



PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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18-19 April 2020, Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

Recently Deceased: Shirley Evans, 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: Margaret Joyce, 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

Joseph Garside, Kathleen Rennie, Rose Winstanley, 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.

AWARE AND CONNECTED

This Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter concludes the Octave of Easter and we enter the remaining six weeks of the Easter Season leading to Pentecost. Our First and Second Readings over the coming Sundays address the growth of the early Church. The Gospel readings, all from John except for next Sunday's from Luke, develop the notion of discipleship in furthering the mission of Jesus under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As Archbishop Christopher reflected in his Easter Vigil homily, the disciples were called to 'come and see' the empty tomb and then directed to 'go and tell' others. **Faith leads to action.**

Fair enough but what does this all mean in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic? First and foremost, what it has meant down through the ages: to savour and to manifest the presence and hope of the Risen Lord. However due to the pandemic we are under restrictions. So a perennial call is restricted by observance of what serves the common good. Yet in our time 'apart' from people, places and activities the Holy Spirit beckons anew, surely?

The eleventh century Jewish philosopher Solomon Ibn Gabriol (aka Avicbron) taught "In seeking wisdom, the first step is silence; the second, listening; the third, remembering; the fourth, practising; the fifth, teaching others." We can understandably hanker after what is absent and perhaps just endure the pandemic. Or, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we can embrace being apart and listen anew to who we are and what we are called to be. With such openness a renewed sense of connection, peace and purpose will emerge. **In other words, whatever the circumstance, the Risen Lord beckons. This was beautifully symbolised in the signing of the Easter Candle at the Easter Vigil last Saturday night.** Atop the cross on the Easter Candle, into which are placed five incense studs representing the five wounds of Christ is the letter Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet and at the foot of the cross is the 'Omega' or last letter. The Risen Lord unites all creation in new life. The year '2020' is written where the horizontal and vertical beams intersect. The Easter Candle was then lit from the Easter fire and processed into the Church with the congregation lighting candles from it symbolic of their rebirth in Christ. **If not in liturgy then in the circumstances of our 'new normal', we are being called to walk in the light of the Risen Lord.** Such trust is beautifully reflected in Reinhold Niebuhr's 'Serenity Prayer': **God grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make all**

things right if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next.

So, with reference to this Sunday's readings we walk by faith not having the experience of the doubting Thomas who after a dramatic encounter with the wounds of the Risen Lord proclaims 'My Lord and my God!' However, the Gospel ends with the Risen Lord reassuring all of us: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Faith lived in community is very supportive and very attractive (First Reading), and it endures in the midst of trials 'because you believe; and you are sure of the hope to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls' (Second Reading). **Stay safe and stay connected.**

Fr John

ONLINE LIVE STREAMING OF DAILY MASS: The Archdiocesan weekday online Mass is now live streamed at 12.15pm from the chapel of St Christopher's Cathedral. Fr John will preside at this Monday's Mass. On Saturday the Mass will be at 9.00am and on Sunday at 11.00am. **NB: Being a live stream, you will need to access the Mass at the specific time by going to www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au.**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS to Robert and Moya Kennelly who 41 years ago celebrated their wedding over in Perth and to Peter and Melissa Bray who 25 years ago celebrated their wedding down in Calwell. I was privileged to officiate at the latter.

WEEKLY ONLINE CATHOLIC VOICE: A copy is attached. If you would like to receive subsequent copies directly, enter your details at <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/weekly-voice/>.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: In lieu of the First Collection at Sunday Mass, you can support the clergy of the Archdiocese by making an electronic contribution to BSB: 062-786, ACC: 000029248, 'Central Presbytery Fund'. NB: Make sure you enter the reference: NORTHWODEN SMITH (ie the parish name and your surname). **Support for the parish in lieu of the Second Collection at Sunday Mass** will continue via direct debits, unless notified by the parishioner. Planned Giving Envelopes can be dropped through the front door of the presbytery or parishioners may choose to arrange direct debit payments by contacting our Parish Secretary, Catherine, 6281 3999 or wodennorth@cg.org.au.

PARISH MEDITATION GROUP will continue to meet online. Details from Vikki McDonough, 0437876487 / mulvaney@netspeed.com.au

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?

Prayer Circle Support: Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

Readings for Third Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:14, 22-23; 1 Pet 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35.