



## *The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes*

Newsletter No 60 May 2020

GROTTO & CENTRE  
(located Off St James Ave  
at rear of the Catholic  
Church, Earlwood, NSW.)  
Earlwood NSW 2206  
Tel: (02) 9559 2171

All correspondence to:  
INFORMATION CENTRE  
P.O.Box 382  
EARLWOOD NSW 2206  
Email: [socolol@tpg.com.au](mailto:socolol@tpg.com.au)

**PLEASE CHANGE OUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO**  
[ololgrotto@gmail.com](mailto:ololgrotto@gmail.com)

If anyone wishes to receive their Newsletter via email, please forward us your email address to [socolol@tpg.com.au](mailto:socolol@tpg.com.au) or [ololgrotto@gmail.com](mailto:ololgrotto@gmail.com) otherwise we will continue to post out the newsletter.

Donations for masses are sent regularly to the Capuchins and Divine Word Missionaries for members and deceased members of the Society.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

The Rosary is recited every Monday & Friday at 10.00am

**PLEASE NOTE** each month first Friday Mass is celebrated at 10.30 am.

***NOTE:** The Rosary and First Friday Mass have been suspended due to Corona Virus until further notice.*

The next Mass and Blessing of the Sick will take place on Sunday 11 October 2020. Reverend Fr Terry Bell will be the Principal Celebrant. **Once again this will be subject to restrictions being lifted.**

Devotions will begin with recitation of the Rosary at 2.30 pm followed by Mass at 3.00 pm then the Blessing of the Sick. In case of rain, the Blessing will be held in the church.

**PLEASE NOTE: DISABLED PARKING** will be limited to the main drive entrance to the Grotto. Parking is also available in the surrounding streets and Council car park.

## **Our Lady of Lourdes Pray for US**

### **Mary model of active availability to the word of God**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we commenced this year facing many challenges from devastating bush fires and widespread flooding, to a global pandemic. Perhaps we do not quite understand why such things are happening to us. As well, we hear so many voices in the Media and in the secular world interpreting these events. Some say it is the fault of our politicians; or because of global warming; or, even, because God is angry. For us Christians, however, in this situation we can learn from Mary because she was a woman of faith. When she did not understand something, she left it to God.

We can learn from Mary to adopt an attitude of offering to God whatever suffering is around us, because everything that happens is an occasion to put our faith and trust in God. When the angel told Mary that she was to conceive the Son of the Most High, her *fiat*, or her “yes” to God’s will implied for her the suffering of being treated as someone who had cheated before marriage; but she trusted that God was doing a history with her and therefore He would defend her. This, in fact, is what happened. God sent his angel to Joseph with the message to accept Mary into his home because what was conceived in her was by the Holy Spirit.

Mary, therefore, teaches us not only the virtue of humility, of

submitting to the will of God in the events of our history, but also, that we too can receive the Word of God in any situation of life. Like Mary, we can become a channel of grace for our brothers and sisters. This does not mean that we will have an easy life but it does mean that God will provide for us in any situation.

So, let us become active collaborators with God. God has a plan of salvation for humanity. He needs you and I to become his channels of grace through which he may work. Maybe like Mother Mary at the wedding feast at Cana, we just have to say to people, "Do whatever Jesus tells you." For example, when we see all the suffering and the difficulties that have come to us this year, 2020, and see that many people have lost all hope for happiness, we can be attentive to their needs and remind them that Christ is the one who can give us peace and happiness. He can give us new wine for whatever situation that may come our way.

So, let us imitate the virgin Mary. Like her, let us submit to the will of God, be open to receiving His Word and let us do what He tells us, trusting completely in Him. Without imitating our Blessed Mother's virtues, our Christian life and history will not have the taste of new wine but will lack flavour and hope. Amen.

May the Peace of Christ who has conquered death be with you all.

*Rev F Miguel Perez Campos*

### **A Prayer for Persons Suffering from the Coronavirus**

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus.

May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence.

May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus.

Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health.

Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen. *One God, forever and ever, Amen*

### **Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Holy Spirit of light and love, you are the substantial love of the Father and the Son; hear my prayer.

Bounteous bestower of most precious gifts, grant me a strong and living faith which makes me accept all revealed truths and shape my conduct in accord with them. Give me a most confident hope in all divine promises which prompts me to abandon myself unreservedly to you and your guidance.

Infuse into me a love of perfect goodwill, and act according to God's least desires. Make me love not only my friends but my enemies as well, in imitation of Jesus Christ who through you offered himself on the Cross for all people.

Holy Spirit, animate, inspire, and guide me, and help me to be always a true follower of you.

Amen.

### **NEWS FROM THE GROTTA**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 3rd July 2020, following the First Friday Mass at 10.30am. **This will go ahead if the restrictions have been lifted.**

At the time of printing this newsletter The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes is still awaiting the appointment of a Spiritual Director. We will continue to pursue the matter once we return to some form of normal life after the restrictions are lifted.

We are producing this newsletter from our homes and are saddened to see the now picture of Our Lady without flowers and the candelabra without candles. Let us pray to God and Our Lady that soon our Churches and the Grotto will be open. The Society will continue to pray for its members for God's protection from this virus. See pictures over the page