



Parish Matters

Parish Office Hours: Tue & Fri 10am - 2pm, Wed 10am - 1pm

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2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER | 18TH / 19TH APRIL 2020

The Catholic Community of City South acknowledge the Gadigal People, the traditional custodians, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation of this land.



Fr Paul will say Mass

Sunday 10am

Facebook Live

Catholic Community of City South

At communion time recite the

Spiritual Communion prayer

on page 3

Mass for you at Home

6am Sunday on



Dear friends,

I hope this note finds you well.

I continue to work from home. I am in daily phone contact with Maria at the parish office discussing and attending to inquiries as they come. I also continue to work on our development projects and meet via phone or zoom with Diocesan officials and the project team when we need to talk. I also try to phone a few parishioners each week. On Sunday I live stream mass at 10am. I am finding that the pandemic has given me more time to pray and think. I bring into my prayers those who particularly find this time a struggle because of illness or because they are struggling financially or emotionally.

For those of you who joined me on Easter Sunday for Mass via Facebook, you would have heard me talking about the image of the empty tomb. This is a striking image for us at this time. It comes to symbolise not an absence of life but of bringing forth of new life. Some authors have seen the image of the empty tomb as like a womb. The tomb is a womb from which not only Jesus but a teeming host comes forth. Jesus isn't the only one born from the dead. As St Paul says, he's "the first-born from the dead" (Col 1:18), "the first-born of many brothers and sisters" (Rom 8:29). These days might seem rather life less and barren. But new life stirs within our situation and circumstances. Don't be afraid to use this time to sit for a while at the empty tomb to hear the voice of the risen Lord - "peace be with you", "do not be afraid", "give me your hands", "Doubt no longer but believe".

As the coronavirus continues to keep our churches closed it also means that the parish has no income. I thank those who have continued to donate. As a result I have tried my best to reduce running costs. The shutdown has also meant that there are no donations for the first collection which includes the support of the clergy. I, like many others have reduced the costs of my living expenses. I know this may be a sensitive topic for some *but if and only if you* are in a position to support the clergy (ie me) please let Maria know.

Be assured of my prayers...

Fr Paul Smithers | Parish Priest |
Follow on *Instagram & Twitter:* @frpaulsydney
Sr Rosemary Mitchell RSJ Pastoral Associate

If you would like Mass offerings please contact the office.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CITY SOUTH PRAYER INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased: Constance Bradley, Ornel Lobo.

Anniversary: George Marrett (18 Apr); Francis Camilleri, Leopoldo Martinez, Elliot Bennett (19 Apr); Rodolfo Rodriguez Jnr (21 Apr); Maria Ala (22 Apr); Owen Burgher (23 Apr).

Remembered in the Masses and names recorded at the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mt Carmel: Mio Family; Charlie & Carmen Vassallo; Arthur & Janice Gray; Ethel & George Gray; Bill & Pat Clarke; Sydney & Violet Green; Arthur & Edna Dennett; John & Eileen Dennett; Hazel Holly; Arthur and Rose Dennett; Carmen Bonello; Bonello Family; Bill, Muriel, Marc and Jamie Wickert; Shirley Turner; Sr. Patricia Wilkinson; Anna, Stanley & Jim Atkins; Therese & Alfred Scerri; Margaret & Joseph Fenech; Isabel Fenech; Joseph & Rose Lia; Robert Clarke; Elliot Bennett; Jay Rosenstraus. All Souls, especially those that have no one to pray for them; All Souls of the Unborn.

Those who are sick: Ron Hawkins; George & Juliet D'Souza; Fr Brian Egan; Allan Walker; Fr Emmanuel Seo; Carolyn White; Marlic Erland; Ana Lucia Solorzano; Mary Cunney; Joan Kenny; Abrelita Aguillar; Rosemary Cooley; Pat Frost; Helen Abbey; Joan Buist; and all the housebound.

Birthdays: Juliette Gabriele, Isabelle Downs (18 Apr); Lindsay Lobo (20 Apr); Rebekah Lupton (21 Apr); Elleni Daniels (23 Apr).

Wedding Anniversary: Mary & Liam Cunney (20 Apr); Giacomo & Juliette Gabriele (23 Apr).

Chocolate Paschal Lambs

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to pick up Chocolate Lambs. ****Please ring before you come.****

If you have Project Compassion boxes or envelopes, please consider giving online directly to Caritas at lent.caritas.org.au, where you can securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque directly to Caritas Australia GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001. Alternatively please return your Project Compassion boxes/ envelopes to the Parish Office.

*******Please ring before you Come*******

Facebook Live Mass

I want to acknowledge all those who join me on Facebook Live for Mass. Using this technology is certainly testing all our IT knowledge! If you are having any technical issues can I suggest you call someone in your family who is under 30! They will certainly have the answer. For those who said they are not on Facebook, you might consider signing up so you can access our Mass. Signing up to Facebook is fairly simple. Again if you have any issues I would call a digital native (someone under 30).
Fr Paul

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Rosebery

Account Name: Rosebery Parish Church Account
BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 053 750 02

Redfern

Account name: Redfern Parish Church Account
BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 208 450 00

Waterloo

Account name: Waterloo Parish Church Account
BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 062 750 01

Whilst the Church building is closed, if you are still able to donate, especially to the first collection which supports our priests, please find methods of doing so:

- * Direct deposit into Church Accounts as listed above. Please email instructions of splitting your donation between 1st and 2nd collection.
- * Visit the parish website and click the Support Us tab.
- * Credit Card donations - either a one off donation, or be set up to donate monthly. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.
- * You can place your cash donation in an envelope and leave in the Parish Office letterbox (74 Rosebery Ave, Rosebery) which is locked.
- * Come in person to Parish Office, however you must call first (in keeping with social distancing regulations). You can use the Tap N Go facility, pay cash or credit card.

Due to COVID-19, all rosters have been cancelled temporarily. However, our newsletter will still be published on our Catholic of City South Website <https://www.citysouthcatholiccommunity.org.au/parish-matters/>

If you would like a printed copy, please contact the Parish Office.



Have you thought?

Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we - Blessed are we - who have not seen and yet still believe!

Prayer in time of Pandemic

In this challenging time Lord Jesus Christ, our true physician and healer, be merciful to us and bring us your aid in these troubled times. Heal all our sickness and every affliction of your people. Drive out our infirmities of soul and body; free us from all disease and especially from this pestilence. We place in your gentle Heart the elderly, the frail, people with disability, children, young people and families, our indigenous peoples, those who are poor, lonely and isolated. As you walk with us, free them from fear, and give them patience and hope together with our loving care. In your mercy deal also with the causes of our pitiful condition, that in curing our lack of faith and spiritual weakness, you may also remedy our bodily ills. We place our trust in you, the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Canice's Kitchen, are urgently seeking funds to support the roll out of our COVID-19 response plan. The plan includes: Seven day a week take-away food service with strict social distancing protocols, phone call service for isolated community members needing support, access to toilets & showers at our Elizabeth premises, take-away toiletry and sanitary packs

If you can assist please follow the link <https://canices-kitchen-emergency-fund.raisely.com/>



Prayer Mantra:

My Lord and My God

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.



LIFE, FAMILY AND OUTREACH
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

The Catholic Weekly is now available in a digital form at www.catholicweekly.com.au.

Liturgy of the Word

Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Communion Antiphon

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Reflection

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God.