

WELCOME

Good morning/ evening, and welcome to St Mary's Parish.

When asked 'how can we know the way?' Jesus does not provide a roadmap. Instead Jesus' answer is a surprisingly personal one: '*I am* the way and the truth and the life.' In turn Jesus' disclosure requires an equally personal response from us: 'have faith . . . *in me.*' Easter faith is more than creed; it is relationship.

Please say "hello" to those next to you, and if you do not know those seated near you, introduce yourself and say "hello."

We now keep in mind our sick brothers and sisters, especially those in our newsletter.

Our presider this morning/evening is -

Please join us as we begin with the Processional Hymn.

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (JB)

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:1-12 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

Celebrant: With faith in our risen Saviour who is our way to the Father, we pray:

Reader:

1. Let us pray for the Church, to be guided by the Spirit in leading all to the Father's house, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
2. Let us pray for world leaders, to act courageously in relieving the suffering of people world-wide, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
3. Let us pray for all gathered here, that we may bear witness to Jesus as the way, the truth and the life, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
4. Let us pray for our beloved dead, that they may rejoice in their Father's house and be our advocate in life's journey, **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.
5. Let us pray for those who have passed into eternal life, and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time. We also pray for those who have no one to remember them in their prayers. May they find eternal rest and comfort within God's own life and love. *Together we pray* (All) Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord! And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. **(Pause)** We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Loving God, we take to heart the words of Jesus to not let our hearts be troubled. With confidence we bring our needs to you. Look upon them kindly. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.