



PARISH TEAM: Fr Leonard Caldera, Fr Vinco Muriyadan
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OFFICE HOURS: **10.00AM - 3.00PM WEEKDAYS; CLOSED ON TUESDAYS**

Fifth Sunday of Easter—Year C - 18 May 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Love One Another as I Have Loved You"

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus gives us what is often called the "new commandment": "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34) This moment comes at a crucial turning point in the Gospel of John. Jesus has just washed His disciples' feet. Judas has left to betray Him. And now, Jesus begins His final teachings—words spoken in love, with urgency, knowing that His earthly time with the disciples is drawing to a close. These words are not just parting advice. They are a foundation. A call. A way of life. Jesus doesn't simply say, "Be kind," or "Get along with one another." He raises the bar much higher: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." How does Jesus love us? He loves unconditionally, sacrificially, and without limits. He serves. He forgives. He embraces those who are broken, outcast, or overlooked. His love is not based on worthiness—it is freely given. This is the love Jesus commands us to show to one another. Not just to our family and friends, but to all—especially those who are difficult to love. And this is not optional. Jesus says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Love is the identifying mark of the Christian. Not success, not power, not even religious knowledge—but love.

In a world where division and self-interest often seem to dominate, the call to love one another as Christ loves us is radical. It challenges us to see beyond our differences and to reach out with compassion, patience, and mercy. It means forgiving when it's hard, serving without seeking recognition, and putting others' needs before our own. This kind of love cannot be lived out on our own strength. It flows from our relationship with Jesus. The more we experience His love in our own lives—through prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and community—the more we are able to share that love with others.

Dear friends in Christ therefore, this week, let's reflect: How am I living out Jesus' command to love as He loves? Is there someone I need to forgive? Someone who needs to be welcomed or encouraged? Someone who simply needs my time and attention. Let us pray for the grace to love more deeply and more selflessly. May our homes, our parish, and our communities be places where Christ's love is visible, real, and alive. And may others come to know Jesus through the way we love. Amen

Dear Parishioners,

For the next 2 Saturdays we will be celebrating 2 Marian feasts as we come to the end of the month of May. **Our Lady Help of Christians (Patroness of Australia), Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

To celebrate this Marian Month and these feasts, I would like to invite all parishioners to join me in praying a Rosary each day, or 1 each week, for our children and grandchildren who have left the life of faith. Let us create a chain of prayer for this next 2 weeks asking our blessed mother to lead our young back to the faith of the church.

We continue to reflect on the importance of Mary in our life as Catholics. During this month we shall study Marian Doctrine and her role in our life of faith, with **'Mary as a pilgrim of Hope.'** (Refer article in page 3)

Fr Leonard

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday 5pm Sacred Heart Church, Newstead
Sunday 7.30am Carmelite Monastery
9am St Patrick's Chapel, Prospect
9am St Finn Barr's Church, Invermay
10.30am Church of the Apostles, Launceston
5.30pm Church of the Apostles, Launceston

WEEKDAY MASSES 19-24 May

7.30am Monday-Saturday Carmelite Monastery
Tuesday 12noon Mass Newstead
Wednesday 12noon Mass Apostles
Thursday 12noon Mass Invermay
Friday 12noon Mass Apostles

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation 9.30am-10.30am, Apostles
4.15pm- 4.45pm Newstead

MASS LIVE-STREAMED

Every Sunday at 9am

Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston or:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/>
Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.

SACRAMENTAL BOOKINGS

Baptisms, Wedding and Funeral Enquiries
Please contact the Parish Office

Interested in becoming Catholic

(RCIA Programme)

Enquiries: Parish Office

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

1st and 3rd Sundays –9am Invermay
2nd and 4th Sundays –10.30am Apostles

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Teens Group: Gr 6-12

**2nd and 4th Thursdays, Pastoral Centre
4pm-6pm**

**YAS (age 18-35) 2nd and 4th Sundays in
the Pastoral Centre**

Enquiries: Parish Office

We are located on the country of the Tyerenotepanner, the Panninher and the Litarimirina people of the Stoney Creek Nation. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners, who have cared for land, sea, waterways and sky, as the ongoing custodians, for thousands of years. We honour Elders, past and present. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

MONDAY NIGHT ROSARY *Every Monday in Church of the Apostles at 7.30pm.* Come along and offer your thanks to "Our Blessed Mother Mary" for the Blessings she bestows on us each day. **All Welcome.**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION will be held in the **Nano Nagle Room, Presentation House** (behind the Pastoral Centre) on **Wednesdays at 11am and at 5pm.** Christian Meditation is a method of prayer to help us set our eyes on God, in silence and grow closer to Him with Gratitude and Love. All are welcome. **Enquires: Tina: 0417305546**

LECTIO DIVINA Every Friday morning 10.30 am for 1 hour, at the Pastoral Centre, Lectio Divina - Contemplating and praying the scriptures for the upcoming weekend Mass readings. A time to slow down, to listen with the ears of your heart. Everyone is welcome.

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place for one hour every Friday when the 12noon Mass is held at the Church of the Apostles.

HEALING MASS for all the sick and aged in our parish for all those who are in need of Our Good Lord's anointing and mercy. **Every First Friday at Church of the Apostles at 12 noon.**

THE CARMEL SHOP: The Carmel Shop, 7 Cambridge St, West Launceston is open between 11am—4pm on Wednesdays.

Please collect a copy of the latest edition of The Catholic Standard

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

From Monday 19th May, the office will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 3pm. It will be closed on Tuesdays. These arrangements will be in place at this stage until daylight savings start again on Sunday 5 October.

Laudato Si' Week 17-24 May

Laudato Si' Week is a celebration held annually in May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on caring for creation. This global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life, and intensify our efforts through the Laudato Si' Action Platform as well as other opportunities for education and action.

This year, 2025, marks the 10th anniversary of the encyclical and is a Year of Jubilee, in which our focus is debt, and the impact debt has on the earth and each other.

Further information is available at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/parish-bulletin/>

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM & FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR PARISH

With the start of the new financial year in July, Planned Giving envelopes will be distributed during June to those already receiving them.

- ◆ If you would like to join the planned giving program using envelopes, please contact the Parish Office via email: apostles@bigpond.com or phone 6331 4377 during office hours.
- ◆ Regular direct debit donations can also be set up through your internet banking using the following details:
Account Name: Launceston Catholic Parish **BSB:** 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153. **Reference:** "your surname"
- ◆ **Eftpos** is also available in the office for donations either via credit or debit cards.

A special **thank you** to all parishioners for your continued financial support through donations using the **Tap to Donate** terminals in our churches each weekend and through the **Planned Giving Program**.

YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED especially **Sofia Meurant** (Nathan and Jasmine) and **Kenzington Dean** (Mitchell and Aquis) who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Dale Luck, Christina Waiss, Kath Aldred, Elsie Saltmarsh, Ruth Adams, Angela Medwin, Joanne Foley, Margaret Grossmith, Therese Brennan, Irene La Palombara, Kees Moolenschot, Egidio Tosello, Brigitte, Pat McCarthy, Shirley O'Byrne, Cheryl Dawtrey, Kevin Quadros, Will Smith, Merrill Thompson, Tina La Palombara, Noelene Bye, Peter Brumby, Maria Holton, Louisa Buttazzoni, Alex Thrower, Alida Moolenschot, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Bev Callahan, Helen Wright, Alfred Weeding, Maureen Saunders, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Beardwood, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, and we remember all those anniversaries which occur at this time.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED Adrian Kok, Peter Vanderpols and Michael Redfern Katakos who have died recently, Marie O'Connor, Judith Phillips, Derek Newton, Santana Dass Soosai, Lino and Maria Rossi, Mario and Angelina Colla, Scott Jones, Phyllis Hanson, Judith Gladman, Eugene McCarthy, Terence Fenton, Norman Scott, Doreen Morton, Anton Ritt, Daryl Phegan, Sally Springer, Sandra Viney, Johan Meyer, Ermenegildo Bordin, Armando Di Giammarino, Kathleen Fisher and we remember all those anniversaries which occur at this time.

FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY: We continue to pray for the gift of healing and peace for all who contract the virus, especially for those who are in hospital, and for their families.

FAITH AND CATHECHIS

What the church teaches - the Blessed Virgin Mary, pilgrim of Hope

Recently I saw in a piece of the bumper sticker that read: "No Mary, No Jesus. Know Mary, Know Jesus." If we are merely giving our assent of faith, then we risk missing out on getting to know Mary—and to know Christ through her. Our knowledge of Our Lady is informed by what we know of our Lord. And knowledge and love of her is a sure way to increase our knowledge and love of him. Authentic devotion to Mary will only bring us closer to Jesus. As faithful Catholics, we must believe the dogma, but we shouldn't stop there. Instead, let us take to heart the words of St. Louis de Montfort: "The more we honour the Blessed Virgin, the more we honour Jesus Christ, because we honour Mary only that we may the more perfect honour Jesus." Today we shall look at the Mary under the title "Immaculate Conception"

The Immaculate Conception: Mary is Without Original Sin

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary without the stain of original sin. Pope Pius IX's *Ineffabilis Deus* solemnly defined this teaching on December 8, 1854. We read the following from the apostolic constitution:

We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful. This infallible pronouncement by Pius IX dogmatized what was already a widely-held belief by the faithful since the early Church—a textbook example of the *sensus fidelium*, that is, the "supernatural appreciation of faith" possessed by the whole body of the faithful. (CCC, 92) With this unique and singular grace given to Mary, God "stacked the deck" for her particular vocation to be the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sacred Scripture does not explicitly reveal the Immaculate Conception. It is, however, understood to be implicit in the Protoevangelium (Gen. 3:15) and the Angelic Salutation and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary in St. Luke's Gospel. When the Blessed Mother appeared to St Bernadette at the grotto of Lourdes in France and when asked by St Bernadette as to what her name was, Mary replied that she was the Immaculate Conception. I think that it self is a sign of heavens affirmation of our blessed Mother as the Immaculate one. See you next week with our ongoing study of Mary our Mother.

Continued next week.

Save the Date for the upcoming activities in the Parish, with details to follow:

- **Pentecost Fire Pot and Soup night** - **Sunday 8 June** after the evening mass at the Church of the Apostles
- **International Community day** - **Sunday 22 June** after the 9:00am mass at St Finn Barr's

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

you are invited

LUNCHTIME
Prayer & Reflection

Wednesday
4 June 2025
Start 1.00pm AEST

National Council of Churches
in Australia

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/DBQDG>
A ZOOM meeting link to registrants by 4pm on the day before the lunchtime prayers.

Image used: The First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, Greek-Orthodox, Metzropolis in Paris.
Source: Dictionary for Promoting Christian Unity (www.dictpromoting.org)

Children's Corner

Use the words below to
COMPLETE
these Scripture passages

"Love your _____, do good to those who _____ you."
Luke 6:27

"You shall love the _____ your God with all your _____, and with all your soul."
Matthew 22:37

"You shall love your _____ as yourself."
Matthew 22:39

"Just as I have _____ you, you also should love one _____."
John 13:34

Lord enemies
hate loved heart
neighbour another

Fifth Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27 **SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-5**

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

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

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. (R.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

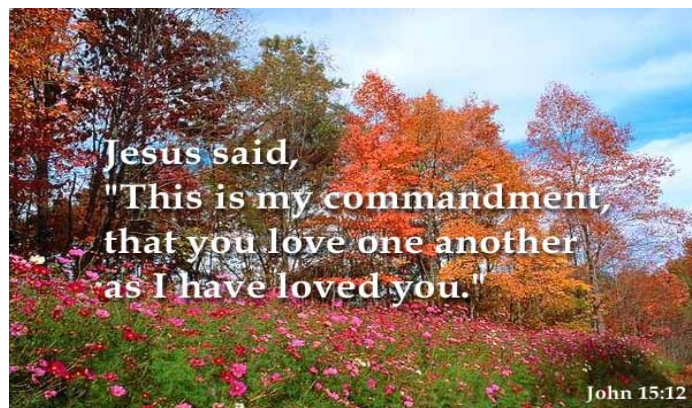
GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

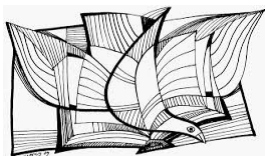
A VOCATION VIEW

**God has chosen to dwell with us.
Share your gifts with others to reveal his presence. (Revelations 21:1 5)**



Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Psalm 66:2-3, 5-6, 8
Revelations 22:12-14
John 14:23-29**



Bank details for direct debit donations to support the financial needs of your Parish:

Account Name: Launceston Catholic Parish
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PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN..

