



Apostolic Johannite Church

St. Teresa Parish News

Rector's Ramblings

Feasts this Week:

June 21

Holy Archangel Uriel

June 24

Nativity of St John the Baptist

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Welcome to the first edition of what I hope will be a weekly newsletter for St Teresa's Parish.

My intent with this small newsletter is to keep us all connected in those in between times when we can not be together to worship and fellowship on a Sunday.

The newsletters will regularly contain some thoughts from me, the readings for the Sunday and some info about upcoming commemorations and events around the Church.

It's my hope that maybe in time some folks from around the Parish (or even the Diocese) may have items they would like to share for inclusion. These could be poems, art, articles on topics of interest... just about anything you want that is relevant; just get in touch!

This week I was struck by the loving message of the readings (on the next page).

Often when folks think of Gnostics their minds are drawn to the world hating dualist that we have (rightly or wrongly) been portrayed as being throughout history. To me, the readings this week show a different way of viewing our sojourn here in the material world.

Each one of us contains within us the spark of the divine, in fact, we are one with that great Divine Parent who lies beyond our comprehension. In this material world we may not be able to easily see or comprehend that but regardless, it's true.

If we walk the path put before us for our spiritual development we can be assured that we will have the opportunity to lay hold of the

"great pearl" of Gnosis. Having done so we will, as the affirmation of faith in Mass says, more clearly see and understand:

who we were, of what we have become, of wherein we have been cast; of whereto we speed, of wherefrom we are redeemed; of what birth truly is, and of what rebirth truly is.

Throughout this week, I invite you to contemplate and pray about the divine action of the Holy Spirit in your lives. It's through the workings of the Spirit that the Sacred Flame within is fanned and brought to new life.

A couple of Sunday's ago we celebrated Pentecost with Mass in Maryborough. You'll find my homily about the Holy Spirit after the readings in this newsletter.

Blessings, Fr. Brenden+

Meeting Change in Maryborough

On March 1 2020 the first service of the AJC in Maryborough was held. At the time it was a rather successful event with around 12 people in attendance.

Sadly before the second meeting could be held Queensland was put under restrictions as a result of Covid and the momentum that seemed to be present vanished.

The Parish has continued to hold

services in Maryborough that have been attended by between 1 and 5 people in an irregular pattern.

Now that Fr. Brenden is licensed one attendee in Maryborough has suggested they may like to meet more regularly for mass.

Given that Fr. Brenden lives in Maryborough and the logistics of having a meeting are relatively straight forward it has been de-

ecided to alter the meeting Schedule.

Throne of Wisdom Chapel will now meet on a trial basis at 10am on the Third Sunday of the Month (starting in July) at the Maryborough Community Recreation Centre.

Keep an eye on the St Teresa Facebook page for streaming details.



Intent of the Day

Transforming power of the Holy Spirit



Collect

O great fountain of light, life and love, whose scattered seeds we are here on earth, thanks be that we are ever growing to resemble you more closely. May we continue to change, and flourish and grow as we stand within your glorious garden, and multiply, we pray, whatever further efforts we must make in your divine direction. O changeless one who changes all, O motionless mover of all worlds; change, move, and transform us now and evermore in Light. Amen

Gospel - Gospel of Philip

When the pearl is cast down in the mud it does not become dishonoured the more, nor if it is anointed with balsam oil will it become more precious. But it has its worth in the eyes of its owner at all times. So with the sons of God wherever they may be. For they have the value in the eyes of their Father.

Lesson - Hymn of the Robe of Glory

When I was a little child and lived in my Kingdom, my Father's house and in the riches and glories of my parents took my delight, from the East, our homeland, my parents provided me and sent me forth, and from the wealth of our treasury they had given me a bundle. Then they girded me with adamant which was stronger than iron, and stripped me of the brightness which in their love they

had made for me, and my radiant mantle. Then they wrote in my heart that it be not forgotten: 'If you go down to Egypt and bring the one pearl kept there in the midst of the sea that contains the roaring serpent, you Shall resume your brightness and your mantle laid over it, and with your brother, our Viceroy, you shall be heir in our Kingdom



Conclave 2022



The Apostolic Johannite Church is proud to present the twenty-second annual AJC Conclave – June 24 – June 26, 2022

Owing to the continuation of the global pandemic and in keeping with our wish to provide education and fellowship in a safe environment – Conclave 2022 will be entirely online.

Each year the people of the AJC, friends and family gather

together to socialize, learn, build our skills and deepen our community. It is an amazing opportunity for spiritual growth and insight to modern Gnostic practice. Conclave is a rich opportunity to deepen your practice, education and experience of Gnosticism and the Apostolic Johannite Church.

Conclave offers lectures, workshops and panel discussions selected to develop ministry skills, support the work of

church leaders both lay and ordained and deepen and enrich the spiritual lives of attendees.

As always, we welcome you, no matter who you are or what your spiritual path, to join us for this unique week. You can come for all or part and participate as much or as little as you'd like. However you choose, we welcome you into our household.

www.johannite.org/conclave/

For registration and schedule

Uriel the Archangel

Uriel is one of the four Archangels that are invoked at the opening of most services of the AJC and is commemorated on the Church calendar this week.

Unlike the other Archangels we invoke (Michael, Gabriel and Raphael) Uriel is not mentioned by name in the canonized scriptures of Judaism or mainstream Christianity.

However Uriel does find mention in Gnostic works and writings labelled as apocryphal to accepted biblical translations.

Uriel is mentioned in the Secret Book of John where they are placed in charge of the Archons responsible for the creation of Adam.

In esoteric circles Uriel is generally considered the Archangel of the North and is associated with the element Earth.

Uriel is traditionally seen as a patron saint of the arts, confirmation, sciences, judgment, and poetry. Uriel has also been attributed as the Angel of Wisdom having interpreted prophecies to Enoch and Ezra

A Prayer to Uriel:

Archangel Uriel, angel of wisdom, I thank God for making you so wise and pray that you would send wisdom to me. Please shine the light of God's wisdom into my life whenever I'm facing an important decision, so I can decide in light of what's best. Please help me seek God's will in all situations



Mosaic of St. Uriel by James Powell and Sons, at St John's Church, Warminster.

Nativity of John the Baptist

The 24th of June is the day that the Church traditionally says "Happy Birthday!" to John the Baptist.

John's birthday is one of two mentioned in the Gospels that we find in the New Testament (the other being that of Jesus). Whilst his birth is only mentioned in the Gospel of Luke it being mentioned at all makes it significant.

In the Christian tradition John the Baptist is seen as a forerunner of Jesus. John's mission

was to prepare the people for the public ministry of the incarnated Christ.

To the people of the Mandaean faith place themselves in the lineage of John's disciples and consider him the greatest of all prophets.

The AJC see's John the Baptist as a central figure as well. When speaking of the johannite faith it says:

Initiated by the Baptist, transmitted by the Apostle, and re-

stored in the modern era, the Apostolic Johannite Church enacts the Johannite Tradition through an esoteric, Gnostic and Christian path of spiritual understanding and self-discovery

Prayer:

O Christ, who sent your great and noble servant John the Baptist to prepare the way before you; allow us to be heralds of your glorious coming into our hearts. Pour out by our hands, we pray, the purifying flood of living water, to that all things may become pure. Amen.



Saint John the Baptist, by Titian

Johannite School

Are you looking for a way to deepen your understanding of Gnosticism or the AJC? Maybe you want to explore some added spiritual practices to aid your walk? Have you checked out the Johannite School?

The Johannite School "is a place to learn more about the

thought, practice, community, and history of the Apostolic Johannite Church. Johannite School is *free*."

The currently available courses are:

- Introduction to Johannite Concepts and Theology

- Introduction to Johannite Practice; and
- Foundations of Gnostic Theology

If you haven't availed yourself of these resources why not check them out!

<https://www.johannite.org/learn/>

The Johannite School "is a place to learn more about the thought, practice, community, and history of the Apostolic Johannite Church. Johannite School is free."

Pentecost Sunday Sermon - June 5 2022

Rev. Fr. Brenden Humberdross

May the thoughts of our minds, the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be always inspired by you, O Indwelling Spirit of the Divine. Amen.

The feast of Pentecost, which we celebrate today, marks the end of the Easter Season. The message of Easter is one of hope; hope that through the example of the Christ embodied in Jesus the light of the Divine will not be lost from this world and that through it we may find communion with the Divine.

The community that had gathered around Jesus had just been through a tumultuous time, their teacher had been crucified and died, in the midst of the confusion of that came with that he had reappeared in glory to continue his work amongst them only to again take his leave and return to realms beyond our own. I can only imagine that the Disciples were truly in a state of mourning and confusion; what were they to do, their master was gone and they were rudderless.

However, as we heard in the Gospel reading, it was never the intention of the Divine Master to leave his followers and the seekers after the Divine rudderless. In fact, in all of history, those who sought the light have had a constant companion, the source of their own being, the Holy Spirit.

For many who walk the path of the Christ, the Holy Spirit is one of those aspects of Divinity that's hard to get a handle on. When talking about God, someone once told me (and I paraphrase): "for me the Father's distant, someone I can't really know; I feel close to Jesus because I get being a person, he was like me; and the Holy Spirit, I have no idea what that's about".

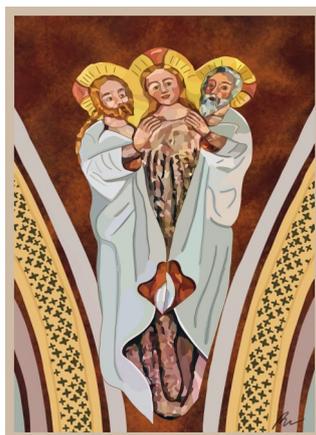
I don't think this is an uncommon way to feel; the concept of a Father and Son we can get, we all have those archetypes sorted out in our heads either through our own experience with the concepts or through the tales common to our cultures. But the Holy Spirit is something different, in our day to day walk we don't encounter spirit in a tangible and real way.

For many who have walked a gnostic path, myself included, the experience of the Holy Spirit has taken on a different, more relatable meaning. For me, and I am speaking about my personal faith, the Holy Spirit is our Mother, the Divine Feminine, in fact the Hebrew terms used for Spirit, Ruah and Shekinah, are grammatically feminine. Along with this a number of the Gnostic scriptural writings that we see a conception of God that is both similar and vastly different from the tradition of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that most are familiar with is highlighted; in many of them we encounter the One, the unknowable father, who then brings forth a figure that is feminine in nature, and from this pair of divine comes the Son, Christ.

If we allow ourselves to conceive of the Holy Spirit as our Divine Mother, I think it would help us not only understand their role but relate to them in a more tangible way. The archetype of the mother is one that most are familiar with; for many a mother is someone who is nurturing, a guiding hand there to help us walk in safe paths, someone we can always come to in our darkest hours and our times of greatest joy, and for me this is the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is our constant companion on our walk through life, never far from us, she offers us the sustenance we need to keep the Sacred Flame, the spark of the Divine, burning brightly within us. It is she who witnesses to the truths that speak to our innermost heart when we find them, and I think that it will be her who, in the end, will lead us to perfect union with the One, the ground of all being.

It is my constant hope and prayer that the Holy Spirit, Wisdom, the Great Mother, may always be our constant guide and that we may all listen attentively to her voice, and walk in the paths that lead to Gnosis. Glory be to the self-conceived, the eternal realms, the three - Father, Mother, Child, the perfect power. Amen.



Prayer List

For Healing, Recovery from Illness and Wellbeing

*Jen Petsche
Megan
Elke
Craig Snapp
Ann Holmes
Ken Chapman
Blair Blundon
Fr. John DiGilio
Bess DiGilio
Myint Myint Aye
Carrie Aitkins
Magdalena Dargue
Colleen Brown
Dorothy DiGilio
Melissa DiGilio-Busch
Bonnie
Marie Hoffman
Rev. Joe Revels
Barbara
Jason Theis*

*Chris
Brian J
Nichelle Rogers
Rob Penman
Jake Stratton-Kent*

For Peace, Healing, Relief from Stress and Distress

*Megan
Kylie
Jason Mehmel
Ingrid
Shaun McCann
The Rockell Family
Jake Schenberg
Brad Rees
Grace
Romulus Angelo
Bishop Tony Angelo
The Adler Family
Chloe and Ben
The Artibey family
Winston, Audrey, and Daniel*

*The Carter Family
The Carroll Family in their loss
Mar Thomas
Anthony Deakin and Family
Danu and Karel
Aaron Bradley*

Other Matters

*For all those affected by COVID-19
Jack Allison, his patients and employees
Jon Vandergaag for relief from pain and distress
For the people of Burma
For the people of Ukraine*

For the Repose of the Soul

*Jeff Lynch
Rev. Julia Knight
Jean Deakin
Dolly Artibey*

Contact Details:

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@StTeresasGnosticCommunity

2022 Meeting Schedule

Brisbane

West End Uniting Church Hall
12:30 (service begins after set-up)
July 3rd
October 2nd
December 4th

Maryborough

Community Recreation Centre; Ariadne St
10:00am
Third Sunday of the Month (from July)

Online

Lectio Divina - via Zoom and Live Stream
6:30pm - 2nd Sunday of the Month

Toowoomba

Harlaxton Community Hall
Time TBA
August 7th

For further details please contact Fr. Brenden

