



E-Newsletter 6th Edition Sunday May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter. Year A Mother's Day

Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter A

FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-7

PSALM: Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. "Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you."

SECOND READING: Peter 2:4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (John 14:6). Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth and the Life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-12

THE PASTOR'S POST

Among the many indulgences that I have been treating myself to during this splendid isolation is getting into my books. Not all of them have been my favourite murder mysteries, (why is it that people who profess an enjoyment of life are so drawn to gory and sinister murders – a theme for another post, perhaps)? Some of my reading is loosely connected to my vocation, a sort of professional development exercise, like the newly published book by Christopher Lamb, who is writing about my favourite man of our time, in a book called, *"The Outsider: Pope Francis and His Battle to Reform the Church"*.



Apparently I am now what is called a 'Franciscophile', someone who listens and analyses almost everything that Pope Francis says and writes, finding very little that does not firstly challenge, and then reinforce, the things I have come to value and believe about the Catholic Church and its teachings. Lamb is a journalist who lives and works in Rome and is privileged to meet with the Pope quite regularly and has observed at close hand his human touch and his political savvy; he's seen him in good and bad times; he has spoken to the Pope's friends and enemies, and has come to observe that the Pope does not receive universal popularity, as the general public would seem to think. Lamb contends that while the Pope does not seek out controversy, he does not shy away from taking on the tough opponent and does not accept the mantra that "this is the way it has always been done". Since our Church has such a long tradition of doing things a certain way, it is understandable that there would be some, perhaps many, who disagree with his attempts to get to the core of our beliefs and practices.

I readily admit that Lamb's book plays to my fondness for Francis, so the rose coloured glasses I often wear when looking at this "man of the ordinary people", rarely allows me to see valid criticisms by those who think he is leading us in an unholy direction. But like Francis, I am trying to see things from a perspective other than my own. Like Pope Saint John XXIII, he is a man who has tried to "throw open the windows and

let in the fresh air” by reaching out to the faithful on the margins and making the church a listener rather than a lecturer.

Francis has coined some memorable phrases such as, referring to the Sacraments as “not end-goal prizes for the well behaved, but rather vehicles of grace”. He says “a Church that does not listen shows itself closed to God’s surprises and cannot be credible” and to a man who felt himself discriminated against as a gay man, he said, “It’s the noun, not the adjective that matters”. He seems to have the ability to get right into the marrow of our doubts and dilemmas and sows substantial seeds for growth, even if at first they shake our previous understanding and certainty.

While his encyclicals and public proclamations are full of wisdom and sound principals, I find that it’s his unprepared conversations with journalists or letters to his priests, his spontaneous reactions to people who gather to see him at St. Peter's Square, that gives me the richest insights. He has the all-too-rare attribute of looking like he lives what he says. He does appear to use power so much as authority when he speaks, much the same as his great teacher Jesus who sort to serve rather than be served. While all popes are referred to as ‘servants of the servants of God’, with Francis, I finally get to understand what that looks like.

Of course I am not so naïve as to believe that this Pope is perfect, and there are many things I wish he had said and issues that I hope he will address, but I feel that as long as this man is driving the train then I am happy to travel wherever he is taking us. I’m not sure if I’m being too gullible or over-confident, or maybe I am just hearing things which resonate with my experience. All this from an 83 year old man I have never met and whom I have never heard speak in English. Could it be that the Holy Spirit is speaking through this wise Argentinian? Long may he reign.

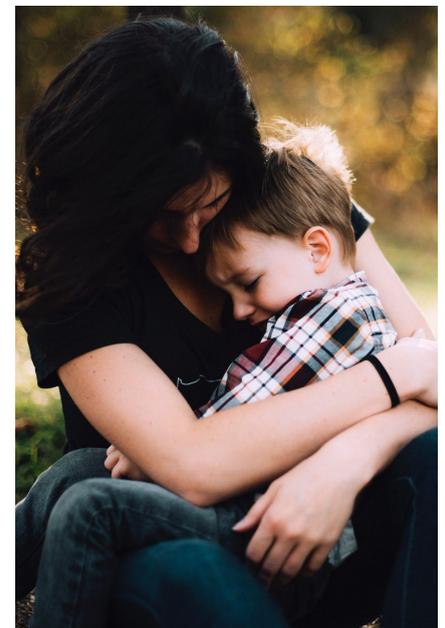
Fr Peter Dillon PP.

Shutterstock stock photo ID: 1211304220. 2015: Pope Francis. photo by Stefano Guidi

A HAPPY AND BLESSED MOTHER’S DAY TO ALL

Photo by Jordan Whitt on Unsplash

Happy Mother's Day to all Mums. Different parts of the world celebrate Mother's Day on different dates in the year, but whatever date it is celebrated. By the way, these celebrations always cause me confusion - Is it : “Mother's Day,” “Mothers' Day” or “Mothers Day”? Well, according to my inquiry, Mother's Day is the grammatically correct way. (Although I am still not entirely sure why that is 😊).



It is no coincidence that Christ used the image of an unconditionally loving parent to describe an essential, inner characteristic of God's very nature. What better example of unconditional love can be witnessed than the love of a mother for her cherished child? Christ wants us to know and experience the deep and abiding love God has for us, in calling us God's daughters and sons. This weekend we pray for all mothers, that they may be blessed for their goodness, kindness and self-forgetting love.

Let us pray in heartfelt thanksgiving to God, for all Mums on this Mother’s Day weekend. That God bless them . For their unconditional love and care. Lord hear us.

For those who have passed into eternal life, especially all dear-departed mothers, who have gone to their eternal rest and remain in cherished memory. That they now are enjoying the heavenly and eternal banquet feast of the Kingdom..... (PAUSE).....

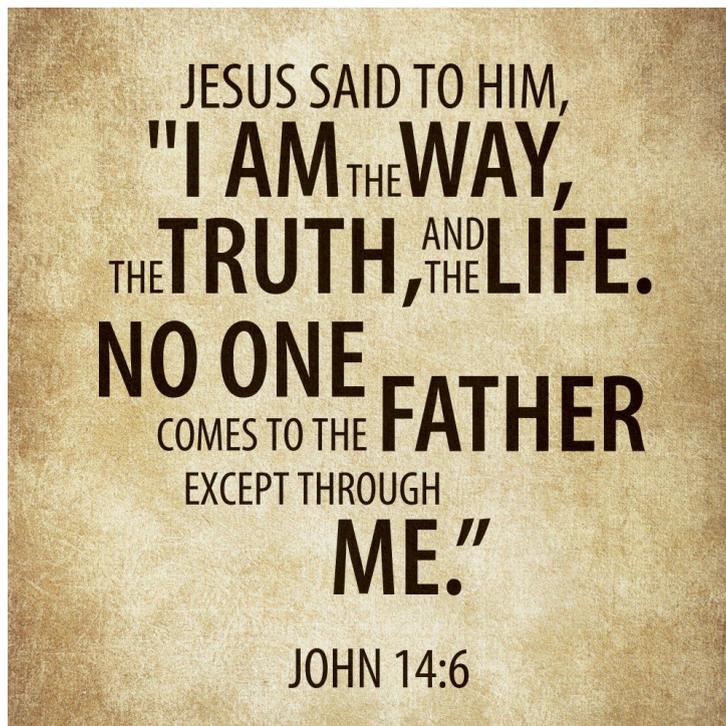
A Prayer in Gratitude and Blessing for Our Mothers

Good and Gentle God, Lord of creation, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life and nurturing with love, young lives. Jesus, you became human through a blessed woman, the Virgin Mary. Grant to all mothers the grace and strength they need to face the uncertain moments that life often brings us all. Give them the ongoing strength to love and to be loved in return. Give them the faithful support of family and friends and the wider community. May they receive peace and joy through their family and friends. Give them joy and delight in their families and friends, to sustain them through joys and sorrows. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most. Bless all our mothers and grant them the reward of their unconditional love and kindness.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Author Unknown (adapted by P. Kelly)).



Shutterstock Licensed stock illustration ID: 1086409397. John 14:6. By TheBiblePeople

FR WARREN KINNE

50th Anniversary of Priesthood

Fr Warren is celebrating his 50th anniversary of Priesthood in June. He was due to go on a trip overseas to celebrate his anniversary around this time, but as with so many plans the pandemic prevented this. Technology, however, allowed people to keep in touch. Here is a beautiful video celebrating Fr Warren's fifty years of loving service to God and God's people. **Congratulations and many happy returns.**

<https://youtu.be/V7B2xNs1kfs>



THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED



Jesus said those famous words, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life!" This could also be said as, "I am the ROAD, the TRUE Path and the meaning of truly and fully living."

Robert Frost, in his poem "The Road Not Taken," tells about a decision he made:

**"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference."**

During the Last Supper, Thomas and the other disciples were stunned into silence when Jesus announced he must leave them. Thomas asked for direction on how to get where Jesus was going. Tenderly, Jesus answered, "**I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**"

Like Thomas, if we follow Jesus and live according to the values and principles he lived by, and do what Jesus has done, we too will have truth and life; we will be at home with him and the Father, now, (as well as - in the future- fully at home with him in Heaven).

The road we choose to take must be one of faith. To travel the faith road, we must live lives which are "turned to God," – that is, dependent upon him for all that we do. Jesus has said that if we have faith in him, we have faith in the Father, for he and the Father are one.

Jesus has promised us that with faith we will be able to do his works. The works of the Father through Jesus were to teach, heal, and comfort.

The road of Jesus diverges in sharp ways with many aspects of those who live only by the ways of the world..... Our Lord's WAY is certainly a road less travelled. So we ought never be afraid that we are diverging down a path that is not the 'trendy' path, not the common way of responding to the events of life or the action of others. But the choice to follow this road will make all the difference.

It is good for us this week to spend some time reflecting on our lives and our path.

Fr Paul (with material from "Celebrating the Gospels," by Gaynell Cronin; photo by Dave on Unsplash)

GOSPEL RESOURCES

Fifth Sunday of Easter: Readings, Commentaries, and Prayers

In preparation for the Fifth Sunday of Easter. The resources can also be found on the Liturgy Brisbane website [here](#) and will be updated each week.

[Sunday Readings: Read at Home](#)

In these unique times where our Sunday Masses have been

suspended, you may wish to read the Sunday readings and associated commentaries at home.

SUNDAY READINGS
READ AT HOME

[Family Prayer: Week by Week](#)



This resource is designed for families with young children and has been a joint endeavour of Liturgy Brisbane and Evangelisation Brisbane. An extract from the Sunday gospel is provided, along with some reflection questions, family activities and a worksheet for children.

FAMILY PRAYER
WEEK BY WEEK

THE SEVEN WONDERS

A parishioner kindly sent in this wonderful reflection. It is very relevant after these last few months:

Seven Wonders Of The World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the current Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall



While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the student if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch
2. to taste
3. to see
4. to hear
5. to feel
6. to laugh
7. and to love

The room was so quiet, you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous.

EXERCISING PAST THE CHURCH

We know that we are all missing being able to gather together in the church buildings for mass. Here is a little message one parishioner sent in that is heartwarming:

"Hi. I hope you are all safe and well - It's amazing the people I catch sight of (from a safe distance!!). We all miss not going to Mass - I thought I was the only one that did my exercise walk...



I have seen quite a few of you doing the same thing - so we can look in as we walk past, and say Hi to God thru the windows. Take care 🙏😊😊🙏"

CURRENT PARISH OPERATING PROTOCOL

Just a reminder that, in line with health guidelines, the office is not open for pop-in visits. The Parish has phone contact hours Monday to Friday 9am until 12 noon, where we will endeavour to answer the phone for any inquiries. We are also contactable anytime via email surfers@bne.catholic.net.au. In the case of **emergencies**, there is also the same parish office number (with a button option to press for emergency

contact) for the on-call priest 24/7. The less face-to-face contact in these times of pandemic, the quicker we hope this situation can return to “normal.” The Parish phone number is 5572 5433.

FAITH AT HOME: Spiritual Nourishment - Inspired by the Pastors Post

Inspired by Fr Peter’s editorial this week, here are some suggestions for further spiritual reading on Pope Francis’ life and ministry: (Many of these are available for online purchase of hardcopies or ebooks).

- The Francis Miracle: Inside the Transformation of the Pope and the Church. By John L. Allen Jr.
- The Great Reformer. By Austen Ivereigh,
- Pope Francis: The Struggle for the Soul of Catholicism. By Paul Vallely
- Who Am I To Judge - A radical Pope’s first year. By James Carroll, 16/12/2013. From the New Yorker Magazine. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/12/23/who-am-i-to-judge>
- Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads. By former Jesuit seminarian and JPMorgan managing director Chris Lowney. This author was elsewhere quoted as saying: "Here was someone who had not merely dipped his toes in the Ignatian tradition, he had swum in the ocean of it, then gone off to teach swimming in other pools." (book reviewed [here](#))
- Laudato Si (Praise Be to You, Lord!). On Care of Our Common Home. Pope Francis Encyclical. Papal Encyclicals and many official Church pronouncements get their name from the first lines of the Document, namely, this groundbreaking letter from Pope Francis starts off saying: ““LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life..”
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

And some spiritual reading for Mums and for the Spirituality of women:

- Momnipotent: The Not-So-Perfect Woman’s Guide to Catholic Motherhood. By Danielle Bean (Author)
- The Reed of God. By Caryll Houselander (Author)
- Rooted in Love: Our Calling as Catholic Women. By Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle
- Small Steps for Catholic Moms: Your Daily Call to Think, Pray, and Act. by Danielle Bean (Author), Elizabeth Foss (Author), Lisa M. Hendey (Foreword)
- I Believe in Love: A Personal Retreat Based on the Teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. By Jean C. J. d'Elbée
- Consider the Lilies. By Elizabeth Foss



May: The Month of Mary Photo by Grant Whitty on Unsplash



Photo by Greg Rakozy on Unsplash

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

The Catholic Leader digital edition is now available <https://catholicleader.com.au/digital-newspaper-covid19>

The flipbook is downloadable in PDF and printable. First, enter full-screen mode by clicking the 'full-screen' button in the centre of the pages. Using the icons above the newspaper, you can select print or download. Alternatively, you can visit the website: <https://catholicleader.com.au/>

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our faith sustains us through challenging times. Now, more than ever, your support is needed to help our Parish to continue valuable pastoral activities and to provide ongoing sustainability. To assist you to support the Parish during this time of isolation, you can give via



<http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au>

We will continue to serve you through online resources and webcasts. If you are able to continue to support us, we would be most grateful. For all those who have been making payments via credit card and those who have donated directly into the parish account we thank you. The spirit of generosity is alive in our parish. If you would like confirmation of your donation or a receipt emailed to you please contact me on:

manager surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Yours faithfully,

Sonya Slater, Parish Manager

ONLINE PILGRIMAGE PROGRAM FOR CATHOLICS

By David Ryan; April 27, 2020 (Article from The Catholic Weekly [here](#))

In the midst of a global pandemic, the seeds of hope are stirring for innovations in the living of the faith. For Brisbane Catholic Martin Brennan, who was inspired by Pope Francis' Easter message, this has manifested in the 'Pentecost Pilgrimage' – an online pilgrimage of prayer resources open to faithful across the world via Zoom.

The pilgrimage is a way of circumventing the effects of COVID-19 on the faithful's access to the sacramental life so crucial to the tangible Catholic faith. The Pentecost Pilgrimage was partly inspired by the Virtual Catholic Conference in early April that gathered over 65, 000 Catholics internationally for 26 hours. Over the course of six weeks beginning on the weekend of Sunday 26th April until Sunday 31 May – Pentecost, pilgrims will enjoy over 20 talks, which run for 20 minutes, released every Wednesday and Sunday from internationally acclaimed speakers including Dr Ralph Martin and Dr Mary Healy. Australian speakers include Archbishop Julian Porteous of Hobart and Robert Falzon of menALIVE.



Pilgrims who register their participation will have free access to all talks and pilgrims will be afforded the opportunity to speak online with some of the speakers. **It is not too late to join.**

Register now at www.pentecostpilgrimage.com

FASCINATING EARLY HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

During this time of pandemic, and with Masses unable to be publicly celebrated, it is interesting to note that for most of the first thirty years after the First Fleet arrived in 1788, the Catholic Church in Australia had no Catholic priests to minister here. The Catholics in Australia in those first thirty years since European settlement, kept the faith and continued to raise their children in the faith despite the unavailability of priests and in the absence of the Eucharist, which they held dear, but could not receive. They kept the faith during those thirty years and when priests were permitted to minister here, they found the faith alive and

well. Thirty years ! And in that time, the Holy Spirit faithfully continued to guide and sustain them. It is a very timely reminder for us who have been restricted for a few months. It gives us heart, hope and continued strength to trust in God's compassionate care and nurturing love.

Fr. Paul

Here is a bit of that early history:

The first Catholics to reside in Australia arrived with the First Fleet in 1788. They were mostly Irish convicts, together with a few marines. One-tenth of all convicts transported to Australia were Catholic, and half of these were born in Ireland, while a good proportion of the others were English-born but of Irish extraction. Most of the rest were English or Scottish. By the year 1803, a total of 2086 Irish convicts, nearly all of whom were Catholic, had been transported to Botany Bay. Estimates are that about four-fifths of these were ordinary criminals and most of the remainder 'social rebels', those convicted of crimes of violence against property and landlords. Only a very small number could be regarded as genuine political rebels: about 600 in the entire history of transportation, and hardly any after 1803.

The First Priests

Although many Irish convicts were merely nominal Catholics -- in fact, many were quite irreligious -- many others diligently and courageously kept their faith alive despite the fact that, for most of the next thirty years or so, priests were only sporadically available to provide them with the sacraments. According to the 1828 Census, out of a total Catholic population of about 10 000, there were 374 adults who had been born in Australia and raised in a totally lay environment, the Catholic faith passed on to them despite the absence of priests. It was not until 1800 that the first priests arrived in the colony -- as convicts! One of these, James Dixon, was granted conditional emancipation and permission to say Mass for the Catholics of Sydney, Liverpool and Parramatta on successive Sundays, a practice that continued from 1803 until March 1804, when the Castle Hill rebellion so alarmed Governor King that he withdrew Dixon's privileges. Dixon soon after returned to Ireland, and Mass was not legally celebrated again in the colony until Fathers John Joseph Therry and Philip Connolly, chaplains appointed by the Government in London, arrived in 1820. Their arrival can be regarded as the formal establishment of the Catholic Church in Australia.

The First Bishop

The first Catholic bishop in Australia was John Bede Polding. Like the man who prepared the way for his arrival and who became his first Vicar-General, William Ullathorne, and like his successor, Roger Vaughan, Polding was an English Benedictine monk. Polding's dream was to establish a Church founded on monastic ideals, in which scholarship and sublime liturgy, accompanied by Gregorian chant, would civilise and convert the new country, just as they had in earlier centuries in Europe. But Polding's priests were mainly Irish, and this was not their conception of what the Church should be like. Their efforts, and the efforts of the Irish bishops who were appointed to other newly established dioceses, soon combined with Australia's singular geographical and social environment to subvert Polding's vision.

Irish clergy dominated Australian Catholic life until fairly recently, and it was not until the 1930s that Australian-born priests outnumbered them. Irish priests continued to come to Australia throughout the twentieth century, a few arriving even in recent years.

Catholic Schools

At least two Catholic schools were established in the early years of the nineteenth century but neither survived very long, and it was not until after the arrival of Therry and Connolly in 1820 that significant development took place. By 1833, there were about ten Catholic schools in the country. From this time until the end of the 1860s, Catholic schools received some government assistance under a variety of schemes, but campaigns for 'free, secular and compulsory' education had begun in the 1850s and it became increasingly clear that Catholic schools would not be able to rely on government aid for much longer. Between 1872 and 1893, every State passed an Education Act removing state aid to Church schools. This was a turning point for

Catholic schools and, indeed, for the Catholic community in Australia. Bishops and people decided to persevere with the Catholic system. With no money to pay teachers, the bishops appealed to religious orders in Ireland and other European countries, and soon religious sisters and brothers were responding to the crisis.

The Growth of Religious Orders

There were already a few religious orders in Australia: as well as the Sisters of Charity, there were also, among others, the Good Samaritan Sisters, founded by Polding in 1857, and the Sisters of St Joseph, founded in 1866 by Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop, now recognised as Australia's first saint. By 1871, these 'Josephites' were running thirty-five schools in the Adelaide diocese. By 1880, there were a total of 815 sisters from all orders teaching in schools; by 1910 the number exceeded 5000. The sisters not only set up schools in the cities but also established little parish schools all over Australia, providing a Catholic education for the children of the bush. Their efforts, with almost no money and in the face of considerable hardship, were nothing short of heroic. The largest of the male teaching orders, the Christian Brothers, had 115 brothers teaching in thirty schools by 1900. Under the influence of the religious orders, Catholic schools not only survived but flourished; the sisters and brothers were to be the mainstay of the schools for a hundred years.

From <https://web.archive.org/web/20120324111940/http://www.catholicaustralia.com.au/page.php?pg=austchurch-history>.

RELIGIOUS GOODS SHOP



In celebrating the annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honours with special love Mary, the Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son. In her, the Church holds up and admires the most excellent effect of the redemption and joyfully contemplates, as in a flawless image, that which the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be.

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1).

Statues, laminated prayer cards, rosary beads, holy cards, medals, children's story books in honour of Mary, plaques and much more are available at the Sacred Heart & St Vincent's Religious Goods Shops, enquires phone Pat 0404 805 819

PLEASE PRAY

IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS AT THIS TIME

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: All suffering from the effects of Covid-19.

Also, the following who are ill (not Covid-19): Angela Duvnjak, Judy Dempsey, Monica Bailey, Rachel Raines, Savannah Ayoub, Lisa Mangan, Colin Virtue, Ann Harris, Ann-Marie Loder, Angel Salvador, Brian Woodgate, Kate Smith, Tricia Baumann, Gus Reeves, Baby Maeve Lombard, Kathy Kiely, Brian Ellsmore, Greg Sharah, Sr. Christine Chia, Kurt and Betty Hilleshiem, Judy Ferraro, Ron Perry, Kim Parkes, Rosslyn Wallis, Jabour Haddad, Yvonne Lofthouse, Maureen Murphy, Helen Bohringer, Peter Walsh, Arthur Haddad, Jean Di Benedetto, Damian Callinan, Patricia Bridge Wienand,

Rosemary Wales, Peter Allsopp, Yvonne Campesi, Louis Couch, Steve Wayt, Michael Tracey, Joanne Mooney, Joanne Parkes, Peter O'Brien, Michelle MacDonald, John & Molly Robinson, Mary Kerr, Eileen McCarthy.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Phillipa Hayes, Leo Barry Pearman, Jim Carroll, Nicholas Braid, Yvonne Holt, Nic Angelucci.

ANNIVERSARY: Veronica Bond, Pat Rainbird, Gordon Lepp, Frank Glynn, John McGrath, Leonie Kennedy, Sarah Rolfe, Barry Toomey, Joan McDonnell.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

A Way Forward to COVID-19 Economic Recovery

Joe Zabar 05 May 2020 in Eureka Street

When a global pandemic cast a mighty shadow across Australia, the Prime Minister, premiers and chief ministers rightly recognised that their duty was to prioritise the health and safety of their people. But as some of the health concerns ease and our national, state and territory leaders begin to turn their minds to easing isolation measures, the focus will soon shift to the challenges of our economic recovery.

The recently released report from the Grattan Institute on unemployment in a post-pandemic Australia makes for sobering reading — especially for those in the eye of storm who have already lost their jobs...

The government's success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia was, in part, due to strong collective leadership, a focus on the common good and the abandonment of ideology or at least curtailing it... To date, most of the Morrison government's economic packages could best be described as 'economic welfare'. They are measures designed to limit the impact on the economy of the COVID-19 pandemic. The recovery phase will very much need to be about stimulating the Australian economy... That plan cannot simply be one where Australia strives to 'snap back' to what we had before the pandemic: a time of insecure employment, high rates of underutilised labour, low wage and economic growth. Going back to what we had before the pandemic should not be the goal; we deserve much better than that...

In his recent Economic and Financial Update, Reserve Bank Governor Philip Lowe suggested the best way forward for Australia is to 'reinvigorate the country's growth and productivity agenda'. He went on to say that 'there is an opportunity to build on the cooperative spirit that is now serving us so well to push forward with reforms that would move us out of the shadows cast by the crisis'. 'A strong focus on making Australia a great place for businesses to expand, invest, innovate and hire people is the best way of extending the recovery into a new period of strong and sustainable growth and rising living standards for all Australians,' Dr Lowe said.

The Morrison government must now focus on how best to grow the economy, building on our economic strengths while at the same time broadening our economic base. The way forward, much like the response to the pandemic, will require collaboration and cooperation between governments, unions, business and civil society.

The parameters for reform cannot simply be traditional economic ones. Instead, they must include consideration of the common good, so to ensure that the path forward doesn't simply continue to perpetuate a society of haves and have nots. The path ahead will require some tax reform, but not necessarily tax cuts. It will require industrial relations reform, but not reduced working conditions and job security under the guise of increased flexibility. Most importantly, it will require leadership that can imagine an Australia where we have full employment and a standard of living that is the envy of others.

A new economic vision for Australia is within reach. We must not miss the chance to reshape the Australian economy — one which builds on our national strengths and drives innovation and growth for a fairer and more sustainable country.

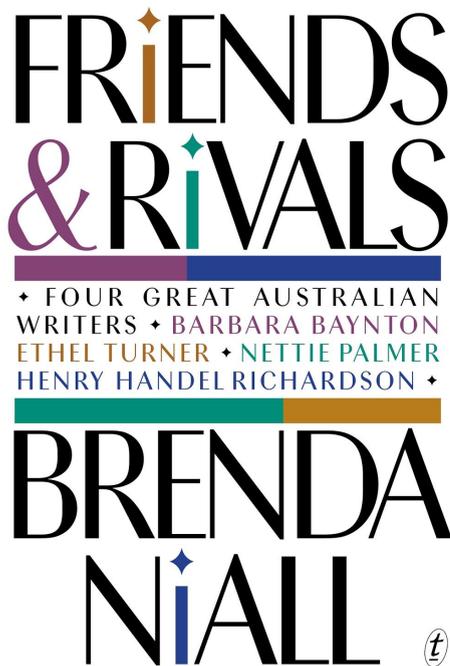
Joe Zabar is deputy CEO and director of economic policy at Catholic Social Services Australia. Find the full Article [here](#)

Book Review

Continuing on the theme of Jesuit spirituality and insight, as touched upon in the editorial today, here is an interesting book review on Australian women writers, from the Jesuit publication, “Eureka Street.”

Friends and Rivals and the ocean in the shell

Andrew Hamilton, 1 May 2020, <https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/friends-and-rivals-and-the-ocean-in-the-shell>



In her new book, *Friends and Rivals*, writer Brenda Niall brings together four significant Australian women writers. Between them they published works from the 1890s to the 1950s. Ethel Turner and Barbara Baynton were from NSW. Nettie Palmer and Henry Handel Richardson were from Victoria, both schooled at Presbyterian Ladies College.

Their lives spanned times of great change in Australia and the wider world: the depressions of the 1890s and 1930s, Federation and the two Great Wars. They also wrote within a changing cultural climate for writers: from the initial combination of an emphasis on the values of the Bush and reliance on English editors and publishers before Federation, to later more expansive Australian and international themes and possibilities.

The thread that leads Niall to link these very different literary figures is perhaps best caught in the story she tells of her grandmother who had come to Australia as an immigrant and married into a Riverina

family. She had a large shell which she used to put to the ears of her children and grandchildren, asking them if they could hear the sea. A moment of magic for children in inland Australia.

The image lies at the heart of Niall’s extensive biographical writing. She asks what creative people heard, what prepared them to follow it, and where it led them. These subtle questions are teased out in the flux of relationships over time and space that shape people’s destinies. They include particularly the unlikely meetings that have lasting effects, such as the first encounter of Baynton and Turner in a jewellers shop.

For all four women reading and writing represented a freedom from constraint. Turner, who had lost her father as a child, came to Sydney with her mother and life with an unpredictable stepfather. School, wide reading and writing opened a rich world to explore. The strictures of a poor childhood in rural NSW shaped Baynton’s desire to write, while Ethel (Henry Handel) Richardson grew up in a family forced often to move because of financial insecurity and her father’s dementia. School offered a world of music and literature. Nettie Palmer was raised in a strict Methodist family, from whose expectations writing gave her space.

Once the desire to write became central in their lives, each writer faced challenges to find recognition. Turner and Baynton entered a largely male world. It was popularly seen as one in which Australian books were written by macho male authors who celebrated male values of endurance and mateship in stories of the bush. Women were expected to write improving stories for children.

'If both women had heard the sea within the shell, they also saw the advantage of the shell as a living space.' Both Turner and Baynton, however, were encouraged to write and were published by J F Archibald and A G Stephens at the Bulletin. Turner's *Seven Little Australians* was immediately successful. Because it was set in the bush and spoke to a young audience it did not challenge the stereotypes of Australian writing. The success of her book, however, led her to continue writing on a profitable but limited plane, leaving her larger dreams unrealised.

Baynton also wrote stories about the bush, savage ones that undercut the myth of mateship while focusing on women's oppression. Only one, strongly edited by Archibald, was published in the Bulletin. She, like Turner, was at the mercy of her publishers.

Richardson and Vance were both familiar with European languages and culture. Only after her musical ambitions failed after years in Germany did Richardson return to writing, first translating Scandinavian novels, and then completing her first novel *Maurice Guest*, European in its setting and influences. She published it under the male pseudonym she considered necessary to gain an audience. She then wrote as a diversion *The Getting of Wisdom*, a school story whose anti-heroine arrived at and finished school an untamed rebel.

Baynton and Richardson were alike in pursuing a style of life that broke with their roots and perhaps responded to their childhood terrors. Baynton, brought up in poverty and to drudgery, married into wealth and later into nobility, cultivated the finer things of life and lived regally. She would never be poor again. Richardson, whose childhood was one of constant movement and memory of a father who lost control of his mind, insisted on being called by her nom de plume and instituted a regime of total control within her household to protect her writing. If both women had heard the sea within the shell, they also saw the advantage of the shell as a living space.

In her account of these four women Brenda Niall enters their writing sensitively and sets it within the lasting and passing relationships that shaped their lives: to place, to schools, to husbands especially, wider families, publishers and to associations that supported women and their rights. To hold this complex story together also depends on her listening for the sea in the shell, sifting through the tangible to catch the intangible, and then to find a compass to guide the telling of the story.

In the games that words play, compass provides the first two syllables of compassion. This quality underlies the sure moral compass evident in all Niall's writing. She explores with empathy decisions that are occasionally thoughtless or self-centred, looking to find the strong flow of the stream below this turbulence, and finding it in a rich humanity that transcends its fallibility and betrayals.

STAYING CONNECTED AND RESOURCES FOR PRAYER AT HOME

Home Resources:

You can visit the [Stay Connected](#) page on our website to find an extensive list of information and resources to help during these times of isolation.

Below are quick links to enable you to stay in touch with our Parish and help you celebrate Mass from home:

Liturgy for you at Home (produced by SPP): <https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks>

Weekly Homily (produced by SPP): <https://homilycatholic.blogspot.com>

Surfers Paradise Parish Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/surferscatholic/>

Breaking Parish News (SPP Blog): <https://news-parish.blogspot.com/>

Livestream Catholic Mass (from Brisbane Cathedral, usually around 10am): [St Stephen's Cathedral live webcast](#)

Video on Demand of Masses: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CatholicBrisbane/videos>

Mass for You at Home (free-to-air TV):

Channel 10, Sundays 6:00 - 6:30am and on demand [at https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home](https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home)
also available on Foxtel 173 Aurora Channel