



Parish Matters

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

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4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 2ND/3RD MAY 2020

The Catholic Community of City South acknowledges 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



**Virtual Parish Gathering
Tuesday 12 May 5.15pm**



Dear friends,

This Sunday's Gospel is from John's 'Bread of Life' discourse. In John 6:52-55 the mention of Flesh and Blood is the expression of life and of the total gift. The Jews react: "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" The feast of the Passover was close at hand. After a few days everybody would have eaten the meat of the paschal lamb in the celebration of the night of the Passover. They did not understand the words of Jesus, because they took them literally. But Jesus does not diminish the exigencies, He does not withdraw or take away anything of what He has said and He insists: "In all truth I tell you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Anyone who does eat My flesh and drink My blood has eternal life, and I shall raise that person up on the last day. For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood lives in Me and I live in that person". What gives life is not to celebrate the manna of the past, but rather to eat this new bread which is Jesus, His flesh and His blood. Participating in the Eucharistic Supper, we assimilate His life, His surrender, His gift of self. "If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and you do not drink His Blood you will not have life in you". They should accept Jesus as the Crucified Messiah, whose blood will be poured out.

This Gospel reminds me of something a lady said to me one day many years ago. She said "I want to be like Jesus, so I need the Eucharist". That's simple everyday theology which makes sense. In these days when we cannot receive the Eucharist at Mass, our desire for the Body and Blood of Christ and the community it summons grows ever stronger. This echo's the words of St Irenaeus who said "When the chalice we mix and the bread we bake receive the word of God, the eucharistic elements become the body and blood of Christ, by which our bodies live and grow. His full reflection the Eucharist is attached.

Be assured of my prayers at this time

God bless,

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

*Glorious St. Joseph, may my labours be all for Jesus, all through Mary, and all after your holy example in life and in death.
Amen.*

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CITY SOUTH PRAYER INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased: Joe Morgan (24 Apr); Fr. Patrick McAuliffe; Fr. William Creede; Fr. Ray Farrell; Fr. Peter Morrissey; Audrey Margaret McDonnell; Mark McDonnell; Mate Madunic; Jill Roessner (Raymakers); Eola Di Portelli.

Anniversary: Shalaney Marie Dagli - Velasquez (28 Apr); Bernadette Farrugia (5 May).

Deceased: Emanuel & Josephine Nappa; 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: Therese Mullaney; 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: Joanne Fong (2 May); Sienna Knight (4 May); Terrance Cross, Daniella Bezzina (5 May).

Wedding Anniversary: Bernard & Ellie Ng (4 May).

For Mass Offerings please contact the Parish Office.

Understanding Parish Collections

The Catholic Church has a strong tradition of giving which has established and supported many worthwhile charities throughout its long history.

During this time, when the church buildings are closed, we face a challenge that donations are low and so we cannot support our charities as we used to. We also rely on these donations to support the clergy and running of the parish. Though the churches are closed the running of the parish continues and with this is the paying of bills that must be attended to.

The 1st Collection supports the needs of clergy which includes priests' monthly salary, housekeeping needs including food and care of elderly and retired priests.

The 2nd Collection supports the maintenance and running of the parish including administration, insurance and utilities. It also funds the Charitable Works Fund shortfall.

If you are in a position to be able to keep donating, please use one of the tools listed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Rosebery (2nd Collection April \$945.00)

Account Name: Rosebery Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 053 750 02

Redfern (2nd Collection April \$140.00)

Account name: Redfern Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 208 450 00

Waterloo (2nd Collection April \$1,035.00)

Account name: Waterloo Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784 | **Account No.:** 062 750 01

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.

Virtual Gathering on Zoom

Last Tuesday there were about 30 parishioners in the virtual gathering on Zoom. I thank those who were daring enough to venture into the cyber world! It was great to see many familiar faces and hear how you're going. The next virtual gathering on Zoom will be **Tuesday 12 May at 5.15pm**. I am using the 'basic' package of Zoom which means I have 40 mins free (after that time it abruptly cuts off). So I hope you can join the next gathering.

You will need to download and register for Zoom (zoom.us) and click the link I will send you via email next week. If you're not part of the email list (receiving the bulletin) please send your email address to Maria (secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au).

HISTORICAL **CONTEXT**

A line of shepherds

When Jesus used the image of himself as a shepherd, he named himself as belonging to a Jewish ancestry that associated itself with shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses were all shepherds. David, the second King of Israel, was regarded as the greatest king in Jewish history. His humble beginning, captured magnificently in the sculpture by Michelangelo, was as a shepherd boy guarding his flock with a slingshot. The kings of Israel were charged to 'shepherd' their people rather than to lord it over them as the pagan kings did.

Questions to Ponder - I Am the Bread of Life

Beginning with the discourse on the Bread of Life, the celebration of the Eucharist receives a very strong light and an enormous deepening. Does this clarify the role of the Eucharist in my life?

To eat the flesh and blood of Jesus is the commandment that he leaves. How do I live the Eucharist in my life? Even if I cannot go to Mass every day or every Sunday, my life should be Eucharistic. How do I try to attain this objective?

Eucharistic Adoration is available in our community and highly recommended by Popes St John Paul II, Benedict and Francis, among others. "In many places, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is also an important daily practice and becomes an inexhaustible source of holiness" (Encyclical Letter: Ecclesia De Eucharistia). Do I take the time to sit and just "be" with Him when I can?

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

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6.

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have

been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

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.