

One Day at a Time

Father Tim's Daily Reflections
during the COVID-19 crisis

Sunday 24 May

The Ascension of the Lord Jesus into Heaven

4.50pm – I just finished writing this weekend's parish newsletter, and now I'm starting this blog – which should probably be re-titled now, "One Week at a Time"! I tell you, every day is so full-on, I just keep putting off writing, mainly because I do so much typing every day anyhow: the daily homily, the Mass PowerPoint script, and loads of email messages every day. But I'm here now!

Tomorrow (Monday) is **our national feastday, Our Lady Help of Christians**. The Bishops of Australia are consecrating the nation, once again, to the protective care of Mary, and they have invited each parish to do the same. Some did so today, while we and others will do so tomorrow, the actual feast day. So tune in to our live-streamed Mass at 5.45pm, or a little later for the recorded version, and join in prayer, which I'm including here now:

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of Heaven and earth,
and tender Mother of humanity,
at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children,
we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community,
beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn
to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old,
and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart
those who have lost their livelihood or employment,
our pastors and other essential workers,
and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses
and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God,
and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus
reign and triumph in us and around us,
as it has reigned and triumphed in You!

Amen.

Please pray this prayer, alone or with others, in confidence that Jesus, Who did not refuse His Mother's request at the wedding feast in Cana, will not refuse her intercession for Australia, the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.

On another note: **Bible study** last Tuesday evening continued with a small number in actual attendance, while the lesson was live-streamed and watched by a number of others. Because many of the usual Bible study attendees are older, I have advised them to continue to 'shelter at home'.

But **RCIA** is going like gang-busters! We had a good group last Wednesday evening, and then most of the group came over to my veranda – Café Don Timo (Fr Tim's Café) for coffee, biscuits and a good chat – it didn't break up until nearly 10.00pm!

So spread the word about both Bible study and RCIA – these are great opportunities to learn, to grow in knowledge and in faith, and to share community with others.

Next Sunday, **Pentecost Sunday**, Christians of many different denominations are invited to join in prayer for Perth and all of WA. Details are in today's parish newsletter, so I won't repeat them here. I am the Catholic representative and I'll be reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, his famous passage on love. I'm almost at the very end of the '**virtual prayer meeting**', although I'll actually be present in the 98five FM radio studio for the event. Wish me luck! God bless you all.