

Ruth Burrows, the British Carmelite and mystic, describes a similar experience in her autobiography, *Before the Living God*. Chronicling her late adolescent years, Burrows describes both her religious flightiness and her lack of attraction to the religious life at that time in her life. Yet she eventually ends up not only being serious about religion but becoming a Carmelite nun. What happened? One day, in a chapel, almost against her will, triggered by a series of accidental circumstances, she opened herself to voice inside her that she had, until then, mainly ignored because it lay inside her precisely as a voice that was almost non-existent, almost unfelt, and largely unnoticed. But once touched, it gushed up as the deepest and most real thing inside her and set the direction of her life forever afterwards. Like C.S. Lewis, she too, once she had opened herself to it, felt it as an unyielding moral compulsion opening her to ultimate liberation.

Why doesn't God show himself to us more directly and more powerfully so as to make faith easier? That's a fair question for which, partly, there is no fully satisfying answer. But the answer we do have lies in understanding the manner in which God manifests himself in our lives and in our world. Unlike most everything else that's trying to get our attention, God never tries to overwhelm us. God, more than anyone else, respects our freedom. For this reason, God lies everywhere, inside us and around us, almost unfelt, largely unnoticed, and easily ignored, a quiet, gentle nudge; but, if drawn upon, the ultimate stream of love and energy.

May Parish Events

Tuesday 2 May Aquinas Retreat and Reconciliation in Parish Centre
Wednesday 3 May Aquinas Retreat and Reconciliation in Parish Centre
Thursday 4 May Aquinas Retreat and Reconciliation in Parish Centre
Friday 5 May CBC Edmund Rice Mass at 9am
Tuesday 9 May Aquinas Retreat and Reconciliation in Parish Centre
Thursday 11 May Parish Mothers' Day Morning Tea
Friday 12 May SPPS Mothers' Day Mass at 9am
Saturday 13 May Our Lady of Fatima Mass and Procession
Sunday 14 May Mothers' Day
Friday 19 May SPPS Sts Emilie De Vialar & Eugene de Mazenod Mass at 9am
Sunday 21 May Sacramental Enrolment Form Collection Mass at 5pm
Saturday 27 May CBC Family Mass at 6pm
Sunday 28 May Sacramental Enrolment Form Return Mass at 5pm

Sacred Heart Sodality

We wish to invite all friends of the Sacred Heart Sodality to join us at Mass every 4th Sunday of the month at 8:30am. Next Mass will be held on **Sunday 28 May 2017**. New members are always welcome. For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

Parishioner Morning Tea

Come along and enjoy the morning tea with fellow parishioners
after 8.30am Mass on Sunday 7 May 2017. ALL WELCOME!

Children's Liturgy



Children's Liturgy is held every First Sunday of the Month at the 8:30am Mass in the Children's Chapel, located just inside the side foyer of the Basilica. All Children Welcome! **Liturgy will be held on Sunday 7 May, 2017.**

Mothers' Day Morning Tea

This year the Parish will celebrate all Mothers' with a special morning tea which will be held in the Parish Centre on Thursday 11th May, at 10am.

Tickets can be purchased from the Parish Office, Piety Stall and Saturday 6pm Mass for \$10 per person. Ticket price includes door and raffle prizes and morning tea. All proceeds to the Women's Refuge

100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima



100th Anniversary Of Our Lady of Fatima

The Parish will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima with a nine day Novena followed by Mass and Procession on the 13 May, and we invite all Parishioners to be part of this very special event.

Novena in honor of Our Lady of Fatima will be held for nine days prior to the 13 May, please see dates and times below.

Thursday 4 May:	Rosary 6.30pm and Mass 7pm
Friday 5 May:	Rosary 6.30pm and Mass 7pm
Saturday 6 May:	Rosary 6.30pm and Mass 7pm
Sunday 7 May:	Rosary 5.30pm and Mass 6pm
Monday 8 May:	Rosary 4.30pm and Mass 5pm
Tuesday 8 May:	Rosary 6.30pm and Mass 7pm
Wednesday 10 May:	Rosary 6.30pm and Mass 7pm
Thursday 11 May:	Rosary 6.30pm and Mass 7pm
Friday 12 May:	Rosary 6.30pm and Mass 7pm

Mass and Procession in honor of Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrated on Saturday 13 May with Mass to commence at 7.30pm and will be followed by a night procession through the streets returning to the Basilica for Benediction.

All Parishioners, Families and Friends are invited to join in this special 100th Anniversary Celebration of Our Lady of Fatima.

Pipe Organ Plus– Dominic Perissinotto's Concert – Monday 5 June 2017



Ramble

Monday 5 June from 10:30am
St John's – Scots – Wesley – St Patrick's
Fremantle

Eva-Marie Middleton (mezzo soprano – Margaret Blades (violin) – Louise McKay ('cello) – Dominic Perissinotto (organ)
Spend the Monday June Public Holiday exploring four historic Fremantle churches in this series of concerts featuring a variety of splendid music. Walk between the venues, or leave your car at St Patrick's Basilica and travel on the Fremantle Tram for the day. For more details see the Pipe Organ Plus fliers in the foyer.

Please visit www.trybooking.com/OODY for online sales

Rosters for May 2017

If you are unable to attend on your rostered day please find a replacement. If you see a problem with the roster then please contact the Parish Office on 9335 2268 and ask that the information be passed on to Angie Emanuele.

Readers

Date	Saturday Vigil 6:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 8:30am	Sunday 11:00am	Sunday 5:00pm
7/8 May (1)	Joan Swindells Tonia Petrucci	Gabriel Newman	Pamela Cattalini Daniele Cattalini	Mary Jardine-Clarke Doratheia Randazzo	Sr Lynn Chua
14/15 May (2)	Position Vacant John Gilmour	Chris Banasik Nola Banasik	Monica Lacey C Brown	Position Vacant M Sticca	Leslie Saunders Lyn Tomlinson
21/22 May (3)	Lyn Jensen John Gilmour	Gabriel Newman	Mary Ann Yeats Phillipa Colgan	Margaret Sheridan Lani Lanzara	Anne Greenwood Sr Lynn Chua
28/29 May (4)	P Pettigrew Tonia Petrucci	Beatrice Yong	Susanne Sutton Ultan Stephenson	K Pacyne Phillip Smith	Bill Sands Sr Lynn Chua

Communion Ministers

Date	Saturday Vigil 6:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 8:30am	Sunday 11:00am	Sunday 5:00pm
7/8 May (1)	Tonia Petrucci Frances Gilmour John Gilmour	Sarah Bottoli	Position Vacant Pauline Ivandich Brian Tuana Anne-Marie Cross	Position Vacant Max Thompson Mark De Klyver Mary Smith	L Seal Lyn Tomlinson Sr Fely
14/15 May (2)	John Gilmour Marlene Dullard Position Vacant	Sarah Bottoli	Mary-Ann Yeats C Brown Pamela Cattalini Teresa Ducali	Doratheia Randazzo P Grootelaar M Sheridan Max Thompson	L Seal Anne Greenwood Sr Melanie
21/22 May (3)	John Gilmour Frances Gilmour Marlene Dullard	Sarah Bottoli	Mary-Ann Yeats Position Vacant Pamela Cattalini Anne-Marie Cross	Position Vacant Brenda Earl Max Thompson	Lyn Tomlinson Sr Lynn Chua
28/29 May (4)	John Gilmour Marlene Dullard Tonia Petrucci	Beatrice Yong	Teresa Ducali Pauline Ivandich Anne-Marie Cross L Seal	Position Vacant P Grootelaar Doratheia Randazzo M Sheridan	Sr Lynn Chua Anne Greenwood

Music Ministry

Dominic Perissinotto – Organist and Director of Music

Date	Liturgy	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.30am	Sunday 11.00am	Sunday 5.00pm
6/7 May (1)	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Caitlin Rowe Colin van der Lecq (organ)	Delia Price	Delia Price	Caitlin Rowe Colin van der Lecq (organ)
13/14 May (2)	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Stephen De Filippo Andrew Brown (organ)	Theodore Murphy	The Basilica Choir	Stephen De Filippo Andrew Brown (organ)
20/21 May (3)	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Fleur Brockway Andrew Brown (organ)	Emma Adele Ashton	The Basilica Choir	Emma Adele Ashton
27/28 May (4)	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	CBC Mass	Aria Roy	Quadrivium	Laura Pitts

Parish Office



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 Parish Office email: parishoffice@oblates.com.au
 Parish Web Page: fremantlestpatricks.org.au
 Office Hours: Monday to Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm
 Closed Weekends and Public Holidays



Fremantle Catholic Community
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GOD'S QUIET PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

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The poet, Rumi, submits that we live with a deep secret that sometimes we know, and then not.

That can be very helpful in understanding our faith. One of the reasons why we struggle with faith is that God's presence inside us and in our world is rarely dramatic, overwhelming, sensational, something impossible to ignore. God doesn't work like that. Rather God's presence, much to our frustration and loss of patience sometimes, is something that lies quiet and seemingly helpless inside us. It rarely makes a huge splash.

Because we are not sufficiently aware of this, we tend to misunderstand the dynamics of faith and find ourselves habitually trying to ground our faith on precisely something that is loud and dramatic. We are forever looking for something beyond what God gives us. But we should know from the very way God was born into our world, that faith needs to ground itself on something that is quiet and undramatic. Jesus, as we know, was born into our world with no fanfare and no power, a baby lying helpless in the straw, another child among millions. Nothing spectacular to human eyes surrounded his birth. Then, during his ministry, he never performed miracles to prove his divinity; but only as acts of compassion or to reveal something about God. Jesus never used divine power in an attempt to prove that God exists, beyond doubt. His ministry, like his birth, wasn't an attempt to prove God's existence. It was intended rather to teach us what God is like and that God loves us unconditionally.

Moreover, Jesus' teaching about God's presence in our lives also makes clear that this presence is mostly quiet and hidden, a plant growing silently as we sleep, yeast leavening dough in a manner hidden from our eyes, summer slowly turning a barren tree green, an insignificant mustard plant eventually surprising us with its growth, a man or woman forgiving an enemy. God, it seems, works in ways that are quiet and hidden from our eyes. The God that Jesus incarnates is neither dramatic nor splashy.

And there's an important faith-lesson in this. Simply put, God lies inside us, deep inside, but in a way that's almost non-existent, almost unfelt, largely unnoticed, and easily ignored. However, while that presence is never overpowering, it has within it a gentle, unremitting imperative, a compulsion towards something higher, which invites us to draw upon it. And, if we do draw upon it, it gushes up in us in an infinite stream that instructs us, nurtures us, and fills us with endless energy.

This is important for understanding faith. God lies inside us as an invitation that fully respects our freedom, never overpowers us; but also never goes away. It lies there precisely like a baby lying helpless in the straw, gently beckoning us, but helpless in itself to make us pick it up.

For example, C.S. Lewis, in explaining why he finally became, in his words, "the most reluctant convert in the history of Christendom", writes that, for years, he was able to effectively ignore a voice inside him, precisely, because it was almost non-existent, almost unfelt, and largely unnoticed. On the other hand, in retrospect, he realized it had always been there, a gentle, incessant nudge, beckoning him to draw from it, something he eventually recognized as a gentle, but unyielding, imperative, a "compulsion" which, if obeyed, leads to liberation.

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