



Diocese of Broken Bay

MANLY FRESHWATER PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist, Freshwater

Divine Mercy Sunday - Second Sunday of Easter
19th April 2020

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS

Facebook and YouTube – manlyfreshwaterparish

Once you are at our Facebook page, look for and click on video on the left side of the page (a personal facebook account is not required).

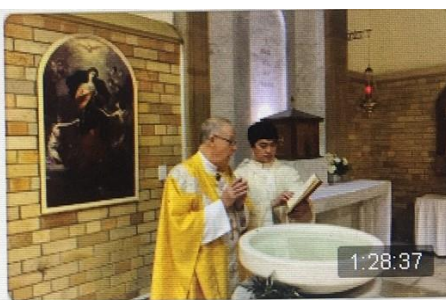
Saturday 6pm Mass and Sunday 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

Celebrating Holy Week



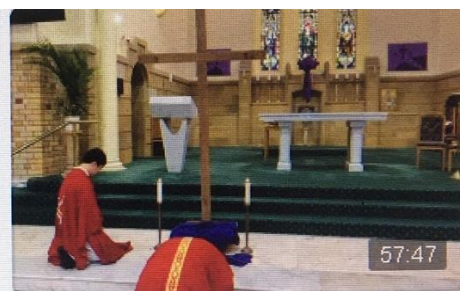
Alleluia! Easter Sunday Mass - Manly Freshwater Parish - 12 April 2020

3 days ago · 899 views



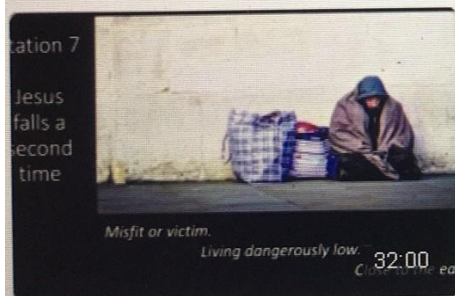
Easter Vigil

3 days ago · 3.3K views

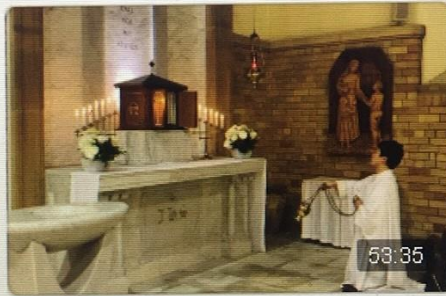


Celebration of the Passion of the Lord - Manly Freshwater Parish - 10 April...

5 days ago · 531 views



Stations of the Cross - Good Friday 2020 - Manly Freshwater Parish. Tha...



Mass of the Lord's Supper

5 days ago · 621 views



A greeting from Fr David and Fr Paul from Manly Freshwater Parish ❤️

Dear Friends - Easter Greetings!

I pray you are all well. I was just talking to a tradesman who is doing some work on our parish school at Manly. He was saying that he wakes up in the morning feeling anxious about his health, will he catch COVID 19 and will he recover or not. I suppose many of us are feeling much the same. We are trying to make sense of our rapidly changed world and trying to adapt to it. Does our Celebration of Easter help us in this situation?

I remember the first time I attended my full Easter Triduum in 1969. I was living in Brisbane. The liturgy was now in English and I recall clearly the beauty, wonder and power of The Last Supper Mass on Holy Thursday, The Stations of the Cross and the Lord's Passion on Good Friday and the Great Easter Vigil, which began at 11.00pm on Holy Saturday Night and the Mass of the Resurrection at Midnight. When I finally got to bed about 2.00am on Sunday, I was exhausted and couldn't believe what I had just participated in. I was part of the choir.

Cont. on page 3

Parish Pastoral Council: Paul Pervan (Chair), Ian Press (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dent (Secretary), Ivica Covic; Laurie de Ambrosis; Joanne Drury; 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

Have You Considered Giving Your Weekly Offering Online

If you would like to continue supporting the Parish financially during these difficult times you may wish to use one of the following options:

Direct Deposit

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank

Acc# 13958001

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

Or

Credit Card – Contact the Parish Office by email and we will call you back

or through our website – on the front page Payments/donations



April 2020

Mon 20/4 – 2nd week of Easter

Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

Tue 21/4 – 2nd week of Easter

Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15

Wed 22/4 – 2nd week of Easter

Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

Thurs 23/4 – 2nd week of Easter

Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

Fri 24/4 – 2nd week of Easter

Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

Sat 25/4 – Anzac Day

Wis 3:1-9; 1 Cor 1:18-25; Jn 12:23-28

Sun 26/4 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14,22-33; 1 Pet 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

Year A

LET US PRAY FOR

19th April 2020

Recently Deceased: Mary Wyburn, Gerald McCulloch

Anniversary:

Prayers for the sick in our parish: Eugenia Cavazzoni, Gavin Greenwood, Zacchaeus Emmanuel Joseph Ratnam; Mark Taylor; Kay Flendy; 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; Margaret Burridge; John Beninati



Pope Francis 12th April

In this night, the Church's voice rings out "Christ, my hope, is risen!" This is a different "contagion", a message transmitted from heart to heart – for every human heart awaits this Good News. It is the contagion of hope. "Christ, my hope, is risen!"

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

YouTube: Manlyfreshwaterparish

Or bit.ly/2EIGEu7 or 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



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.

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

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



**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 an item 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.



Cont. from page 1

I still feel the same every Easter. Even though none of you could be physically present at our limited Easter Liturgies, you were spiritually present, every one of you, I felt you there. I felt that we all realized the presence of the Risen Christ amid these uncertain times. Jesus' blessing of Easter peace in this Sunday's gospel is a reality not just in times of joyful wonder, but especially in times of heartache, despair, anxiety and grief.

We can understand Thomas' scepticism; the death, hopelessness and uncertainty around us can swallow us up in cynicism and despair, but the outrageous news of Easter calls us to see beyond our own fears, sorrows and anger and recognise the blessings we have received and the blessings we have to give to each other.

May the Risen Christ Bless you all...Fr David

**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.



**PROJECT COMPASSION
'GO FURTHER TOGETHER'**

Thank you for supporting Project Compassion 2020.

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to

the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life-saving.

**DO YOU HAVE PROJECT COMPASSION
BOXES OR ENVELOPES TO HAND IN?**

PC Boxes and Envelopes can be returned to the Parish Office during working hours.

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at "lent.caritas.org.au" and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001.

Many blessings to you all during this great Octave of Easter. May the peace, hope and love of our risen Lord sustain you during these days of uncertainty.

An Easter message from
Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
*"May the blessings of the risen Lord
be with you all. Today, and every day!
Happy Easter"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5Jad928Brc&feature=youtu.be>

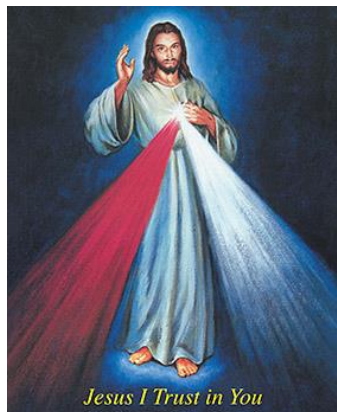
THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

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.

Divine Mercy Sunday – Fr Paul will be streaming the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm this Sunday 19th April. This can be viewed on manlyfreshwaterparish YouTube and Facebook

What to Do on Divine Mercy Sunday?



Even though churches are closed, and you cannot go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, you can receive these special graces this Sunday, April 19, Divine Mercy Sunday. And we're going to tell you how.

Let's begin by reading what is arguably the most important passage in St. Faustina's *Diary*, when

Jesus tells St. Faustina:

I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet (699).

There it is: Jesus promises that the soul that's been to Confession and receives Holy Communion will be completely wiped away of the two stains that are on our soul. Those stains are sin and the punishment due to sin. The special grace promised by our Lord for Divine Mercy Sunday is nothing less than the equivalent of a complete renewal of baptismal grace in the soul.

But how can you receive this complete forgiveness of sins and remission of all punishment? After all, churches are closed, and Confession and Communion are not available.

There is, however, still a way to receive this grace.

Do these three things on Divine Mercy Sunday with the intention to turn away from sin in your life:

1. Make an Act of Contrition

Since you are unable to get to Confession, make an Act of Contrition, instead. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "Among the penitent's acts contrition occupies first place. Contrition is 'sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together with the resolution not to sin again'" (1451).

You thereby will be completely forgiven of all sins, even "mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible" (*Catechism*, 1452).

2. Make a Spiritual Communion

Since churches are closed and you cannot receive Holy Communion, make a Spiritual Communion instead, asking God to come into your heart as if you received Him sacramentally — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Again, do this act of trust with the intent to return to the sacrament of Holy Communion as soon as possible.

Say a prayer like this:

Lord Jesus Christ, You promised St. Faustina that the soul that has been to Confession [I'm unable, but I made an Act of Contrition] and the soul that receives Holy Communion [I'm unable, but I made a Spiritual Communion] will receive the complete forgiveness of all sins and punishment. Please, Lord Jesus Christ, give me this grace.

Finally, please remember that this extraordinary promise of Divine Mercy Sunday is for everyone. Tell your non-Catholic friends about it. Everyone can ask Jesus to forgive their sins. Everyone can make a Spiritual Communion. And everyone can ask for this grace to completely wipe their slate clean of not only all sin, but all punishment due to sin. Normally, the punishment is not remitted unless one has absolute perfect contrition. And unlike a plenary indulgence, there is no requirement of having perfect detachment from sin. In other words, as long as we have a desire for this grace and intention to amend our lives, we can be completely cleansed with grace similar to our original Baptism. It is a way to really start over in our spiritual life!

That is why Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, has stated: "I promise you, it will be the most important thing you ever do in your entire life. And Jesus told St. Faustina, Divine Mercy is mankind's last hope of salvation [see *Diary*, 998]. Please don't let this grace pass you by." For more information

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions>

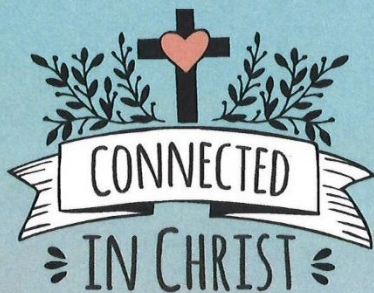
HOW TO PRAY THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Our Father, Hail Mary and Apostle's Creed
For each of the 5 decades (On each "Our Father" bead of the rosary, pray)

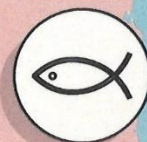
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

(On each of the 10 "Hail Mary" beads, pray)
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Concluding prayer (3 times) Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



WELCOME TO DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Devotion to the Divine Mercy is inspired by the apparitions of Jesus to St Maria Faustina. Divine Mercy reminds us of the gift of mercy given to each of us through Christ's death, burial and resurrection. In receiving the life-changing gift of mercy, we are called to show love and mercy to others, so that they may encounter Christ through our witness, and experience the mercy and peace of Christ.

READING – SECOND READING 1 PETER 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".

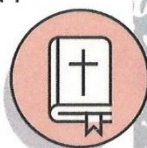
Read the full text at

<https://liturgyhelp.com/> (create a free account)

REFLECTION:

"Jesus' peace comes from a life of love and joy that's only available from God...God's love isn't just the pardon of a merciful judge; it's actually the warm embrace of a loving father".

<http://www.deaconpeter.org/year-c-2nd-sunday-of-easter/>



PRAYER:

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion - inexhaustible. Look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Amen.

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Diary of St Faustina – Reflections and Prayers

Desktop: <https://divinemercy.life/>

App: <https://appgrooves.com/app/the-diary-of-st-faustina-reflections-and-prayers-by-forget-me-not-apps/related>

St. Faustina: Prophet of Mercy – Knights of Columbus

Supreme Council: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLEN7gZ67F0>

SONG:

Run to the Father – Matt Maher:

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

THIS WEEK:

Pray the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** each day for your family and for all souls in purgatory.

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES:

St Faustina: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDSDQHTDFEKQs>

The Story of the Image of The Divine Mercy:
https://images.marianweb.net/archives/pdfs/momm/worksheets/The_Story_of_the_Image_B_K2-EL.pdf



https://images.marianweb.net/archives/pdfs/momm/worksheets/Divine_Mercy_Coloring_Picture.pdf

MORE RESOURCES AT:
bbcatholic.org.au/connected



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

The Diocesan Catholic Life & Faith Formation Team through the monthly enews offers support in the spiritual growth of individuals and faith communities. The following resources can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/parish-community/catholic-life-faith-formation/connect-with-us>



Taize The practice of Taize prayer is a reflective way to spend time with the Lord, in silence and prayer. Join the Taize Community from France each morning at 6.30am

via Facebook as the Brothers come together with Taize music and chanting. If you are unable to join them live in the morning, join them at any time of day and invite your friends to join you in a shared group setting.



An online retreat has been prepared by the Jesuit Communications staff.

With Jesus in the Desert: A retreat for a time of isolation

Initially the retreat was prepared for those who were needing to quarantine themselves for 14-days however, now that many have been encouraged to stay home and self-isolate to curb the spread of the virus, the online retreat is open to anyone to use at any time.

The resource can be followed for the entire 14-days or certain days can be chosen to use.



Virtual Catholic Conference

Join thousands of Catholic's around the globe this weekend for a free online conference being hosted by Focus, The Catholic Woodworker and other great Catholic organisations.

The conference has been divided into two, a men's

conference and a women's conference, to better meet the needs of each participant on their faith journey.

Speakers for the men's conference include Fr Mike Schmitz, Jeff Cavins, Matt Fradd and many more.

Speakers for the women's conference include Alicia & Mike Hernon, Sr Bethany Madonna and Sarah Kozak.

Connect with some friends this weekend, log in together and start the conference any time this weekend.

The virtual conference will be available in Australia between Saturday 4 April at 2am and Monday 6 April at 2pm.



During this period of isolation, stay connected by referring to the [Diocesan website](#) for continued updates on the situation as it evolves. Among updates on the Diocesan website there are many resources which can be used over this period which have been collated and made available, including links to streamed Masses. You can access these [resources here](#). Stay up to date on the Diocesan social media platforms. 'Like' our [Facebook page](#) Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)



Metanoia: A Journey with Christ into Conversion



The Wild Goose & 4PM Media This new 10-part documentary series is available online for free, for a limited time. Set on location throughout the Holy Land, journey with Fr Dave Pivonka, TOR, as he guides us to understand more deeply the person and message of Jesus and how this understanding continually transforms our life. Suitable for all ages. Watch individually, as a group or with your family.



Corona of Thorns

Brooklyn Park - Richmond Parish, South Australia

At a time where we are unable to receive the blessed sacrament, we are called and encouraged to unite ourselves to Christ through spiritual communion, a great way to do this is with the *Corona of Thorns* Podcast. Fr Peter Zwaans, from Brooklyn Park -Richmond Parish in South Australia, hosts a daily podcast guiding you through a process of receiving spiritual communion, so that we may continue to invite Jesus into our hearts.



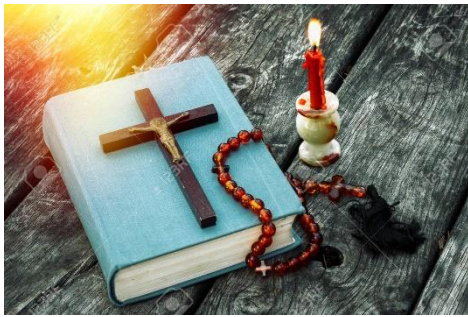
Pray As You Go Start the day with a reflection on the day's Reading, with music, Scripture reading, and guided reflection. A simple way to connect with the Church's liturgy and to bring God into your day. Approximately 15 minutes. <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> or download App on Apple or Android



CathFamily – Free access to CathKids until June 30 CathFamily is an Australian site offering family resources including activities, craft, recipes, games and seasonal rituals which are perfect for Lent. The CathKids section offers a weekly interactive experience on the Sunday reading, with a short animated video, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. A great way to engage children each Sunday.

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



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

Let us be prayerful, sensible and practical. Let us not panic or be disheartened. Let us remember the words that Jesus said in Matthew's Gospel: *But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."*

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

Ecumenical Prayer for Covid-19 Pandemic

Gracious God,
 We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
 We prayerfully seek your grace,
 amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
 We pray for those in need of healing.
 We pray for your peace with those
 who are anxious or grieving.
 We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain
 all those who are serving in response.
 We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment
 amidst the many choices and decisions
 facing our national, community and medical leaders.
 We pray we each might see quickly what more we
 can do to help those who are vulnerable.
 This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,
 with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



At the heart of today's Easter liturgy, we witness God's unending love and mercy at work in the midst of very human doubt and weakness.

In the **Gospel**, the risen Christ appears amongst the disciples in their hiding place. Blessed with the Holy Spirit, they are sent out to spread Christ's message of love, forgiveness and peace. Thomas is not with them and cannot believe what they tell him, but eight days later, Jesus returns and the reality of resurrection is revealed to Thomas in a personal way.

The **Second Reading** reminds us that the resurrection has reclaimed our birthright as children of God. We are encouraged to be mindful and joyful at this reality. This changes us and everything forever. Even in the trials and anxieties of the times we are living through, faith will always be enough.

The **First Reading** shows how the Early Church, filled with the Spirit of the risen Christ, lived out its faith. Its members are united in the breaking of bread, communal prayer, a spirit of shared generosity, and in compassionate acts of love. This is the life we are called to live too, even as today we face the challenge of maintaining our bonds of fellowship when we can no longer safely gather as a community. Christ is with us totally in the suffering of our longing to be together again.

United with Christians everywhere, and against a tide of doubt and scepticism, our faith-filled actions, expressed in small acts of kindness will declare with the **Psalmist**: 'His love has no end'.

At one with the Easter spirit of the Early Church, let's pray for each other, and especially for those facing trials because of their health or isolation. May we remain joyful in the certain knowledge of God's great mercy that has made us his children.

Pathways to God 2020



Urbi et Orbi - Extraordinary Moment of Prayer Pope Francis

An Urbi et Orbi is a papal address and apostolic blessing given by the Pope usually reserved for Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.

On 27 March Pope Francis gave a special Urbi et Orbi from the steps of St Peter's Basilica, the first time the blessing was delivered to an empty St Peter's Square. The special blessing was given in light of the gravity of the current, unprecedented global situation we find ourselves in, calling us to a strengthening in faith, hope and trust in the Lord. – the address is set out below...

"When evening had come" (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus' attitude. While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he stands in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps on soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus' trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38). Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: "Do you not care about me?" It is a phrase that

wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people's souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly "save" us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

"*Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?*" Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!"

"*Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?*" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: "Be converted!", "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive



events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: "That they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is

risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. Is 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter's rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God's blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: "Do not be afraid" (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us" (cf. 1 Pet 5:7)



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for her help

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

FAMILY PRAYER WEEK BY WEEK



Second Sunday of Easter - Year A

19 April 2020

"After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them."

Something to Think About

Closed doors and locked-in fears are no barriers for Jesus. He enters our homes and hearts to bring us peace. Just as he did for the disciples, Jesus sends us out to build communities of love and forgiveness.

The Story

It was evening on the first day of the week and the disciples were together in a locked room – they were scared of what the leaders would do to them. Then Jesus appeared among them, but Thomas was missing. When the other disciples told Thomas that Jesus has been with them, he did not believe them and became known as 'doubting Thomas'. Thomas refused to believe unless he saw Jesus for himself. A week later when the disciples, including Thomas, were together, Jesus appeared among them. Thomas saw Jesus and believed that he had risen.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

20:19-29

The disciples were afraid and they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy. Jesus said to them, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven." Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!" Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!" Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video:

[Jesus Appears to Thomas](#)



Divine Mercy Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Easter

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

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.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

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

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.

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.

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 Peter 1:3-9 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

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 had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a 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.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

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 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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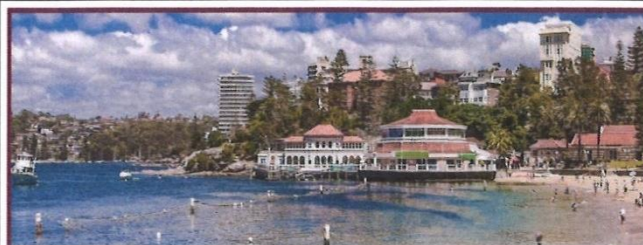
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