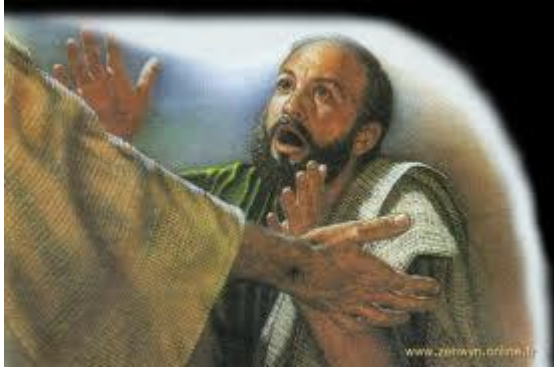


## HORNSBY CATHEDRAL PARISH

*Letter from Fr Peter de Souza*

*19 April 2020*



My dear Parishioners,

Greetings once again to you and your families and extended ones too! We are still in the Easter Season; hence we could greet one another Happy Easter again.

The opening prayer for this Sunday addresses the Father as “God of everlasting Mercy”. God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, by sending His only begotten Son to become our Saviour and Lord by His suffering, death and Resurrection. His Mercy is freely available to us given in each celebration of the Sacraments, which were instituted to sanctify us.

Presenting Thomas’ famous profession of Faith, “My Lord and my God”, the Gospel illustrates how Jesus embraced the apostle in love and in His personal struggle and to reconcile the situation.

The challenge for each one of us is to be open to God’s love, first in our personal lives and then in the Family and Community where we are. As agents of reconciliation, we are first called to reconcile with our personal struggles, be open to them and address them in God’s love, and thus in all humility, celebrate God’s mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Thomas’ expression of faith was an act of self-surrender to God and that leads us to serve those we encounter with love. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) presents it this way: “If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action.”

May our Living Faith enable us to see the risen Lord in everyone and give us the willingness to render to each one our loving service.

With prayerful wishes,

Fr Peter de Souza

**Divine Mercy Sunday** is a recent addition to the Church's calendar, and it has links to both private revelation and the Bible. Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. It is based on the private revelations to St. Faustina Kowalska, which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy.

Pope John Paul II (now Saint) canonized St. Faustina and, during the ceremony, he declared:

"It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.' In the various readings, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings."

*[Homily, April 30, 2000]*

### **Celebration of Easter with a difference**

I'm sure many of you will agree with me on the same note, but in all this there was something very deep happening, our families became our domestic churches of Easter prayer and celebration, for many of us it made a difference.

We too made a difference at the Cathedral, and the difference was because many reached out with their talents, amidst the restrictions during this time of COVID-19. I acknowledge with gratitude:

- to Gerry for a homemade Paschal candle,
- to Ella for all the flower arrangements,
- to Veronica and her Choristers for all the singing,
- to our Videographers,
- to our Incensessors,
- to our Readers and Cantors,
- to Louise for all her help in our preparations,
- to Deacon Roberto, Roger and our Seminarians.

## Message from Fr Vincent Trung Nguyen

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Bishop Anthony has appointed me as the new Chaplain for Royal North Shore Hospital commencing Thursday, 16th April 2020.

*(I will be working full-time at the hospital but will celebrate a few weekday Masses at the Lower North Shore Parish in addition to the three Masses in the hospital chapel.)*

I thank Bishop Anthony for entrusting me this special ministry and I look forward to serving the sick and the vulnerable at RNHS.

The past four years that I've ministered in Hornsby Cathedral Parish *(since Easter 2016)* has brought me immense joy. I have felt loved and supported all throughout the years by my brother priests: Fr Robert, Fr Peter, Fr Vincent V, Fr Baby, Fr Simon, Deacon Roberto and Br Roger. They have helped me to grow as a person and as a priest, enabling me to say today that "I love being a priest", despite the many challenges that have been part of the journey for any of us who have travelled this road.

My gratitude extends to the parish staff, the different parish groups, families, and to each of you my beloved parishioners and friends. It has been an honour and a privilege to have had the chance to minister in this lovely community. Words are not enough to describe how thankful I am for your kindness and generosity. I will forever cherish our catch-up chats, coffee, laughs, the thoughtful presents you gave me, our prayer times together, and above all the Holy Masses.

As I take a new direction, there is sadness within me as I leave this parish, but I shall bring with me the beautiful memories, the meaningful time as your friend, brother and priest amongst you. I keep you in my daily prayers and ask our Risen Lord to continue His blessings to you always!

Happy Easter & hope to see you again one day! :-)

Fr. Vincent Trung Nguyen

## Notices for this weekend

### Mass schedule:

Daily Mass is live streamed at 7.00am.

Sunday Mass is live streamed at 8.30am.

**ANZAC Day Mass on 25 April 2020 will be celebrated at 9.30am.**

**The YouTube link can be found on the parish website: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/hornsby](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/hornsby)**

**Please note, DO NOT come to the Cathedral during these times.**

**Thank you for your understanding.**

May I request that you stay tuned with us during these times. Your family Church is a continuation of our joint celebrations “gathering of families”, ‘The Body of Christ’.

**Fr Biju Mathew** will be with us on the weekend of 18 April 2020. Please make him feel welcome amidst us and please say a special prayer for him too.

**Please remember in your prayers**, those who are sick, those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur during this time. May I request you to keep all those who are struck with the virus, those tested positive and those in isolation in your special prayers.

**Note of Gratitude** to all those Parishioners and non, who send us emails, letters and Easter wishes during this time, thanking us for being what we can best be. Thank you for appreciating the honesty we bring forth.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all those who are financially contributing to Parish Life, even as each of you come to terms with your own struggles. Your generosity is tremendous, and while I thank you, I assure you of my prayers too.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be offered to our people, even though it is *not possible to celebrate this Sacrament in the closed church*. Also note the official government regulation for physical distancing is important.

**Sacrament of Anointing** is available on request, and in an emergency, please feel free to call our emergency number 0458 351 843. **Please make sure if your family member is in the Hospital or Nursing Home, it should go through the hospital or nursing home authorities.**

**Prayer Resources for Catholics at home is available on the Diocesan website:**

**[www.bbcatholic.org.au/news-events/covid-19/prayer-resources](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/news-events/covid-19/prayer-resources)**

**If a Priest is needed in a matter of emergency, after hours or on the weekend, please call 0458 351 843.**