

A few words on "Grace" in the Hebrew Scriptures

By Veronica Lawson rsm

Originally, the Hebrew word for grace (*chen*) denoted 'favour'. The associated verb 'to show favour' (*chanan*) meant literally to 'lower one's look' or to 'look while leaning down'. In other words, it is the language of the court: God as sovereign ruler shows favour towards God's chosen ones: 'I will be gracious (*show favour*) to whom I will be gracious (**Exodus 33:19**). It carries a clear sense of the free gift of a gracious God. The graciousness of God becomes an attribute expected of the just Israelite: *'The wicked perish and do not pay back, but the just are gracious and keep giving'* (Psalm 37:21).

YEAR OF GRACE PARISH CELEBRATION

Grace - Sheer Gift

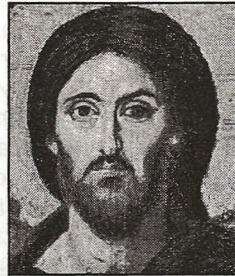
There is a profound truth in speaking of God creating the universe "out of nothing". When it comes to God's creative act, nothing is first "there", as it were. But we can put that more positively by saying that God creates "out of love". All that is, has been loved into being, so that at the heart of all created being is the sheer and unrestricted Love that God is. To that degree, to exist is to have been, and to continue to be, loved into being. All the goodness of the created universe is the manifestation of sheer loving on the part of God. As St Thomas puts it, "the love of God is infusing and creating the goodness in things" (*STh I*, q. 20, a. 2). To understand this is to recognize everything and everyone as a gift, emanating from the creative Love that God is. We are what we are because of the original Love that wells up from the heart of God. God's Love presupposes no human merits. The Father's love needs no "raw material", not even good behaviour on our part, to show forth his love. Love is pure gift, a sheer giving that precedes any worth, merit, and claim. Love is at the origin of our being and guides the development of all that we are. At every juncture is invites us to participate through our own action in the Love that God is: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God, for God is love (1 Jn 4:7f). We are, therefore, not spectators but participants. Love moves us to be caught up and carried forward in a current of love-life more real than the air we breathe.

— Anthony Kelly CSsR

Our Lady of Lourdes' Student Prayer

(By Patrick)

Dear God,
Thank you for giving me a conscience.
It helps me to make good choices
Like helping people when they're
Hurt or sad. Thank you Lord for everything.
Amen.



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The Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of
good will. We praise you, we
bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you
thanks for your great glory, Lord
God, heavenly king, O God, al-
mighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten
Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son
of the Father, you take away the
sins of the world, have mercy on
us; You take away the sins of the
world; receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand
of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of
God the Father.
Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord, (**All bow**)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the
dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.*

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

Thank you for Praying for us...

General Intentions:

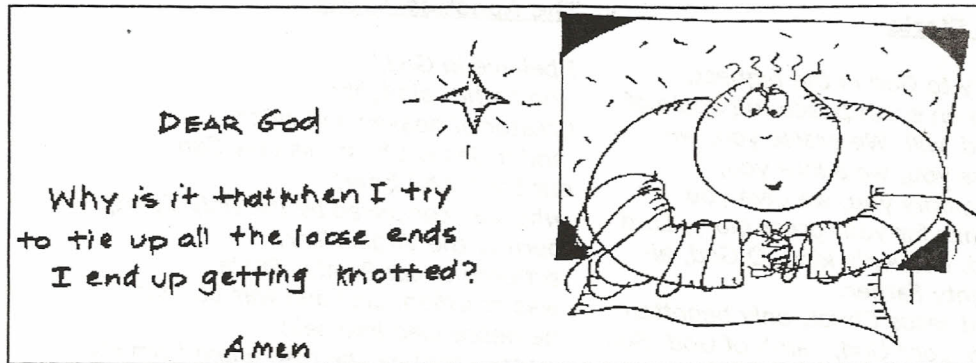
Sharon Hill, Aileen Gardiner, Sue Dillon, Robyn Swindells, Jane, Kate, Rod, Eddy and Ann, John G., Helen, Josyln, Nathalie, Matt & Sara.

Rest of the Souls of Pat P., Rudy & Lynrod Villanueva, Constancia Sanchez, Mateo Ripdos, Angela Rapinese, Timothy Pierce, Geoff Barrington, Owen Depiazzi, Frank Dwyer, Carmel, Olga, Les, David, Gerald, Betty Piacentini and all the poor souls in Purgatory.



Church Alive Parish Representatives:

We are happy to have three Church Alive Representatives this year. They are **Tammy Clift** and **Jan Prowse** for the *Baptismal Preparation Ministry*, **Peter Prinsloo** for the *Parish Liturgy Team and Groups*. Church Alive Program prepares our representatives for the specific ministry in our parish so that they will have the skills and support for the service they will render the community. We pray that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit in this endeavour.



Gospel Reflection

'Preaching on Trinity Sunday is difficult. God as Trinity is at the centre of the mystery of Christian faith. Yet the more we try to speak of this mystery, the more complex it often seems to become. One possible response to this apparent complexity and contradiction is to reject all belief in God as Trinity. 'Such disbelief in the Trinity might seem to be more logical but it is definitely not being true to the scriptures and not being true to the faith of those eleven disciples. Their encounters with the risen Christ and worshipping him as God, transformed their understanding of God. 'The Holy Spirit enables us to do this. The Spirit is given us to make us holy and lead us into all truth. The Spirit unites us. Christianity doesn't always make complete sense for us. There are parts of the mystery that we can't understand yet. But we live it. Our lives, as the lives of those who are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, are lives of faith, hope and charity. Our lives become, in a profound way, part of the divine life itself.

— Excerpt from a homily by Fr Peter Harries OP



PARISH ROSTER OF MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers next week:

Saturday PM: **L Italiano**

Sunday AM: **S Haines**

Readers for next week:

Saturday PM: **Mangano Family**

Sunday AM: **A Ayton**

Offertory Presentors:

Saturday PM: **Mangano Family**

Sunday AM: **Ayton Family**

Altar Servers for next week:

Saturday PM: **A Italiano/ J Pelusey**

Sunday AM: **L & D Rodwell**

LITURGICAL NOTE...

Sacred Space

'Christian worship is of equal value whether it is done in a grand cathedral in Europe, an ancient site in the Holy Land or a small country church in outback Australia. When we create a space for worship by building a church, chapel or prayer room we set aside the space as special. From God's point of view the whole of creation is holy. However, we are human and we need to create special places to help us to heighten our awareness of the presence of God. It is in this context that we can talk of sacred space, that is, space that reminds us of an aspect of God. We may be reminded of the majesty of God through a soaring Cathedral or the humanity of Jesus crucified by a humble wooden chapel. God does not need our churches to be God, but we do need our buildings and spaces to help us remember God.'

— From *Hearing God's Call* Session 22, Catholic Enquiry Centre

Feast Day of the Week

Tue Jun 5

St Boniface, Bishop, Martyr
(c.680 - 754)

Born in Devonshire, England, Boniface was educated at the Benedictine monastery in Exeter, where he later became a monk. As a missionary to Germany and Archbishop of Mainz, he destroyed pagan temples and founded or restored the dioceses of Bavaria, Thuringia, and Franconia. Preaching in Holland, he was set upon by a troop of pagans; Boniface and 52 of his new flock were martyred.

DO YOU WANT YOUR BABY BAPTISED?

Dardanup/Boyanup Catholic Church has formed a new ministry in the parish that will cater for the Baptismal Preparations necessary for your Infant Baptism. Please phone the parish office on 9728 1145 so that we can have your contact details and to organise someone from the group to visit you and assist you with your preparations. This will be the new process of Infant Baptism in our parish community from now on. Thank you for your cooperation.



'God the Father is a deep root, the Son is the shoot that breaks forth into the world, and the Spirit is that which spreads beauty and fragrance.'

— **Tertullian**, an early ecclesiastical writer (c.160AD - c.225AD)