemic has put pharmacists on the front lines. They have provided help and advice, as well as efficiently and quickly performed tests and analyses necessary in everyday life.

The Pontiff noticed that this crisis situation has caused a need for unity and mutual support in the professional environment. Pharmacists provide an important "bridge" between citizens and the healthcare system. This system is often bureaucratic and the Pandemic has put it to the test by slowing down and sometimes even paralyzing procedures. In practice, this has meant greater inconvenience and suffering, and unfortunately, further damage to the health of the sick. In this context, pharmacists make a double contribution to the common good; they relieve the health care system and ease social tensions. Pope Francis noted that the contribution that pharmacists can make to the conversion to integral ecology is very important.

The Pope emphasized that "We are all called to learn a lifestyle that expresses greater respect for the environment in which God has placed us, for our common home. This lifestyle also includes a healthy diet and life in general. I think that pharmacists can also "create culture" in this area, promoting greater wisdom in leading a healthy lifestyle. In this regard, one can draw inspiration from a thousand-year tradition that reaches back to ancient monastic pharmacies in Europe. However, today, thank God, these roots can be enriched with the knowledge and practices of other cultures, such as Far East or First Nations of both Americas. I would say that you pharmacists can help us expose the frauds of false prosperity and educate us to the true "good life" so that it is not the privilege of a few, but within the reach of all."



Enjoy your weekend and have a great week!

+ Wes Spence

Bishop Wes



SUNDAY READINGS – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING – Acts 14:21-27

After Paul and Barnabas had proclaimed the good news to that city and made a considerable number of disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch. They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying, “It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” They appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith. Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now accomplished. And when they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 145:8-13

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works. (R)

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones bless you. Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might. (R)

Let them make known your might to the children of Adam, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is a kingdom for all ages, and your dominion endures through all generations. (R)

SECOND READING – Revelation 21:1-5a

Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia..

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you. Jn 14:34

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – John 13:31-33a, 34-35

When Judas had left them, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and God will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



*Congratulations to our First Holy Communion candidates
who will receive the Blessed Sacrament at their special Mass this Sunday, May 15th.*

Emma Rose Banker
Izzabelle Jia Rilloraza Condat
Owen Nicholas Fosker
Charleigh Rose Gilchrist

Jack Philip Gilchrist
William Alexander Hayne
Roman Joseph Xavier Jagoda
Thomas MacGregor Leitch
Austin Daniel Linden

Oran Conall Lynch
David Ellis McComas III
Anthony Smith
Thomas E. Valadão

May God bless you and your family on this special day and always.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

BIBLE STUDIES EACH TUESDAY

- RCIA at 10:30am
Agape Bible Study at 3pm
- Emmaus Bible Study at 7:30pm
All to take place in the sacristy.

Please email Fr. Joe at stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com if you are interested in attending any of these classes.

All are welcome. Masks are required.

WORD OF LIFE:

"Everyone is in need of reassurance, and if we, who have touched 'the Word of life' (1 Jn 1:1) do not give it, who will? How beautiful it is to be Christians who offer consolation, who bear the burdens of others and who offer encouragement: messengers of life in a time of death!"

Pope Francis, 2020 Easter Vigil Homily

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Dear Padre,

My aunt tells her husband he shouldn't watch a certain TV show. She says it's an "occasion of sin." What is that?

Occasions of sin are people, places, or situations that can easily lead a person to sin or give the individual an opportunity to commit a sin. There are two types: *remote* and *proximate* (or "near").

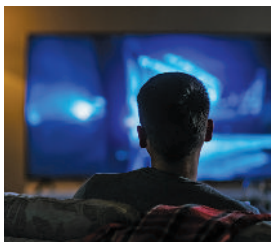
If the attraction is not strong or has only a small probability of leading to sin, the occasion is remote. Remote occasions of sin are always around us, and we have no obligation to try to avoid them.

If the attraction is powerful or the probability of its leading to sin is great, the occasion is called proximate. Saint Alphonsus suggested that if a person sins four out of ten times in a particular situation, that situation should be regarded as a proximate occasion of sin.

Proximate or near occasions of sin are further classified as *necessary* or *voluntary*. A necessary proximate occasion cannot be avoided or can be avoided only with great difficulty—for example, an occasion associated with doing one's job or being in prison. A voluntary proximate occasion is freely and voluntarily entered. We must avoid voluntary proximate occasions of grave sin.

Among the many means at our disposal for avoiding occasions of sin, the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist have pride of place. Prayer and self-discipline also help.

Fr. David Louch, CSSR



AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP: Open each Tuesday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. **Thank you for your continued patronage.**

12:10PM MASS at the Cathedral. This mass is celebrated by Bishop Wes on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Join Us!

LECTIO DIVINA: Mondays at 7pm via Zoom. If you want to join, contact Franz Wohlmuth at Fgwohlmuth@logic.bm. Franz will send you the link to join.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF

Easter



GLORIFY GOD

In the first sentence of today's Gospel passage from John, Jesus' address at the Last Supper, the words "glorify" or "glorified" appear five times. For John, glory has to do with honor and reputation, the primary characteristic of a person. John thus invites us to reflect upon what God's glory fully means. God is glorified when God's truest nature is revealed, as the God who loves. Today's passage is situated between two demonstrations of Jesus' love: the washing of feet and going to the cross. The capacity to glorify God extends to all of us. Like Jesus, love is revealed both in our mundane acts of service and in our acts and commitments of great sacrifice. Jesus' "new commandment," flowing from God's love within us, invites us to extend and deepen our love for others, to include everyone. We may then reveal God's truest nature to everyone, and so glorify God.

MADE FOR EACH OTHER

We are introduced to the book of Revelation's great concluding vision in our second reading. The completion of God's project of salvation is described as a new Jerusalem coming from heaven, to form a new heaven and new earth. The image of a marriage articulates this vision, in which the two sides of God's good creation, earth and heaven, are joined in a final union. Earth (the physical universe) will not be destroyed, but instead be fully renewed.

This vision rejects any notion that the physical and the spiritual are ultimately separate and opposed to each other. It rejects the idea that heaven is an escape from a prison of earthly life. Like a marriage partnership, these two sides of reality are fundamentally made for each other. Life in heaven and life on earth are quite different now. But the life of faith, here and now, offers a foretaste of God's promised future.

ALL THINGS NEW

The new heaven and new earth described by Revelation is where God will dwell fully among God's beloved creation. God's reign will be a reign of love, where death will be no more. In Revelation, death fuels fear and resentment, which turn to cycles of violence and destruction, and to social systems that sustain injustice. These cycles of death will one day be broken by love. In God's reign of love, new energies of creativity and human fulfillment can be released.

When God says "behold, I make all things new," God is speaking of both the present and the future. God is working now, in every person and community, in every part of creation, to bring about this new reality. We the Church must learn to see God working in our lives, our workplaces, and our neighborhoods, breaking cycles of death. We are summoned to join in what God is doing, releasing new energies of love, anticipating the final fulfillment of God's work.