



PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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11-12 April 2020, Easter Sunday, Year A

MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

Recently Deceased: Keith Mc Laughlin, Victims of Corona virus, Hilda Quinones, Gloria Tin, Joyce Ryan, Maureen Boyle, Don Furner, Richard Arnel, Rod Frazer, Mary-Anne McGrath, Patsy Edwards, Gary Pertzell, Nance Kenny, Dorothy Hennessy, Victims of the bushfires, Victims of the Corona virus, Kobe Bryant, Eric Fitzsimmons, Margaret Yvanovich.

Anniversaries of Death: Wendy Egan, Cecily Howden, Frank Williams, Kathleen Rowe, John Frawley, Doris Falzon and Falzon family members, Hartung and Marlow family members, Richard Pugh, Rosario Suazo, Gary Woods, Jack Perry, George Pugh, Desmond Lilley, Sylvia Cronin, Policarpio Barawid.

MAY THE SICK BE COMFORTED BY OUR PRAYERS

Malcolm Allison, Cecil Wagstaff, Carol Wightman, those afflicted with Corona virus, Bella Davison, Leah Yaxley, John Kololo, Frederick Schinkel, Maree Peters, Witlock family, Timothy Francis Roberts, Rosa B Nguyen, Lourdes A Bautista, David Sandground, Kathleen Stuart, Dick Barry, Luke Ward, Eric Reiher, John Vincent, David Parker, Mark Shepherd, Violet Webster, Catherine Peachey, Lucy Duncan, Rod Duncan, Edith Schumann, Kevin Cains, Stephen Evans, Dermott Cummins.

TO LISTEN AND TO RESPOND

Holy Week-Easter in the midst of a pandemic. Churches closed. Can you believe it?

Perhaps like me you are going online for some or all of the ceremonies (www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au; *see below). The Church's liturgy is about remembering, about engaging here and now with what happened there and then. **Over these days we are called to wrestle with the complexity of light and dark in our own lives as we variously identify with the characters in the Holy Week-Easter liturgies.** A triumphant entry to Jerusalem, then the intimacy and self-offering under the form of bread and wine in the upper room, followed by the agony and betrayal in the garden, the conspiring of religious and political authorities to see Jesus falsely condemned before a baying mob, the agony of the journey to Calvary and death followed by darkness before the women find the tomb empty. He is risen! Alleluia (Rejoice) is the Easter cry. Each year we tell it in stages, in ritual, as it touches into all we are, all we have been and might be. It is our story writ large. It is the story of love triumphant. **The darkness does not overcome the light, rather the light emerges in the darkness. We remember – we enter into this Passover - and we allow the transformation of graced awareness to envelope us. This is life in the Risen Christ.** As an aside, my hope is that the unanimous High Court decision which freed Cardinal Pell occasions light rather than darkness, mindful of the abiding pain of sexual abuse victims.

In Tuesday's online Chrism Mass from the Cathedral crypt Archbishop Christopher blessed the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of Chrism and the Oil of the Sick for use throughout the archdiocese over the coming year. He used the word 'hope' as an acronym, '*Homes of Paschal Encounter*'. **Might our homes be places of hope in Jesus and might that hope be manifest in whatever manner we reach out to one another.** Archbishop Christopher also called priests to be "*stewards of hope.*" He reminded all of us that amidst the challenges of the pandemic "*the baton is in our hand*".

Taking up the baton, we would do well to acknowledge that while Jesus is especially present when we gather for Mass, the 'source and summit' of our faith journey, God's presence is not confined to buildings and liturgy. Indeed, we come to Mass as we are and we are sent renewed. Mass is in the ruck of life, not an escape from it. And yet without Mass, perhaps an unforeseen grace might be a deeper appreciation of God present in life otherwise; in the beauty of creation ('the first sacrament of God's revelation') wherein humanity is described as being 'very good.' **That which is truly human and ennobling is of God. Pope Francis has said, "All that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful . . . brings us to God."** However, we can succumb to forces hostile to growth, freedom and life. Pope Francis has therefore also said

the pandemic is not God's judgement on us but a time for our judgement on what we value. Acknowledging our inconsistent engagement, these days call us anew to the One who is consistent in faith, hope and love. For that reason he is our 'Saviour' and no less than 'Way, Truth and Life'. **With greater awareness and in anticipation of gathering to celebrate the 'source and summit' of our lives, we journey 'betwixt and between'.** As citizens and children of God we defer to Government directives, conscious of God's abiding presence and our presence yet physical separation from each other. May the hope and peace of Easter enlighten and reassure us.

Fr John

Easter Triduum

Thursday April 9 at 7.30pm - Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday April 10 at 10am – Good Friday Way of the Cross

Friday April 10 at 3pm – Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Saturday April 11 at 7pm – Easter Vigil

Sunday April 12 at 11am – Easter Sunday Mass

Post Easter, the live streaming of weekday and Sunday Masses from the chapel of Archbishop' House with various clergy presiding will continue at www.catholicvoice.org.au

In addition to the foregoing, I repeat what was noted in last week's bulletin:

- **RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION** will be offered under the portico of Holy Trinity, 5 – 5.30pm, Saturday. **BAPTISMS** only in 'danger of death'. **WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS** are limited to **five (5) and (10) respectively**. **ANOINTING OF THE SICK** is according to strict protocols.
- **AGED CARE HOMES AND HOUSEBOUND:** Holy Communion is not being taken to the aged and housebound and they have been so notified.
- **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES:** First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation have been cancelled until further notice.

Prayer for These Times

Eternal God, in wisdom and love you created and sustain us.

We seek your wisdom, guidance and reassurance in these times of dislocation.

Bless the efforts of those limiting the spread of the corona virus and those searching for a vaccine.

Sustain those recovering from devastating bushfires.

Thank you for recent rains and enliven our efforts to address climate change.

In your mercy, renew your people.

In your providence, renew the face of the earth.

Mary, Help of Christians – Pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please drop envelopes through the front door of the presbytery any time. Boxes can be delivered to the presbytery from 9-11am Mon, Wed or Fri.

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE: Early days but check it out at 'North Woden Parish Transfiguration'. Comments, thoughts?

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION, usually taken up during the 3pm Good Friday liturgy, has been deferred until 11-12 Sept, just prior to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 13 September.

Prayer Circle Support: Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

Readings for Second Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:42-47; Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31.