

Sacred Heart Cathedral,
Hamilton



St Joseph's,
The Junction



St Mary, Star of the Sea,
Newcastle



Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Tighes Hill



St Laurence O'Toole's,
Broadmeadow



Christ the King,
Mayfield West



St Peter-in-Chains',
Stockton

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

SUNDAY, 17TH MAY 2020 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Incorporating the Parishes of St Benedict's, Inner Newcastle, St Columban's, Mayfield, and St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton, our mission is to proclaim Christ in the inner suburbs of the City of Newcastle.

Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.

Clergy in the Region

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr James Odoh
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller
Fr Peter Thoai
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team Contact the Regional Office
Mercy Pastoral Team Sr Patricia Whitten rsm (02) 4979 1116
St Joseph's Pastoral Team Contact the Regional Centre

Regional Bulletin

The Bulletin is published weekly.

Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Regional Office by Noon on Wednesdays.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE!

The COVID-19 situation means the churches are closed and there are no public celebrations of Mass or the sacraments are all cancelled. This includes all weekday and weekend Masses. There will be no baptisms, nor will reconciliation be available in any church. There are no meetings of parish groups in the region.

From Friday 15th May, there have been some changes regarding weddings and funerals.

Weddings can have up to 10 guests, plus the people conducting or assisting in the conduct of the service, a photographer, a videographer, and the couple.

Indoor funerals and memorial services can have up to 20 mourners and outdoor funerals up to 30 mourners. These numbers exclude the people necessary to conduct the service, such as the priest and the funeral director and their staff.

In each case, the 'one person per four square metres' rule must still be observed. People attending will also be required to provide their name and contact details, which will be used for contact tracing if an attendee is later diagnosed with COVID19.

Bishop Bill will be celebrating Sunday Mass in the Cathedral and he invites you to join with him in prayer from home. You will be able to watch by Crtl + clicking on this link at 9.30am on Sunday: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/> ...or use the same link to watch at a later time. Share the link with family and friends, and let's gather online to pray as a community at this difficult time of physical isolation.

The Cathedral's YouTube Channel needs 100 subscribers so we can claim a 'custom URL' (as opposed to the long string of numbers and letters we currently have). So far we only have 62, so please consider subscribing to our YouTube channel if you haven't already done so. Please ask your friends to do the same. You can find our YouTube channel by going to <https://bit.ly/3dVO3qc>

City Pastoral Region Online and Telephone groups
Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region have started two groups to connect and pray with each other. You and your friends are welcome to join.

Praying the Sunday Gospel

Each Tuesday 5.00-5.45pm

via internet: <https://zoom.us/j/147952077>

via phone: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 147952077#

Praying the Rosary

Each Thursday 5.30-5.50pm

via internet: <https://zoom.us/j/654882094>

via phone: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 654882094#

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Halina Wieckowski, Manuel Alves, Gertrude Wilk

ANNIVERSARY: Eileen Russell

SICK: Bill Parker, Elizabeth Evans, Terry Davies, John Belcher, Libby Oates, Graeme Burrage, Brian Swift, Monica Bound, Peter McCabe, Joan Haynes, Tom Towers, Kerry Davies, Lawson Rankin, Patricia (Pat) Gillett

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please continue to pray for all those throughout the world who are affected by COVID-19

Names may be placed here by contacting the Regional Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Regional website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.



We cannot currently run our regular book club meetings, but we are using 'Zoom' technology. This offers free video conferencing for sessions of up to 40 minutes. At 6.30pm on Sunday, 7th June, we will share our thoughts on the book, *Pachinko*, by Minjin Lee.

If you would like to participate in future book club meetings, please send an email to the parish office, newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Current contact arrangements for the Regional Office

Please do not attend the office at 25 Farquhar Street, The Junction in person.

All inquiries are to be made via email to newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au or by phone on 4979 1101



We pray for the four police officers who died in the recent highway tragedy in Melbourne. We pray, too, for their families, friends and colleagues and all emergency service workers who dedicate themselves to the protection and well-being of our community.

First Reading Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

The May edition of Aurora is now available online:
https://issuu.com/diomn/docs/aurora_may_2020

Aurora can be picked up at IGA stores at Gloucester, Dungog, Shoal Bay, Boolaroo, Blackalls Park, Woodrising, Stockton, Caves Beach, Rathmines, West Wallsend, Windale, Taree, Bulahdelah, New Lambton, Paterson, Karuah, Cameron Park, Wangi Wangi.

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

*A Word of Encouragement to the Catholic People of Australia
from the Bishops of Australia*



Dear brothers and sisters

Grace and peace to you in these Easter days. We write to you from a plenary meeting of the Bishops Conference which is like no other. Unable to meet face-to-face as we normally do, the bishops are meeting online for a week. We are intensely conscious of our isolation – not only from each other but also from you, the people whom we serve in the name of the Risen Lord. As we think of you, we make our own the words of St Paul: “So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Australia has certainly suffered because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but not as grievously as some other countries. For that we thank God and we congratulate public health authorities and governments on their prompt and prudent responses. Australians in general have also shown the solidarity and good sense, the generosity and kindness needed in such a time. In our healthcare workers, particularly, we have seen an exceptional spirit of self-sacrifice, and for that we are all grateful.

The Churches and other religious communities have played their part, which has meant the suspension of public worship and the closure of places of worship. This has been a real deprivation, and the bishops understand not only your anxiety about the virus and shutdown but more especially your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. There is a real hunger in this. It is something we all feel, and we long for the time when our hunger will be satisfied as together we return to the feast of the Lord.

Even when our doors are closed, our hearts are still open. The churches may not yet be fully open, but the heart of the Church, which is the heart of Christ, is wide open. The celebration of Mass has never ceased. Though we and our brother priests cannot yet offer Mass with the people, we are still offering Mass day by day for the people – for all of you who are “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone” (cf Genesis 2:23). The Church which is the Body of Christ still glows with the life of Easter, “thought to be dying, yet we are alive...to be sorrowful, yet still rejoicing...to have nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Corinthians 6:9-10).

At the heart of the community of disciples, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14). In this month of May, Pope Francis has urged us to look to her to intercede for us in this time of affliction; and to Mary we will entrust our homeland later this month, looking to a mother’s unfailing love. May she who is Health of the Sick and Help of Christians pray for us now, that we may see Jesus with her eyes, the eyes of Easter, and love him with her heart, which is the heart of faith: “O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions but in your mercy hear and answer us” (Memorare).

The experience of shutdown has stirred great energy and creativity among people and pastors; this is producing unexpected gifts which we will take with us into the future. No locked door can keep the Risen Lord out; he is everywhere, even in this time of distress. “I stand at the door and knock,” he says. “If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come to you” (Revelation 3:20). We have heard his voice and opened the door to him who has come to us. That is the reason for our hope, even our rejoicing.

One important service which people of faith provide to the wider community in this time is an unceasing prayer of intercession. So we ask you all to continue praying in the power of faith for those who have died, who are sick or at risk from COVID-19, for our healthcare professionals, essential service providers and researchers, for all who are isolated and anxious, and for our civic leaders and health authorities.

In the hope born of faith we look forward to the time when the crisis will pass and we will be able to resume fully the Church’s worship and mission, even in a landscape which may be quite changed. In the meantime, we are talking with the states and the federal government about the reopening of churches and the gradual relaxation of restrictions. We will work with governments and local authorities at each stage of any resumption of Church life. We commit to keeping ourselves and each other safe by observing strictly the advice regarding numbers, distancing and hygiene when the reopening of churches is permitted.

We urge people to abide by the best advice on how to keep themselves and others safe physically, emotionally and spiritually, especially the vulnerable elderly. That is why we recommend the live-streamed Masses and the many other resources offered on diocesan websites, our Catholic counselling services and the COVIDSafe App.

The season of Lent may be behind us, but this time of shutdown has been a kind of long Lent. Now, we pray, Easter is dawning as our country recovers from the pandemic and looks to build the future. There is no room for complacency but there is certainly room for the hope that Easter brings to birth, the hope that “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish you” (1 Peter 5:10-11). Looking to the God of all grace, we send to you our blessing of peace and all consolation.

For anyone who has Project Compassion boxes, please hold off on returning them until our Churches are open again and the normal Mass schedule resumes. Thank you.



Are you wondering how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting the Church around the world?

Visit www.aidtochurch.org/covid-19 to read messages from bishops, priests, brothers and religious sisters serving in some of the most remote and dangerous countries in the world.

Message to the Region from the Business Manager AN UPDATE REGARDING PLANNED GIVING

It has recently come to my attention that the usual procedure of offering a reduction letter for the School Building Levy, known as the DFSBL, is no longer able to be offered by the Parish. This is due to legislative changes related to Section 83C of the Education Act.

We are still able to offer a Tax Receipt to our planned givers.

Parishioners who require a tax receipt for planned giving for the 2019/20 financial year must notify the Parish Office. Please notify by one of the following methods:

Email to newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Use the wording, “Please provide me with a Planned Giving tax receipt” and include your name and envelope number.

Phone: Call the Parish Office on 4979 1101.

Tax receipt data will be processed on 30 June 2020. No subsequent amendments are possible. Any requests received after 30 June 2020 will result in parishioners not receiving the requested tax deduction. If you do not require a tax receipt for tax purposes, it is preferable to refrain from requesting one, as this will enhance the tax deductibility for those who do use the tax receipt. I am happy to provide people who do not submit a tax return with your contribution total.

This year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be from 24 - 31 May. The theme “*They showed us unusual kindness*” (Act 28:2), remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta and calls us, just like the people on the Island of Malta, to a greater generosity to those in need.

The Week for Christian Unity is usually celebrated together. The theme calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action. Due to COVID-19, we are not able to join together, so we need to be creative and adapt the current situation. You are welcome to download the World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 Reflection for 8 Days <https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>

Take some time each day to read the reflection, discern or meditate on the words, then journal your responses to the questions in the reflection, finish your session with the prayer provided or your own. During the week reflect on what your action could be to show greater generosity to those in need.

Living the Gospel – Live in love

Throughout the gospel of John, we are reminded of the enduring relationship between Jesus and the Father. A number of times, Jesus announces that he and the Father are one. In today’s passage, Jesus also says to the disciples that they can share in this relationship of love. When Jesus speaks about anyone who ‘loves’ him, he speaks about anyone who lives by his message and seeks to be like him. Anyone who does that will share in the love that exists between the Father and the Son. That invitation is open for each of us today as well.

Marian Feasts in May

Since the Middle-Ages, the Church has devoted the month of May to Mary. Three Marian feasts are celebrated within this month, helping us to understand what Mary can teach us about following Jesus.

On May 13, we commemorated the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, which recalls the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to three young children in Portugal in 1917. Mary encouraged penance, conversion and praying the rosary, warning the world of a Great War and suffering, but that, "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph".

The Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians, which is usually celebrated on May 24, dates back to the sixteenth century, which was not a peaceful time in Europe. In 1571, Catholics throughout the continent joined in praying the rosary in hopes of prevailing over military forces that had long sought to expand into Europe. These prayers were answered at the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571, which is now the feast for Our Lady of the Rosary.

The third Marian feast for May is the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin on May 31. We remember how Mary journeyed to the home of Elizabeth, to care for her as the birth of her son, John the Baptist, drew near.

These celebrations, like all Marian feasts, are really celebrations of Jesus Christ, for she has no privilege that she has not received from God. In these days, we learn how to stay close to him in prayer and through the practice of charity, such as caring for a relative in a time of need, with confidence that our prayers will be answered.

With maternal love for us, Mary wants what is best for us - she wants Jesus for us, so she urges us, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Then she helps us as we lead others to know and love her Son too. Her feasts not only empower us to turn to her in prayer, but also to love Jesus and others with a greater love.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington.



Australia was the first nation to choose Mary, under the title 'Help of Christians', as Principal Patron. The Solemnity is usually celebrated on 24th May, though as this year it coincides with the Ascension of the Lord, it will be observed instead on 25th May.

Prayer to Our Lady, Help of Christians

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin, Help of Christians, we place ourselves under your motherly protection.

Throughout the Church's history you have helped Christians in times of trial, temptation and danger. Time and time again, you have proven to be the Refuge of sinners, the Hope of the hopeless, the Consoler of the afflicted, and the Comforter of the dying.

We promise to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, to proclaim His Good News of God's love for all people, and to work for peace and justice in our world. With faith in your intercession, we pray for the Church, for our family and friends, for the poor and abandoned, and all the dying.

Grant, O Mary, Help of Christians, the graces of which we stand in need. (Mention your intentions.) May we serve Jesus with fidelity and love until death. Help us and our loved ones to attain the boundless joy of being forever with our Father in heaven. Amen.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us!

Prayer during the coronavirus pandemic

Mary, Help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.



Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for your nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of God's holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

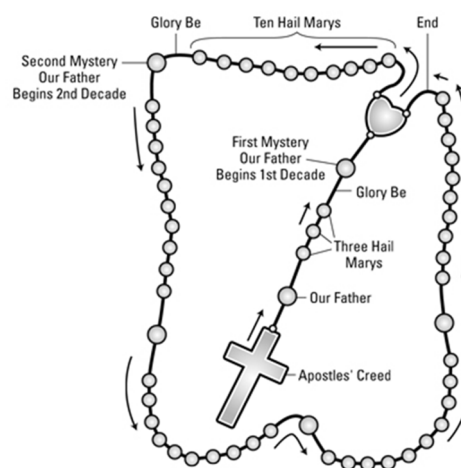
In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms and help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

How to Pray the Rosary

1. On the crucifix, make the sign of the cross and then pray the Apostles' Creed.
2. On the next *large* bead, say the Our Father.
3. On the following three small beads, pray three Hail Marys.
4. On the *chain*, pray the Glory Be.
5. On the large bead, meditate on the first mystery and pray the Our Father.
6. On the ten beads after that, pray a Hail Mary on each bead; on the chain, pray a Glory Be.

Repeat Steps 5 and 6 four more times to finish the next four decades.



Say the Hail Holy Queen:

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Concluding Prayer:

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation; grant we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mondays and Saturdays:

The Joyful Mysteries remind the faithful of Christ's birth: The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38); The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56); The Nativity (Luke 2:1–21); The Presentation (Luke 2:22–38); The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)

Tuesdays and Fridays:

The Sorrowful Mysteries recall Jesus' passion and death: The Agony of Jesus in the Garden (Matthew 26:36–56); The Scourging at the Pillar (Matthew 27:26); The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27–31); The Carrying of the Cross (Matthew 27:32); The Crucifixion (Matthew 27:33–56).

Wednesdays and Sundays:

The Glorious Mysteries focus on the resurrection of Jesus and the glories of heaven: The Resurrection (John 20:1–29); The Ascension (Luke 24:36–53); The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–41); The Assumption of Mary, the Mother of God, into heaven; The Coronation of Mary in heaven.

Thursdays:

Pope John Paul II added The Mysteries of Light, also known as the Luminous Mysteries, in 2002: The Baptism in the River Jordan (Matthew 3:13–16); The Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1–11); The Preaching of the coming of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14–15); The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8); The Institution of the Holy Eucharist (Matthew 26).



Pope Francis has asked us to make a special effort in May to pray the Rosary. By doing so we will be united with believers around the world, asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic.

HYMNS FOR THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

ENTRANCE HYMN

ALL THE EARTH L Deiss

*All the earth proclaim the Lord
sing your praise to God*

Serve you the Lord, heart filled with gladness
Come into God's presence singing for joy.

Know that the Lord is our creator
yes God is our Father; we are his own

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GLORIA

*Glory (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 almighty 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.

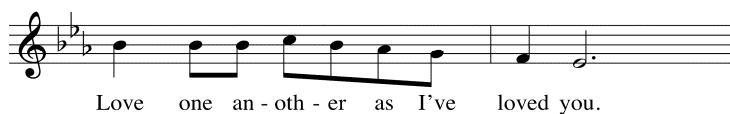
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

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.

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

IF YOU LOVE ME

Deanna Light and
Paul A. Tate



Live in me, and I will live in you;
I will call you my disciples.
Believe in me speak the Word of Life!

Live in me, and I will live in you;
I will give you living water.
Believe in me and never thirst again!

Live in me, and I will live in you;
I will send you forth as witness.
Believe in me and I will be your strength!

Live in me, and I will live in you;
I will never leave you orphaned.
Believe in me and I will bring you home!

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COMMUNION HYMN

OUR SUPPER INVITATION Kevin Bates

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.

Take of my life and live, branch of my vine.

Let me be friend you now; eat, take your fill.

Don't be afraid to dream; love has its will.

Take up your burden now, walk 'til you find
just what the journey means; walk while there's time.
Food for the journey will answer your need.
Don't be afraid to walk; love, my love will lead.

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Be a sweet nourishment to good friends of mine.
Let me befriend you now; eat take your fill.
Share with your people that love has its will.

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.

Take of my life and live, branch of my vine.

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

EASTER ALLELUIA

Marty Haugen

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God who does wondrous things,
let all God's people his praises now sing
all of creation in splendor shall ring: Alleluia!

If we have love, then we dwell in the Lord,
God will protect us from fire and sword
fill us with love and the peace of his word: Alleluia

Text: M. Haugen, b 1950 Tune: O FILII ET FILIAE adapt. M Haugen
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