

**Mass for the Opening of the First Assembly  
of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia  
Sunday 3rd October 2021.**

**OPENING PRAYER (COLLECT)**

Let us pray. O God, who care for your peoples with gentleness and rule them in love, endow with a spirit of wisdom those to whom you have handed on authority to govern, that your people may be led to know the truth more fully and to grow in holiness according to your will. through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. Prayer over the Offerings Roman Mis

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:**

**A Reading from the Book of DEUTORONOMY.**

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. 'For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**PSALM RESPONSE**

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life

**A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians**

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind.

That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead.

The Word of the Lord..

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia | Alleluia,

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will teach you all truth and bring to your mind all I have told you. Alleluia,

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now, before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.' The Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAYER OF PETITION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT** We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in your name. Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts. Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own and to live it in our lives. 5 Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son. You desire justice for All enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favour. Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true. As we gather in your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants, Amen