

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Read & Reflect: Acts 8:26-40

What a wonderful lively story this is. Picture the wealthy Ethiopian, a man of some rank indicated by his large chariot and important position. Picture Philip following the instruction of the angel to go to the road to Gaza. The wind of the Holy Spirit is here on this dusty road just as it was there for the Philip and the Apostles at Pentecost, just as it is in our lives and in the world today. Luke's writing draws us all into the story of the great sweep of the Holy Spirit through history.

Contemplate: Who has interpreted the great story of the people of God for you in your life?

Give thanks for :

- ◆ those who have interpreted the story for us
- ◆ theologians and theological writers
- ◆ spiritual directors and writers

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Read & Reflect: Acts 10:44-48

Peter takes the bold step of telling the good news to the Gentiles. What does the word "mission" mean to you? The gospel is a message of reconciliation for all

Contemplate: Who are the Gentiles for us— the ones who are outside our community of faith?

Pray for:

- ◆ grace to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ risen.

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Read & Reflect : Acts 1:15-26

The number of the Apostles needed to be restored after Judas' death. They needed one who had a relationship with Jesus and who had accompanied them during all the time Jesus was among them.

Pray for:

- ◆ our bishops, successors to the Apostles
- ◆ leaders of Christian communities

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Loving, ever-faithful God,

We praise you for this vast and ancient land, of rivers and deserts, of rainforests and grasslands,

We come together in love for you and for one another.

In your wisdom, guide us

In the changes, calm us

In the challenges, strengthen us,

In all whom we meet may we see your face,

As we place our trust in you whose love is revealed in Jesus

Christ our Lord.

AMEN

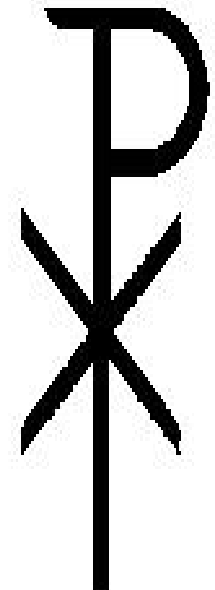
Bronwyn Fryar
MU Australia
Prayer & Spirituality Dept

**MU Prayer-
leaflet**



Easter 2009

*Christ is Risen !
He is risen
indeed !*



EASTER DAY

Christ is Risen Alleluia! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Dear Friends,
The joy of the proclamation of Easter transforms our lives. This year in Mothers' Union we are exploring *challenge, change and relationships*. The prayers in this leaflet are exploring our relationships with God, our neighbour. The readings from Acts are for the Sundays from Easter to Pentecost. Pray through these readings which challenge our understanding of the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the life of the world.

Peace and blessing, *Bronwyn*

Read & Reflect: Acts 10:34-43

Think of this scene, Peter, a Jew all his life proclaiming this radical message that God shows no partiality. The good news is for all. I am astonished at the change in him—a change only possible through truly recognizing the nature of Christ Himself.

Pray:

- ♦ to be open to Christ's transforming love

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Read & Reflect: Acts 4:32-37

This early Christian community was marked by generosity. It is good for our parish, MU and diocesan communities to be noted for their generosity. It is always a sign of a healthy relationship with God and one another. Others notice and may wonder at its source. We have been wracked by financial hard times. Despite hardship our calling is to be generous of heart, time and material possessions towards those less fortunate than ourselves.

Contemplate: “the gift enables us to be humbly and royally lavish, and above all with the gift of [compassion] itself.” G Vann
The Divine Pity

Pray for

- ♦ those whose livelihood, health and security have been shattered by financial crisis
- ♦ generous hearts towards others
- ♦ thankfulness for all we have received from God

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Read & Reflect: Acts 3:12-20

Peter again addresses the people urging them to repent and “turn to God”. Only then can right relationship be established. Each day of our life God's call is to “live our life in love to one another and to you”.

“The more we participate in transfiguration, the less we fear, the less we feel we have to control...the boundaries between ourselves and others disappear altogether ..because we are being found in God and thus need less self-reflection.”

Maggie Ross
The fountain and the furnace.

Contemplate: What do I fear?

Pray for

- ♦ Those whom we love, our families and friends, that they may turn to God “so that times of refreshing may come”.

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Read & Reflect: Acts 4:5-12

It is Peter again , empowered by the Holy Spirit. This Peter is unrecognizable from the one who denied knowing Jesus. He is unafraid to stand up even in front of Annas, the high priest, and Caiaphas within whose garden he denied knowing Jesus and then wept bitterly at his failure. What a challenge to us to accept God's forgiveness and know of his unchanging love as he gazes on us too even in the midst of our failings.

Contemplate: How do I deal with failure?

Pray for

- ♦ humility to admit our failures
- ♦ recognition of our weaknesses
- ♦ grace to move on after failing