

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 144)

ANTIPHON: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

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

Or **Alleluia!**

LECTOR: The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

LECTOR: All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. **R.**

LECTOR: Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 14:21-27; Rev 21:1-5; John 13:31-35

NEXT WEEK (6th Sunday of Easter, Yr C) Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Psalm 66; Rev 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29

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Figuring out Families-Child Wellbeing Podcasts

The mental health of young Australians is in the spotlight again with a recent newspaper poll showing one in four young people aged sixteen to twenty-four thought about suicide over the past two years and 15 per cent attempted self-harm. This new podcast series features Professor Daryl Higgins, director of Australian Catholic University's Institute of Child Protection Studies. He says parents need quicker and more improved access to evidence-based support programs to address these rising mental health problems in families.

www.majellan.media/child-wellbeing-podcast/

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A vision of the Church across time



Photo courtesy Carol Bengough

This Sunday's readings give us an understanding of the life of the Church.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the Church's very beginnings. Paul and Barnabas travel between cities sharing the Good News of the gospel. In their travels, they shared the gospel, encouraged the fledgling churches, and helped them put together a stable leadership.

It is fascinating to see how the Holy Spirit moved within the early Church. We see the earliest Christians persevering in the faith, entrusting themselves and each other to God's grace. This reliance on God animates their spiritual life and helps them make practical, everyday decisions, deal with hardships and love each other. In Acts, we see the prototype for how the Church should move in this world, as a body dedicated to spreading the gospel and loving service in practical matters.

In the second reading, we see a more mystical vision of the Church as it will look in the life to come. The Book of Revelation describes the people of God as a 'New Jerusalem', who have been prepared like a couple on their wedding day.

The Book of Revelation reveals how we will come through the hardships of this world, made new and holy. In this vision, we glimpse the Church's future, where our God will "wipe every tear" from our eyes. This has been the

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destiny that God designed for his people from the very beginning. When God created us, he envisioned the perfecting of the human race to live eternally with him. This is the goal that the Church strives for in this life, with the hope of reaching it in the next.

And in today's gospel, we are reminded of the One who is the lynchpin of the Church. The Son of Man proclaims how he will be glorified by overcoming death and reconciling the human race with the Father. He now tells his Church to love one another in the same way that he has poured out himself in love for his people. By this love for one another we will be known as his disciples.

His glorification has made everything else in today's readings possible. Everything from the historical details of Paul and Barnabas' leadership of the early Church to the hope that awaits the glorified Church in Heaven, to our simple day to day acts of love for each other, all come as a result of the grace of Jesus Christ. Because he first loved us, we can love one another and know this love for all eternity.

So, we have a vision of the Church across time. Although we labour through hardships and sufferings in our present time, the Church is a kingdom of "glorious splendour" that 'endures through all generations.' And it is all because we have been so loved by God and given the grace to love one another.

Joseph Doyle

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