



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist

Third Sunday of Easter - 26th April 2020

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we read one of the loveliest of the post-resurrection stories from Luke's gospel about the encounter of the two disciples with the risen Lord on their way to Emmaus. How precious it will be for us to gather once more for the Eucharist and to be reminded "how they had recognised Him in the breaking of the bread"! In fact in the whole Emmaus story we can recognise the shape of the Mass which we are all missing so much.



Just as the disciples meet up with Jesus, listened to His reading of the scriptures, broke bread with Him, and set off on mission. We too look forward to gathering, to listening to the word of God, to eat and drink at the Lord's table, and to go forth from the gathered assembly. We are not just listening to a time-honoured tale, we are enacting it as we pray.

The following reflection gives us another perspective on this Sunday's gospel .God Bless Fr David

A birthday in Emmaus

A young couple receives the wonderful news: they are pregnant.

But their joy soon becomes a nightmare. Her severe morning sickness debilitates her; her doctor discovers the child is in distress and plans for the worst. She is confined to bed for the duration of her pregnancy.

The dad-to-be is overwhelmed by it all. Unable to offer any meaningful help to his wife or his child, he buries himself in everything but accomplishes little.

But along the way, their parents — gently and quietly — cover many of the day-to-day details; they check in regularly with encouragement and advice, allaying many of their fears. Co-workers at his office take as many things as they can off his desk. And, under the radar, members of their parish organize to provide supper a few nights a week.

And they manage. After a long, painful, terrifying few months, they welcome their little girl, healthy and whole. And, along the way, the new parents discover again how much they love each other and the beautiful little family they have created.

And they realize, too, what their love means to those around them.

We all have our Emmaus-like experiences of fear, confusion, dread, worry. But along the way, Christ makes himself known in our midst in the loving support of family and friends, of our community and parish. Christ travels with us on our own road to Emmaus; Christ is present in the broken bread of compassion we offer and receive from our fellow travelers. Easter faith is to recognize the Risen One in our midst: in our wanting to understand, in our struggle to make things right, in our brokenness. May our Easter celebration open our hearts and spirits to recognize Christ among us in every moment of our lives, in both the bright promising mornings and the dark terrifying nights.

Connections MediaCom 2020

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS

Facebook and YouTube – manlyfreshwaterparish

Youtube – access through playlist

Saturday 6pm Mass

Parish Pastoral Council: Paul Pervan (Chair), Ian Press (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dent (Secretary), Ivica Covic; Laurie de Ambrosis; Joanne Druery; Robert Marshall; Michael McGrath
St Mary's Primary School 9977 2225 Principal: Paul McGuire
St John the Baptist Primary School 9939 6699 Principal: Judy Slattery
St Paul's Catholic College 9977 5111 Principal: Chris Browne
Stella Maris College 9977 5144 Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie



KEEP IN TOUCH

During this time, we would like to keep in touch and offer support to our Parishioners.

Over the past weeks we have been able to email our bulletin out to over 1500 people which is great, **BUT** we know that we have a large number of Parishioners who do not have access to a mobile phone or the internet.

If you have a neighbour or friend who has not received an email, it may be that we don't have their email address or that they don't have one.

Please ask them to call the office on 9977 5822 or email your details to

Manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au.

Each week we will be printing the Parish bulletin and leaving copies in the foyer of the Parish Centre at Manly and the Church entrance at St John's, Freshwater and they will be available for collection each day (including the weekends).



Home Delivery - Last weekend around

60 bulletins were delivered to our Parishioners who do not have access to the internet. If you are able to spare some time on Friday to deliver some bulletins, please call the Parish Office on 9977 5822.

April 2020	Year A
Mon 27/4 – 3rd week of Easter	Acts 6:8; Jn 6:22-29
Tue 28/4 – St Peter Chanel	Acts 7:51-8:1 Jn 6:30-35
Wed 29/4 – St Catherine of Siena	Acts 8:1-8; Jn 6:35-40
Thurs 30/4 – 3rd week of Easter	Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51
Fri 1/5 – 3rd week of Easter	Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59
Sat 2/5 – St Athanasius	Acts 9:31-42 Jn 6:60-69
Sun 3/5 – Third Sunday of Easter	
Acts 2:14,36-41; 1 Pet 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10	

LET US PRAY FOR

26 April 2020

Recently Deceased: Mary Wyburn, Martina Madut

Anniversary: Terry Morgan, Lorna Mary Cumins

Prayers for the sick in our parish: Eugenia Cavazzoni, Gavin Greenwood, Zacchaeus Emmanuel Joseph Ratnam; Mark Taylor; Kay Flenady; Leon Cochrane; Robina Dwyer; Ann Irvin; Prionsias Kearney; Brian Davies; Majella McLoughlin; Debbie Vernon; Desmond Connors; Lauren Hannahan; Rosalba Galuis; Vanessa Squirrel; Judith McKenzie; Jonathan Keil; Les Reilly; Wayne Smedley; MargaretBurridge; John Beninati



Pope Francis

In the time of trial that we are presently undergoing, we experience our frailty. We need the Lord, who sees a irresistible beauty beyond that frailty. With Him we rediscover how precious

we are, even in our vulnerability.

Parish Priest: Fr David Taylor

Assistant Priest: Fr Paul Kim

Parish Secretaries: Jenny Beninati
Paula Martin

Pastoral Coordinator: Michelle Ellis

Administration Office:

After Hours Urgent Sick Calls:

0499 910 010

Presbytery: 9977 2100

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

Reconciliation: Manly Sat 10am – 11am

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook:

[facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish](https://www.facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish)

YouTube: [Manlyfreshwaterparish](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2EIGEu7)

Or bit.ly/2EIGEu7 or [frpaulkim](https://www.facebook.com/frpaulkim)

(one word with no space). You can view the YouTube videos thru the parish facebook, click on the link

Parish website:

bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Now available to everyone online at

www.catholicweekly.com.au

Visiting sick at home - If you, or if you know of anyone who are unwell and would like a home visit please contact the parish office 9977 5822 to organise for Communion or Anointing.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays 10am -11am in the Parish Centre at Manly



Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



The Keep in Touch Project

Dear Friends,
Here at Manly Freshwater Parish we aim to find new ways of witnessing to God's love in our Community.

During the COVID 19 pandemic most of us have had to stay at home in lockdown.

I am now becoming more aware that many of us are finding that this self isolation is really hard going.

The Keep in Touch Project is one way in which our Parish can reach out to fellow parishioners to let them know that they have not been forgotten or abandoned.

What we hope to set up is a program involving a small group of volunteers from within the Parish who will telephone Parishioners in their homes to check how they are going and also where appropriate to offer practical help such as shopping for essential goods.

If you like to know more about getting involved please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822 or email manlyfreshwaterparish@dbbcatholic.org.au.

Fr David

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH THROUGH COVID-19

Even though we are unable to gather together for Mass on Sundays, much of the life of the parish is continuing. Most of our parish income comes from your donations given at Mass, either in planned giving envelopes, direct debit or loose on the second collection as well as your generous support of our Priests through the first collection.

As there are no Sunday Masses during the present shutdown our parish income has therefore dropped dramatically. Like many we have reduced our costs in parish and presbytery expenses.. We are also accessing assistance from the Governments JobKeeper Program.

However, unfortunately most of our costs are fixed, such as insurance, utilities, IT contracts, phone lines and Parish maintenance and repairs.

For those on Planned Giving Program through credit cards and direct debt, we are very grateful for your continued support.

For those who have supported us for many years by placing your donations or envelopes on the collection plate, we couldn't exist without you. In our parish, your contributions make up a major part of our income.

While our two Churches are closed we ask those of you who normally make their offerings in cash or through the envelopes on the plate, to please consider using our Planned Giving Program by **Credit Card**. If you would like to contribute by Credit Card please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822 or manlyfreshwaterparish@dbbcatholic.org.au.

Alternatively you can make a donation **directly to our Parish Bank Accounts**. (details below)

Parish Bank Account -2nd collection funds the running of the Parish

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Acc# 13958001

BSB - 062 784 Please include your name as reference or envelope number

Parish Bank Account -1st collection Support of our Priests

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Acc# 13958002
BSB - 062 784

Your regular donation will give the parish a reliable income so that we can be here to support people who are in need right now, and to be ready for you when we can worship and celebrate the Liturgy again together.

I am very grateful for your continued prayers and support. You are in my daily prayers.

Fr David



St Vincent De Paul Notice during COVID-19 lockdown

For assistance with food, clothing or other emergencies please call St Vincent de Paul Northern Beaches Regional Office 9905 0424.

If you would like to donate non perishable food, it can be dropped off at 684 Pittwater Road, Brookvale- rear entrance (off the carpark)

If you wish to donate clothing it will be accepted at the SVDP Shop Brookvale, Rogers Street, between 9am - 3pm.



PIETY STORE MANLY

As You are aware the Church is closed but the Piety store will continue to operate. If you would like to purchase any items please call into the Parish

Office during working hours.

The Piety Store has a wide range of goods including Bibles, Divine Mercy items, rosaries, CD's and much more.

ANZAC DAY MASS

Bishop Anthony will be celebrating Mass at the Cathedral to commemorate ANZAC day..

Date: Saturday 25 April **Time:** 9:30am

Livestream: right click- open hyperlink

[Hornsby Cathedral Parish YouTube Channel](#)





During the week the Requiem Mass for Mary Wyburn was celebrated at Freshwater with Fr David and Mary's immediate family.

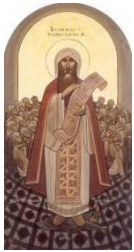


Please remember Mary and her family in your prayers.

HOLY WATER – Blessed "holy water" is really Easter water, the water of Baptism. Fr David has blessed holy water which is available to anyone who would like to bring a container to collect some. The Urn with the water will be in the foyer of the Parish Centre.



The PPC meeting will meet next Wednesday using zoom.



Saturday 2nd May is the Feast day of St Athanasius (one of our Parish Patron Saints)

"St Athanasius was born at Alexandria in 295. He attended the Council of Nicaea, in 325, which had been called to rebut the heresy of Arius, which denied the divinity of Christ. Arius was also an Alexandrian. Athanasius became bishop of Alexandria in 328, and was tireless in combatting the heresy. He was exiled five times for his persistence. He wrote brilliantly, both in defence of doctrine, and on spiritual matters

Father,
 you raised up Saint Athanasius to be an outstanding defender of the truth of Christ's divinity. By his teaching and protection may we grow in your knowledge and love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Manly Freshwater Parish promotes **SAFEGUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, common sense and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our community

Pentecost Pilgrimage

You are invited to join Catholics around the world to take part in the Global Virtual Pentecost Pilgrimage, commencing this **Sunday 26 April.**

Over 6-weeks, every Wednesday and Sunday, formative and prayerful videos from world renowned Catholic scholars and leaders will be released. Watch these with parishioners, family or friends or individually. The videos will focus on Sunday readings and the role of the Holy Spirit in our Church and the world.

After viewing the video, time to reflect in small groups, using the Zoom platform, provides an opportunity to engage with one another as a faith community.

Speakers will include Biblical Scholar Dr Mary Healy and Dr Ralph Martin. Register online pentecostpilgrimage.com



Laudate (App) This free App has a large number of resources at hand, including the day's Readings; the Liturgy of the Hours; the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Prayers. Download for Apple and Android.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference information online about streamed Masses and prayers on ACBC website in coronavirus portal: www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus

Pray As You Go Start the day with a reflection on the day's Reading, with music, Scripture reading, and guided reflection. A simple way to connect with the Church's liturgy and to bring God into your day. Approximately 15 minutes.

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/> or download App on Apple or Android

Learning from Home SRE

Lessons The Department of Education has approved the continuation of SRE classes during the COVID-19 period via a Learning from Home model.



Our Diocesan CCD team have been working hard to adapt lessons into PowerPoint format so that they can be delivered online. Schools will be able to share a link to the lessons on our website so that students and families can easily access these lessons at home

While catechists cannot be involved in the lesson delivery at this time, they will be provided with suggestions for staying spiritually connected with the children they teach. Catechists are encouraged to continue praying for the children and their families, allowing space for the Holy Spirit to work in the students' lives and forming catechists for the time when they will return to the classrooms to teach.

How the sick became precious

by Tom Holland

copyright The Tablet 15th April 2020

Coronavirus pandemic



Rembrandt's 'Christ Healing the Sick' c. 1649
CNS/courtesy The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

The Roman empire created the perfect conditions for the first recorded

pandemic. It also created the conditions for a radical Christian revolution of love

At the end of days, seven angels will pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the Earth – and the first of these will be a plague of sores. So it was written in the book of Revelation. The echo was of the sixth plague to strike the Egyptians back in the days of the Exodus, when Moses had been ordered by God to toss handfuls of soot from a furnace into the air, and they had become a fine dust over Egypt, and festering boils had broken out on men and animals across the entire land.

Yet as well as the similarities between the two plagues, there was a telling difference. The sickness that struck the Egyptians – like the one that struck the Philistines after their capture of the Ark of the Covenant, or the Assyrians as they lay camped before the walls of Jerusalem – was not universal. That seen by St John in his vision of the Apocalypse was. He wrote as someone who could imagine all the cities of the world shaken by one single calamity, and collapsing before it. In this, in his capacity to think on a global scale, he was recognisably a man of his age: a man who lived as a subject of the empire of Rome.

The claim of the Caesars to rule a dominion without limits was, of course, propaganda – and yet it was propaganda to which their enemies as well as their admirers might well prove susceptible. The book of Revelation was simultaneously the most ferocious attack on Roman imperialism ever written, and an involuntary tribute to the potency of its sway. If Babylon was the mother of harlots, then so also had all the nations drunk of her wine. Perhaps only a man capable of recognising that Roman wealth and power were fed by trade links spanning the Mediterranean and beyond could have imagined the entire world succumbing to a single pestilence. Certainly, St John's vision was to prove prophetic.

In ad 65, three decades or so before the composition of Revelation, plague had hit Rome. The deaths of 30,000 people had been recorded in the ledger kept in the temple of Libitina. Historians would commemorate it as one of the many calamities that

had blotted the reign of Nero: the Caesar whose posthumous shadow would come to lie so dark across the book of Revelation. Yet the outbreak had been confined to Rome. The impact of the plague had been localised. That an epidemic might sweep the entire empire was a nightmare that neither emperor, nor historian, nor physician thought to contemplate – for it had never happened before. Only by lifting the veil that concealed the future from the present could the possibility be discerned.

The years passed, and the decades. Then, a full century after St John had experienced his apokalupsis, his "lifting of the veil", pandemic came at last to the Roman world. The Caesars, by joining disparate lands within a single political order, and bringing the treasures of Africa and Asia to the teeming cities of their dominion, turned out to have created the perfect conditions for novel diseases to spread on an unprecedented scale.

First, at the end of the second century, and then again in the middle of the third, bowls of wrath were poured out on the Roman empire. Of the second pandemic, a historian would subsequently record that "there was almost no province of Rome, no city, no house, which was not attacked and emptied by this general pestilence".

Did it mark, then, the breaking of the cities of the world foretold by St John? Many Christians believed so. Fatefully, however, it was not as worshippers of a God of wrath that they would come to be viewed by many of their fellow citizens, but as worshippers of a God of love: for it was observed by many in plague-ravaged cities how, "heedless of the danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ". Obedient to the commands of their Saviour, who had told them that to care for the least of their brothers and sisters was to care for him, and confident in the promise of eternal life, large numbers of them were able to stand firm against dread of the plague, and tend to those afflicted by it.

The compassion they showed to the sick – and not just to the Christian sick – was widely noted, and would have enduring consequences. Emerging from the terrible years of plague, the Church found itself steeled in its sense of mission. For the first time in history, an institution existed that believed itself called to provide compassion and medical care to every level of society.

The revolutionary implications of this, in a world where it had always been taken for granted that doctors were yet another perk of the rich, could hardly be overstated. The sick, rather than disgusting and repelling Christians, provided them with something they saw as infinitely precious: an opportunity to demonstrate their love of Christ.

Jesus himself, asked by a centurion to heal his servant of a mortal illness, had marvelled that a

Roman should place such confidence in him – and duly healed the officer’s servant. By the beginning of the fourth century, not even their bitterest enemies could deny Christians success when it came to tending the sick. In Armenia, the Zoroastrian priests who marked down the Krestayne as purveyors of witchcraft were at the same time paying them a compliment. When the Armenian king became the first ruler to proclaim his realm a Christian land in 301, his conversion followed the success of a Christian holy man in curing him of insanity – and specifically of the conviction that he was a wild boar.

Then, just over a decade later, an even greater ruler was brought to Christ. Constantine embraced Christianity, not out of any concern for the unfortunate, but out of the far more traditional desire for a divine patron who would bring him victory in battle; but this did not mean, once the successful establishment of his regime had served to legitimate Christianity, that Christians among the ranks of the Roman elite turned a blind eye to their responsibility towards the sick.

Quite the opposite: “Do not despise these people in their abjection; do not think they merit no respect.” So urged Gregory, an aristocrat from Cappadocia who in 372, 60 years after Constantine’s conversion, became the bishop of a small town named Nyssa. “Reflect on who they are, and you will understand their dignity; they have taken upon them the person of our Saviour. For he, the compassionate, has given them his own person.”

With these words, Gregory spoke for an entire generation of the wealthy: men who in previous generations might have flaunted their rank by endowing their cities with theatres, or temples, or bath houses, but who now, in a Roman empire brought to Christ, had begun to find in the Church a vent for their ambitions.

It was not Gregory, however, but his elder brother who gave the most consequential expression to this impulse. In 369, three years before Gregory became bishop of Nyssa, Basil was appointed bishop of the neighbouring city of Caesarea. The times were dark. Cappadocia was ravaged by famine. Such were the sufferings of Basil’s flock that it prompted him to embark on a novel and momentous building project.

Other Christian leaders before him had built ptocheia, or “poor houses” – but none on such a sprawling and ambitious scale. The Basileias, as it came to be known, was described by one awe-struck admirer as a veritable city, and incorporated, as well as shelter for the poor, what ranked in effect as the first hospital.

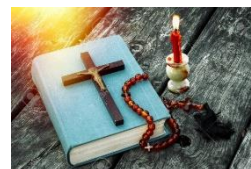
Basil, who had studied medicine at Athens, did not himself scorn to tend the sick. Even lepers, whose deformities and suppurations rendered them objects of particular revulsion, might be welcomed by the bishop with a kiss, and given both refuge and care.

Here, in a world that had always taken for granted that physical health and beauty served as the index of a person’s moral worth, was the expression of a truly seismic revolution. The more broken men and women were, the readier was Basil to glimpse Christ in them.

Over the centuries, and then the millennia, Basil was to have many heirs. Indeed, the habit of sponsoring hospitals was to prove one of the most distinctive characteristics of Christian civilisation. Previously, in the Roman world, they had existed exclusively to keep soldiers and field slaves alive. Now, in the century that followed Constantine’s conversion, the wealthy increasingly invested in medical facilities as a way of relieving the sufferings of the poor.

Fabiola, the Christian noblewoman who founded Rome’s first public hospital at much the same time as the Basileias was opening for business, would regularly tour the streets of the city, looking for those who needed care.

Today, when we take for granted the responsibility of the healthy to the sick, and the readiness of medical staff to risk their lives for those in their care, we should not imagine that such compassion for the victims of a pandemic is merely the expression of “human nature” – because it is not. It is the expression of something far more interesting, unexpected and momentous: a revolution in how the Roman world came to understand the meaning of love.



The Mass is streamed live each Week – here are some suggestions on how to watch the Mass online in a spiritual and fruitful way:

- Prepare yourself and take time out of your Saturday night or Sunday to watch the Mass.
- Create a prayer space:
 - Include symbols such as a Cross, Rosary beads, a Bible or even flowers;
 - Light a candle;
 - Foster an atmosphere that allows for reflection, praise, thanksgiving and intercession.
- Be fully present and participate in the Mass as much as possible
 - Make the Sign of the Cross;
 - Sit down, stand and kneel at the appropriate times;
 - Join in the responses as you would normally;
 - Read the Readings for the Mass;
 - Sing hymns and songs;
 - Recite the prayer for spiritual communion.
 - Remain in silence and reflect prayerfully for

And remember that

*WE ARE THE CHURCH –
A CHURCH THAT WILL NEVER BE CLOSED.*

resolved; there, God becomes *my God*; there, we begin to accept ourselves and to love life as it is.



'The Lord waited for Thomas.

Mercy does not abandon those who stay behind'

Last Sunday we celebrated the Lord's resurrection; today we witness the resurrection of his disciple. It has already been a week, a week since the disciples had seen the Risen Lord, but in spite of this, they remained fearful, cringing behind "closed doors" (Jn20:26), unable even to convince Thomas, the only one absent, of the resurrection. What does Jesus do in the face of this timorous lack of belief? He returns and, standing in the same place, "in the midst" of the disciples, he repeats his greeting: "Peace be with you!" (Jn20:19, 26). He starts all over. The resurrection of his disciple begins here, from this *faithful and patient mercy*, from the discovery that God never tires of reaching out to lift us up when we fall. He wants us to see him, not as a taskmaster with whom we have to settle accounts, but as our Father who always raises us up. In life we go forward tentatively, uncertainly, like a toddler who takes a few steps and falls; a few steps more and falls again, yet each time his father puts him back on his feet. The hand that always puts us back on our feet is mercy: God knows that without mercy we will remain on the ground, that in order to keep walking, we need to be put back on our feet.

You may object: "But I keep falling!". The Lord knows this and he is always ready to raise you up. He does not want us to keep thinking about our failings; rather, he wants us to look to him. For when we fall, he sees children needing to be put back on their feet; in our failings he sees children in need of his merciful love. Today, in this church that has become a shrine of mercy in Rome, and on this Sunday that Saint John Paul II dedicated to Divine Mercy twenty years ago, we confidently welcome this message. Jesus said to Saint Faustina: "I am love and mercy itself; there is no human misery that could measure up to my mercy" (*Diary*, 14 September 1937). At one time, the Saint, with satisfaction, told Jesus that she had offered him all of her life and all that she had. But Jesus' answer stunned her: "You have not offered me the thing is truly yours". What had that holy nun kept for herself? Jesus said to her with kindness: "My daughter, give me your failings" (10 October 1937). We too can ask ourselves: "Have I given my failings to the Lord? Have I let him see me fall so that he can raise me up?" Or is there something I still keep inside me? A sin, a regret from the past, a wound that I have inside, a grudge against someone, an idea about a particular person... The Lord waits for us to offer him our failings so that he can help us experience his mercy.

Let us go back to the disciples. They had abandoned the Lord at his Passion and felt guilty. But meeting them, Jesus did not give a long sermon. To them, who were wounded within, he shows his own wounds. Thomas can now touch them and know of Jesus' love and how much Jesus had suffered for him, even though he had abandoned him. In those wounds, he touches with his hands God's tender closeness. Thomas arrived late, but once he received mercy, he overtook the other disciples: he believed not only in the resurrection, but in the boundless love of God. And he makes the most simple and beautiful profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). Here is the resurrection of the disciple: it is accomplished when his frail and wounded humanity enters into that of Jesus. There, every doubt is

Dear brothers and sisters, in the time of trial that we are presently undergoing, we too, like Thomas, with our fears and our doubts, have experienced our frailty. We need the Lord, who sees beyond that frailty an irrepressible beauty. With him we rediscover how precious we are even in our vulnerability. We discover that we are like beautiful crystals, fragile and at the same time precious. And if, like crystal, we are transparent before him, his light – the light of mercy – will shine in us and through us in the world. As the Letter of Peter said, this is a reason for being "filled with joy, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials" (1 Pt 1:6).

On this feast of Divine Mercy, the most beautiful message comes from Thomas, the disciple who arrived late; he was the only one missing. But the Lord waited for Thomas. Mercy does not abandon those who stay behind. Now, while we are looking forward to a slow and arduous recovery from the pandemic, there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that we may then be struck by an even worse virus, that of *selfish indifference*. A virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better for me, and that everything will be fine if it is fine for me. It begins there and ends up selecting one person over another, discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of progress. The present pandemic, however, reminds us that there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken by what is happening all around us: the time has come to eliminate inequalities, to heal the injustice that is undermining the health of the entire human family! Let us learn from the early Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles. It received mercy and lived with mercy: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need" (Acts 2:44-45). This is not some ideology: it is Christianity.

In that community, after the resurrection of Jesus, only one was left behind and the others waited for him. Today the opposite seems to be the case: a small part of the human family has moved ahead, while the majority has remained behind. Each of us could say: "These are complex problems, it is not my job to take care of the needy, others have to be concerned with it!". Saint Faustina, after meeting Jesus, wrote: "In a soul that is suffering we should see Jesus on the cross, not a parasite and a burden... [Lord] you give us the chance to practise deeds of mercy, and we practise making judgements" (*Diary*, 6 September 1937). Yet she herself complained one day to Jesus that, in being merciful, one is thought to be naive. She said, "Lord, they often abuse my goodness". And Jesus replied: "Never mind, don't let it bother you, just be merciful to everyone always" (24 December 1937). To everyone: let us not think only of our interests, our vested interests. Let us welcome this time of trial as an opportunity to prepare for our collective future. Because without an all-embracing vision, there will be no future for anyone.

Today the simple and disarming love of Jesus revives the heart of his disciple. Like the apostle Thomas, let us accept mercy, the salvation of the world. And let us show mercy to those who are most vulnerable; for only in this way will we build a new wor

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods- 21 April 2020

The Angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. For he has risen. Do not be afraid

These verses from the Easter narrative are fresh in our hearts and minds as we commemorate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Saviour over the fifty days of Easter.

The Easter liturgies that we celebrate recall the first appearance of Jesus after his resurrection. The evangelists all relate a similar story. To whom does he first appear? Is it to Peter? No! Is it to one of the other apostles? No! It was to the women.

It was to Mary Magdalene in particular that he initially appeared. And he appeared to her, not just to comfort her. At the very first meeting, he chose and sent her as an apostle. "Go and tell the others".ⁱ She went and shared the good news with the others. She was commissioned as the apostle to the apostles.

Mary went to the apostles with the message of Good News; however, it was all too much for them. Luke is quite honest about their reaction. This story of theirs "seemed to them an idle tale".ⁱⁱ Reason did not connect with faith. However, the hearts of Peter and John were touched, and they rushed off to the tomb. There they saw the stone rolled back and the linen cloths. This was the moment of reckoning. The Gospel tells us that at this point they believed.

Peter and John found the fullness of faith through the good news brought to them by a woman. Down through the ages, women have been wonderful evangelizers. They have passed on the faith from generation to generation. I think of my own family where for seven generations we have had two bishops, two Carmelite friars, and four Diocesan priests. In each generation, there has been a band of faith-filled women nurturing and evangelizing members of the family and community.ⁱⁱⁱ

This Easter we celebrate with great joy, Christ our Risen Saviour! Jesus died and rose again to redeem all of creation. Let us be challenged and encouraged by this Easter message, as were Peter and John.^{iv} Let us be caught up in the joyful privilege of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with all men and women so that they may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.

Men, women, boys and girls, the new life of Easter is for you! The life of faith is one to be lived and shared with others. As a believer, who would not want to go and tell others? The Good News of Jesus Christ is the only news that is good for everyone. Our mission is to make it known to everyone. As disciples of the Lord, our duty is to make the faith known more widely and deeply. Firstly, we must be instructed and formed in it more completely. Moreover,

as evangelizers for Christ, we must search for ways to live and present the faith in ways that meet the needs of our time.^v To pass on the Easter message is our vocation. The Risen Christ asks you, just as he asked Mary Magdalene, "Go and tell the others".

The Good News of Jesus Christ liberates us from the lie that says we must hide our imperfections, our sins and our weaknesses so that we can be strong, accepted, even loved by the world around us. It is in this context that we are able to make sense of the challenges facing the Church in Australia in our own time.

Echoing the words of Saint Paul VI, Francis encourages us not to forget our mission. "The Church must look with penetrating eyes within herself; ponder the mystery of her own being..."^{vi}

Saint Paul VI, and by extension Pope Francis, invites us to enter into Christ, and continuously delve the mystery of the Body of Christ. If we accept this invitation, we are given the opportunity to let the Spirit overcome and correct the problems that face us and that have watered down our ability to preach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is a great temptation to think that we in the Church are the healthy and vibrant saviours to the bruised and hurting out there in the world.

The Holy Father reminds us, however, that for the Church to be healthy and to fulfil her mission, she must understand that we too are "bruised and hurting", and we too are in need of the Saviour.^{vii}

Pope Francis urges us to commit ourselves to ongoing self-examination and to the purification of our desires, which springs from the acknowledgement of our need for God's mercy. This is not a one-off event, but an everyday way of living the Gospel. It is something that we are called to do in our local Church of Broken Bay for the fifty days of Easter, and indeed, each and every day of our lives.

My sisters and brothers let us share our Easter joy with everyone we meet.

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

Christus resurrexit! Resurrexit vere!

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

¹ Matthew 28:2; 5-7

¹ Matthew 28:10

¹ Luke 24:11

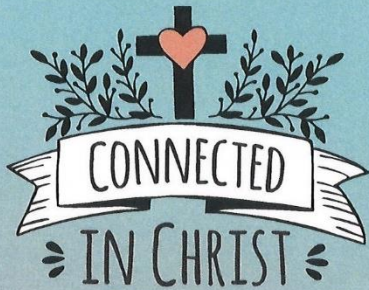
¹ In this vast domain of service, the Church's two-thousand-year history, for all its historical conditioning, has truly experienced the "genius of woman"; from the heart of the Church there have emerged women of the highest calibre who have left an impressive and beneficial mark in history. I think of the great line of woman martyrs, saints and famous mystics. In a particular way I think of Saint Catherine of Siena and of Saint Teresa of Avila, whom Pope Paul VI of happy memory granted the title of Doctors of the Church. And how can we overlook the many women, inspired by faith, who were responsible for initiatives of extraordinary social importance, especially in serving the poorest of the poor? The life of the Church in the Third Millennium will certainly not be lacking in new and surprising manifestations of "the feminine genius". John Paul II, *Letter to Women* 11

¹ cf. John 20:6-8

¹ The split between the Gospel and culture is without a doubt the drama of our time, just as it was of other times. Therefore, every effort must be made to ensure a full evangelization of culture, or more correctly of cultures. They have to be regenerated by an encounter with the Gospel. But this encounter will not take place if the Gospel is not proclaimed. Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 20

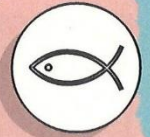
¹ Paul VI, *Ecclesiam suam* 9

¹ Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 49



WELCOME TO THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us acknowledge Christ in our lives and the beautiful gift of faith we have been given through the power of the Holy Spirit and through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, that we may believe and live a life according to his plan and will. We, like St Peter Chanel, are missionaries, called to take the faith to others, that they may encounter and come to know the Risen Christ, and so that when we meet him on the road, our eyes are open, and we are able to recognise him always as he accompanies us.



GOSPEL READING: LUKE 24:31

"And their eyes were opened, and they recognised Him"

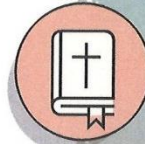
Read the full text at

<https://www.universalis.com/Australia/mass.htm>

REFLECTION:

"Jesus wanted the Emmaus disciples to see for themselves that God had not lost control of His Creation, even in the disaster they had recently experienced"

<https://catholicexchange.com/scripture-speaks-road-emmaus>



PRAYER:

Lord, as we walk down the journey of life, we ask that you would be our constant companion, particularly on those days when we are disheartened or when we have strayed off your path.

When we are downcast, we ask that you lift our spirits. When we are confused, we ask that you enlighten our minds. When we are disappointed, we ask that you give us hope. **Amen**

<http://catholichotdish.com/the-pastors-page/emmaus-prayer/>



SAINT:

28-April St Peter Chanel – priest, missionary and martyr, was passionate about sharing the Good News and travelled to various countries including Tonga, Canary Islands, Chile, India, to proclaim the Risen Christ. After serving the people on the small island of Futuna in the South Pacific, Peter Chanel was murdered by order of the king, due to fear and jealousy. Within a few years of Peter Chanel's death, the entire island converted to Christianity.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Heart to Heart – Stepping Stones:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqehAW00ImU>

The Good Oil - Article:

<https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/so-this-is-easter-a-moment-in-history-a-moment-like-none-other/>

SONG:

Be Thou My Vision – Audrey Assad:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s>

THIS WEEK:

Make an examination of conscience each day, recognising Jesus' presence throughout your day.

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES:

Road to Emmaus video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34zqp750auM>

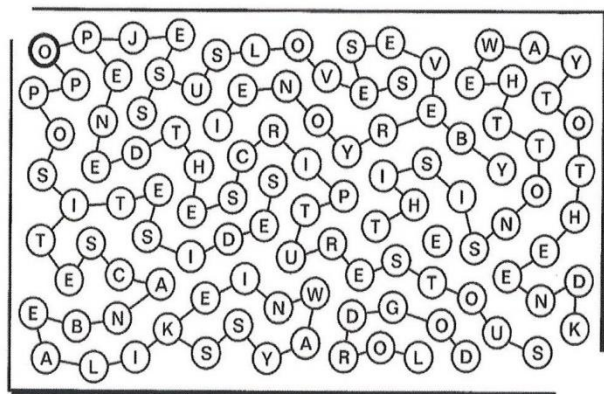
Who Is Jesus? – Catholic Central:

<https://www.catholiccentral.com/catholic-central-episodes/whoisjesus>



Cleopas and a companion were walking along the road to Emmaus when Jesus joined them. They didn't recognize him until he revealed himself after the evening meal. Then he disappeared. What was the men's comment afterwards?

The path of circles below will lead you to the answer. Follow the correct path to the end and record all the letters in the spaces provided.



"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and

https://freesundayschoolcurriculum.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/5/0/12503916/lesson_74_jesus_walks_with_two_friends.pdf

MORE RESOURCES AT:

bbcatholic.org.au/connected



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:14, 22-33 (JB)

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.
So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy:
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.'

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.' he word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11 (JB)

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R.**



I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life,
and the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1 Peter 1:17-21 (JB)

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf Luke 24:32 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35 (JB)

reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

The readings this Sunday are full of the firm faith in the resurrection of Jesus, both in the teachings of St Peter and in the witness of the disciples in Emmaus.

The **First Reading** gives us the first part of Peter's rousing address to the crowd at Pentecost. Filled with the Spirit, he tells them about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and how all of this was a result of God's plan.

He quotes Psalm 15 (16), our **Responsorial Psalm**, in which the resurrection of Jesus is fulfilled – *you will not leave my soul among the dead.*

The **Second Reading**, St Peter again, is a reminder that we have been ransomed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Our faith and hope are based in the God who raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory.

The **Gospel** gives us the moving story of the two disciples who meet the risen Jesus on the way to Emmaus. They only recognize him in 'the breaking of bread.'

Like the disciples, may we be open to the Lord this week in whatever difficult circumstances we experience. *Pathways to God 2020*



Come to
Our Lady
Undoer of
Knots
for her help

Let the
Blessed
Mother undo
the difficult
knots in your
life.

Simplicity Funerals



**Jenny Smith,
Funeral Director**

340 Sydney Rd
Balgowlah
9907 9765

Offering Australia's leading prepaid funeral plan.

All area
Australian owned.

www.simplicityfunerals.com.au



GREGORY & CARR TRADITIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Mona Vale

1741 Pittwater Rd
9999 1522

Brookvale

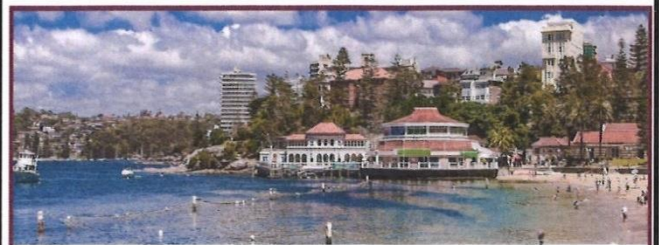
555 Pittwater Rd
9977 8011

Gordon

850 Pacific Hwy
9498 4455

www.gregoryandcarrfunerals.com.au

Family Owned & Operated



LOCAL PEOPLE CARING FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

Our team live, work and play on the Beaches.
We understand our local community and are here for you 24/7.

ANN WILSON FUNERALS

Contact us to find out more.

844 Pittwater Road, Dee Why
9971 4224

Cnr Barrenjoey Road & Darley Street, Mona Vale
9979 5978

annwilsonfunerals.com.au



'Providing outstanding service to our community for over 65 years'

Residential, commercial & industrial installations and repairs

- Lights & Power
- Stoves & Hot water
- Telephone & Internet

FREE QUOTATIONS
PLEASE CALL BEN

9948 3799
0418 419 718



St Mary's Primary Catholic School K - 6

Denison Street,
Manly
9977 2225



St John the Baptist Primary Catholic School K - 6

7 Johnson St,
Freshwater
9939 6699

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE



A Catholic Girls' College of
Good Samaritan Education.

**inclusive
inspiring
innovative**

Living and learning
Benedictine values in the
21st Century.

9977 5144
52 Eurobin Avenue,
Manly NSW 2095
www.stellamaris.nsw.edu.au



St Paul's Catholic College Manly

St Paul's is a Catholic high school
for boys in Years 7 to 12

**Respect
Responsibility
Results
Reverence**

Darley Road, Manly
Ph: 9977 5111
Fax: 9977 0959

www.stpaulsmanly.nsw.edu.au

E: stpauls@dbb.edu.au

HAMER & HAMER BALGOWLAH *Solicitors*

*Conveyancing
Wills, Powers of Attorney
and Enduring Guardianships
Probate
Family Law
Retail and Commercial Leasing
Small Business and
Commercial Matters*

Brian Hamer
Murray Hamer
Sadie Hamer

Suite 4 Kaill House,
383 Sydney Road Balgowlah
T 9949 4022
F 9907 9751
W www.hamerlawyers.com.au

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING

**Please contact the
parish office
9977 5822
if you are
interested.**

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING

**Please contact
the
parish office
9977 5822
if you are
interested.**

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING

**Please contact
the
parish office
9977 5822
if you are
interested.**

i

ii

iii

v