



# Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



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07 3291-5333

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(Safeguarding purposes only)

Easter Sunday

Year A

11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

## **"The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise"**

*Carl Knudsen*

The signs of Easter are all around us - cooler weather, school holidays, an upcoming long weekend, hot cross buns, but I know this season is very hard to celebrate. However the joy, peace and confidence that this season brings shouldn't be ignored but rather should be celebrated in spirit. For us, it is a time to reflect on some important events that took place over 2,000 years ago – the passion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We enter into the most sacred time of our faith with an open heart. No doubt, this is the foundation of the Christian faith. If Christ did not die and rise again, then our faith is useless (1 Corinthians 15:13-14). This Easter we remember that the Lord is risen! All things are possible with God! Yes, we will overcome these situations with courage and hope. Good news always overcomes bad news in the end when viewed with the eyes of faith, hope and love in Christ.

The Gospels tell us WHAT happened during this Passion Week. Tragically, Jesus was betrayed, denied, falsely accused and eventually killed by the cruel death of crucifixion at the hands of the Romans. We may face similar situations in our lives. Thankfully, three days later he rose from the dead and was seen by numerous witnesses. We are then told that Jesus ascended into heaven from which he would one day return. One thing we know is that Easter is a revelation of the love of God for all humanity.

The very first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. The disciples were locked in their houses; they were afraid. They wanted to believe in the good news. Eventually they were able to leave their locked homes and celebrated the spreading of the good news, which we too look forward to celebrating solemnly once we overcome this pandemic.

This year, we might get a taste of what the first Easter was like, still in our homes daring to believe that hope, peace and healing is not far from us. In a difficult situation, a hopeful people find the challenge and opportunity to do something great with God. Confident in our faith with an unwavering hope, the Lord also encourages us to stir up one another to love and good works. Easter reminds us that hope must never be lost for as dark as the road may seem, there always lies light at the end of it. I wish to thank you for all your support that you extend in the forms of time, talent and treasure in this situation to lift up our community. Let's be open to God and to this community with an open heart and mind to heal and to support. Let's remember that the story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise. May you find the renewal of hope, health, confidence, love and the spirit of God.

I wish HAPPY EASTER to you and your lovely family.  
God's Blessings  
Fr Joson MCBS

**Readings: Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2: 42-47

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

# Welcome to



# Triduum

We are preparing for a Holy Week like no other. The days of Holy Week and the Triduum are central to the liturgical life of the Church and are being celebrated this year under the restrictions, without a congregation. I will be celebrating our normal liturgies at the following times, and although you cannot be with me in person you might like to be with me in spirit at these times. We have included prayer leaflets, prepared by Liturgy Brisbane, which may assist you to celebrate this most important liturgical time.

Mass of the Lord's Supper	6:30pm	Stations of the Cross	10:00am	Easter Vigil Mass	6:30pm
		Passion of the Lord	3:00pm	Easter Sunday mass	7:00am

**Masses will also be livestreamed from St Stephen's Cathedral.**

Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross	10:00 am	Easter Vigil	7:00pm
		Passion of the Lord	3:00 pm	Easter Sunday	8:00am
				Easter Sunday	10:00am

## THE SACRED TRIDUUM - THREE HOLY DAYS

### Holy Thursday - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper



Holy Thursday brings an end to Lent. This night we begin the Three Days that are at the centre of our year. After listening to the scriptures this evening, we do something strange: we wash feet! Some of us go down on our knees with bowls of water and towels. Jesus gave us this image of what the church should look like, feel like, and act like. We are servants of one another.

In years past, we have taken up a collection for St Vincent's Men's Hostel. However, due to the restrictions and cancellation of our normal mass this cannot occur this year. Maybe you can think of a way in which you and your family can be a servant to others during this time of isolation.

We then go on to celebrate the Eucharist. The evening liturgy has no ending; we are invited to stay a while and pray and then to leave in silence.

### Good Friday - Celebration of the Lord's Passion



We gather in silence on this day and listen to the scripture. We pray at length for the world's needs. Then there is another once-a-year event: The simple wooden cross is held in our midst and we come forward one by one to do reverence with a kiss, or a bow or a genuflection.

We then receive Holy Communion, consecrated at last night's mass. Again we leave in silence.

### Holy Saturday - The Easter Vigil



This is the 'night of nights'. We gather excitedly around a fire and a great candle is lit to make the way bright for us. We light our own candles from this one light and proclaim in song that Christ is risen and in our midst. We then listen to some of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible reminding us of all that God has done for us and all that

God is doing for us. We then bless water and we all renew our baptism when we were grafted onto Christ and became one in his dying and rising. Together we go to the table and celebrate the Easter Eucharist.

We leave rejoicing in God's gift of Life.

### Easter Sunday



Easter Sunday begins fifty days of rejoicing that will culminate on Pentecost Sunday. Although Easter Sunday mass is similar to every Sunday, as at the Vigil we are renewed in our Baptism.

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

### First Reading

*Acts 10:34, 37-43*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

### Responsorial Psalm

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

### Second Reading

*Colossians 3:1-4*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

*John 20:1-9*

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Churches are  
not being  
closed.  
Buildings are  
being closed.  
You are the  
church! You are  
to remain open.



# **Coronavirus and the Eucharist**

## **'This crisis calls on us to care for one another and thank God at home.'**

**By Fr Thomas O'Loughlin**

"All Masses Cancelled"

That sign has just gone up outside my local church. Who could have imagined it just a couple of weeks ago?

Most Catholics are simply glad. Large gatherings are just what we do not want at the moment. The loving thing right now is to keep our distance lest we catch and transmit the coronavirus.

But in every parish there are Catholics who do not like the idea of "missing Mass" and wonder could they not "get Mass" even if they did not gather?

In a more worrying vein, I have heard at least two priests say that they will not have the State – imagined as the Church's enemy – telling them to close.

They want to take the high ground of defending the freedom of religion. But if they go ahead and "provide Mass" – note the phrase – they may actually be endangering the very people they are claiming to serve.

But the fact that many regular Mass-goers will not be in a church this weekend – and maybe not even over Easter – might actually help us to broaden our understanding of the Eucharist and deepen our spirituality.

### **Object or action?**

For far too long – some historians would say since the 7th century – Latin Christians have had an attitude of thinking about the Eucharist as an object (something that happens due to the priest's work and they are in attendance) or as a commodity (and we behave like religious consumers).

The language we use is the giveaway. We talk about "getting Mass" and "attending a Mass," and of "getting communion" and "taking communion." The image is that the Eucharist is "out there," and then we somehow obtain it or make it our own.

But the word "Eucharist" relates to a verb. It is something we, the whole People of God, *do*. It is *our activity* of thanking God the Father as a gathered community. And we offer this praise and thanks through Christ our Lord.

The focus is on thanking the Father. Access to the Father is provided to us in the Spirit through Jesus Christ. The prayers are led by the priest. It is our basic activity as Christians, not some "thing" that the priest does for us or makes for us.

### **The virus has struck.**

So if we cannot gather because of COVID-19, can we still offer thanks to the Father through Christ?

Let's re-learn some basics.

#### **1. Jesus is present with us**

Many Catholics treat church buildings as if they were pagan temples, as if God is only "in there." But God's presence is everywhere and the risen Christ is not limited by space.

This presence of the risen Jesus among the community was captured in this saying preserved in Matthew's gospel: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Mt 18:20).

Even in the smallest gathering of just two people, staying two meters apart so as not to spread the virus, the Risen Lord is among them. They might be two people in a house, or two people linked by phone or Skype.

This was expressed in another ancient Christian saying that is preserved in the *Didache* (a first-century new disciples' guide): "Wherever the things of the Lord are spoken about, there the Lord is present" (4:1).

#### **2. My room is basic place of prayer**

We sometimes think that we are only commanded to pray in a church building. We have grown up with the idea of Mass on Sunday as a regulation. But it is always sobering to recall this instruction by Jesus:

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the gatherings and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Mt 6:5-6).

We are now being told to stay off the streets, out of the churches and away from people. So we can rediscover shutting the door and praying alone – knowing that the Father will listen to our prayers.

#### **3. Centre and summit**

We describe the Eucharist as the centre and summit of our Christian lives, but often it is the sole part of our religious lives. This crisis calls on us to build up the surrounding foothills by caring for one another and thanking God at home, as well as in the church.

If we are not thankful for the meals we share at home, we are hardly ready to be thankful at the Great Thanksgiving that we call the Eucharist.

#### **4. Every table is a sacred place**

Jesus encountered people and taught at their tables. Every table is a place where we can encounter the Lord in those with us. We will not be eating together as sisters and brothers in a church for the next few weeks, so let's start recalling that whenever we eat, we should be thankful.

"You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you" (Dt 8:10).

We should be thankful for the food (grace before meals) and for enjoying it and the pleasure of being together (grace after meals).

### **Let's discover what it means to be Church**

We will not be gathered as large groups for the next few weeks. Let's use this experience to rediscover that *we are the Church*; that the Church is not a building.

Let us remember that we must *be Eucharistic every day*, but especially at meals; that the Eucharist is not an object we get, take, receive or attend.

And let us never forget that *the Risen One is with us*, interceding for us with the Father during these worrying times.

*Thomas O'Loughlin is a Catholic priest and professor of historical theology at the University of Nottingham.  
Article from La Croix International*



Continuing on our faith journey during this time of isolation  
Our faith will sustain us through challenging times  
Wishing you a happy and holy Easter

#### WE REMEMBER

We remember Eileen Campbell, John Connolly and Hazel Templeton. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, April 14 and Wednesday, April 15. It will reopen 8:30am on Thursday, April 16. If you need to make contact during this time please use the Pager – 3834 8507.

#### SUPPORT OF OUR PLANNED GIVING

We would like to thank you for continuing your support of the Parish during these difficult times.



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OUR PARISH  
YOUTH MINISTRY

Hope everyone has a wonderful Holy Week and Easter Season! Youth will be back on Friday the 17th of April from 7pm for another online Youth experience. Be sure to like our youth Facebook page for more information!  
(<https://www.facebook.com/Abundance-Youth-114497676854096>)

Nick Kelly

#### GOD'S WORD 2020

Available from the office. Cost: \$10.

#### LIVESTREAMING OF MASSES FROM ST STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL

Watch Mass online at 8:00am Monday to Friday and 8:00am and 10:00am Sunday at [www.archbne.org/bzw](http://www.archbne.org/bzw)

#### MASS ON TV – CHANNEL 10

Mass for You at Home is broadcast each Sunday at 6:00am.

#### SHALOM MEDIA

As the world is going through the Covid-19 crisis and the resulting home confinements and ban on public gatherings, **Shalom World** is livestreaming daily mass. Using Google Chrome search for the following link:  
<https://shalomworld.org/watchlive/?region=masslive>  
Unfortunately this does not appear to work on Internet Explorer.

#### TWO MINUTE HOMILY

Each week there is a 2 Minute Homily, presented by one of our archdiocesan priests, which can be viewed at:  
<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/>

#### OUR ENFORCED RETREAT

Cairns Diocese is live-streaming The Liturgy of the Hours on its YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC62ZAC9PYygbOuYJ1hwjV-Q>

The daily schedule is:

- |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| * 9am: Morning Prayer     | * 12pm: Midday Prayer             |
| * 3pm: Office of Readings | * 5pm: Evening Prayer             |
| * 5pm: Mass of the Day    | * 6pm: Night Prayer of the Church |

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed at all other times during the day and night.

#### CATHOLIC FAMILY - CATH KIDS SIGN UP FOR FREE NOW

FREE access to CathKids until June 30, 2020. Please click on the link below to access.

[https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=cf-200322-covid-special-week1](https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cf-200322-covid-special-week1)

#### CATHOLIC LEADER

This digital newspaper will be free for readers to access until parishes reopen. It is our commitment to ensure that everybody has access to stories of connection, inspiration, and faith. Click on the link above or go to: [www.catholicleader.com.au](http://www.catholicleader.com.au)

#### PARISH NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

There are a couple of vacant spaces for advertising on the back page of our weekly newsletter. We are going to open these up to parishioners (or anyone you know who may be interested) for advertising on a casual basis. You might have a rental you would like to advertise, something to sell, a service to promote. If you would like to utilise this space please ring Dot at the Parish Office to arrange it.

#### COVID-19 PRAYER

The National Council of Churches has invited all of us to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.

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.



Let your  
**Light  
Shine**



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**Cr Krista Adams**  
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