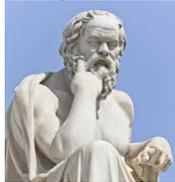


**How** often has the advice been given - "to think before you speak"; and how often, having said something hurtful, do we hear the expression - "I could have bitten my tongue off". Our use of the faculty of speech is a powerful reflection of our Christian personality, and all the readings today offer thoughts on how we should use it. Socrates, the Greek philosopher who lived some 400 years before Christ and whose thoughts have greatly influenced people through the centuries, wrote – "Speak, that I may see thee". Unlike many great teachers, he left no writings of his own but communicated his thoughts only by public speaking. His disciples recorded for us the contents of those lectures. For him, informed speech distinguished human life from other life forms; for Socrates, it is the faculty of speech that enables us to communicate our thoughts to others and to influence them - for good or for evil. We live in an age in which technology allows us to command audiences undreamed of by him. We are inundated with words around the clock - newspapers, magazines, radio announcers, TV presenters, priests and ministers! Ben Johnson, writer and poet, has left us this pearl of wisdom - "Talking and eloquence are not the same; to speak and to speak well are two things; a fool may talk, but a wise man speaks". Today's readings introduce us to this theme of speech and its use. Philip proclaimed Christ to the newly established Christian communities and, also, to other listeners. The responsorial psalm also reminds us of this duty to make known the God in whom we find our hope. Peter, in the second reading, lays down some guide lines for using speech - to speak with courtesy and respect for those to whom we are speaking; and, above all, to speak with conviction. The gospel makes the point that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating"! Words without backup action are useless. A complete Christian response is made up of listening, so as to know what we are talking about; speaking and acting.



Fingerprints of God can be detected all through history. At times His work is dramatically obvious - like parting the Red Sea - but other times, it's unnoticeable to our physical senses. Our lack of perception, however, never hinders His activities. He keeps working whether we're aware or not. But blessings await those who develop spiritual discernment to see what He is doing. Preconceived ideas about how the Lord works can be a significant hindrance to perception. When He answers our prayers, we rejoice and readily acknowledge His active intervention on our behalf. But what if He doesn't give us what we request? Too often we then conclude that He's not doing anything. The psalmist recognised that the Lord works in a variety of ways - sometimes with a great deliverance (vv. 5-6) and sometimes through painful situations (vv. 10-12). Another problem that can prevent us from seeing God's hand in our lives is a lack of attention. The demands of a busy lifestyle claim our time and concentration, leaving little room for quiet moments in His presence. Without periods of meditation and prayer, our spiritual senses become dull. But those who read Scripture regularly will learn to recognise His activity in their lives, because He always acts in accordance with His Word.

## St Michael's Catholic Church

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 CHILDREN's web: Google, EWTNKIDS  
 Deepen your faith-find answers on  
 Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments.  
 www.vocationcentre.org.au



# 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (A)

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Acts Ap. 8:5-8, 14-17

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 65

Let all the Earth cry out to God with joy.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** St. Peter 3:15-18

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** St John 14:15-21

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord. The Father will send you the Holy Spirit, to be with you for every, alleluia.

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES:**

Sat. Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am

Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Hostel)

**HOLY HOUR:** Wed: 5pm

**RECONCILIATION:**

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm

Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

**BAPTISMS:**

Sundays 9:30am Mass

**BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &**

**WEDDINGS:**

By appointment

**ANOINTING MASS:**

Quarterly: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAT OF EACH MONTH:**

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

**PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:**

**100%** tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:**

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Sat Vigil:** †Salvatore Blanco  
**Sun 8am:** †Joan McNamara  
**Sun 9:30am:** †John Heaney  
**Sun 5pm:** †George Torak  
**Mon:** Thanksgiving

**Tue:** †Beatrice Campbell  
**Wed:** †Gary Eileson  
**Thur:** †Aloysius / Anthony Chong  
**Fri:** †Bruce Campbell

**OUR SICK:** Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari, Joy Williams, Moira Butler, Domenico Cirillo and Jenny Yong

**Accommodation still available in Foley Gardens. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 and you will be referred for further details to Mr. Robert O'Shea, the manager.**

Our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to the families of:  
**The late Gerard (Gerry) Armstrong Evans**  
**The late Nagib George Kahwati.**

Gerry and George passed away recently and their Requiem Masses were held in our parish during the week. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

We welcome **Violet Strickland** and her family to her **Baptism** this Sunday at the 9:30am Mass.

**SVdP Winter Appeal:** 31 May/ 1 June weekend. Specially printed envelopes are now available in the pews for your donations. Thank you for your generosity.

**CHURCH PARKING is available in the school grounds for weekend Masses. Please enter from Haig Avenue.**

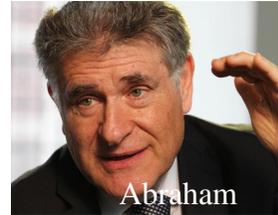
**Sacrament of Confirmation for Adults** will be held on Sun 8<sup>th</sup> June at St Mary's Cathedral. Please contact the Parish Office if any adult parishioner would like to be confirmed **before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.**

**Marriage Encounter Weekend:** 13-15 June at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. For more details: Ardell & Bill Sharpe on 02 4283 3435.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 1-8 June.** Bishop Peter Comensoli will preside at an Ecumenical Prayer Gathering in the Polding Centre Chapel, Lvl 6, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney at 10am on Wed 4<sup>th</sup> June. All welcome.

**This weekend: Vigil:** J Haggart (A) P Low, G Hage (R) F & G Hogan (C) G Guerrero (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) P Chen, R Houghton (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) I Tjahjadi (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), A Carino, J Chandra (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** G Hogan

**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Haggart (A) F & G Hogan (R) M Yong, J Yong (C) G Guerrero (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) A Brink, F De Andrade (R) G Gates, Volunteer (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) S Pedisich (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), F Francis, K Kalapura (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** G Hage, V Hage



In a region where politics and religion have been enmeshed for centuries, the Pope's simplest actions will carry both spiritual and social weight. It will be the first time that an official papal delegation will include members of other faiths—an imam and a rabbi. Pope Francis hasn't even left for **this weekend** tour of the Holy Land and his trip is already breaking with tradition. He won't use a bulletproof car, unlike most head of state to visit the region, opting instead for an open-top vehicle. He has invited an imam and a rabbi to travel with him—the first time an official papal delegation has included members of other faiths; Rabbi Abraham Skorka and Omar Abboud, a leader of Argentina's Islamic community, are the Pope's long time friends from Argentina. He's also emphasizing that his trip is a pilgrimage with a "strictly religious" purpose, as he said in his general audience on Wednesday. Pope Francis is also packing an enormous amount into a short weekend: three regions in three days, and at least 13 speeches or homilies.

**All** of us have some experience with economic pain and suffering in our lives. Some of us struggle daily with economic need. But even those among us who have found economic security for the present are rarely free from the fear that unemployment or disability or death or divorce may threaten that security. Most of us have struggled at times with too many bills to pay and too little cash. Many have faced the end of a job or the failure of a business. Many have agonised over difficult choices in order to balance the budget for our family. Many have felt the pain of being excluded from economic opportunities because of skin colour, sex, ethnic background, physical disabilities, or sexual orientation. We all carry within us some combination of personal and community memories that recall the struggles experienced by ourselves, our parents, our children, and our friends and neighbours amidst uncertain jobs, rising prices, discrimination, growing family needs, and inadequate income. Many of us can tell the family story of economic success or economic failure, as it occurred to us, to our parents, and to our grandparents. Although our relative affluence may make our stories of economic change seem insignificant next to the desperate struggle with poverty that our neighbours in other countries would talk about, yet these stories and these memories provide us with a touchstone through which we remain sensitive to the pain of poverty and unemployment and human need wherever it occurs.