



PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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25-26 April 2020, Third Sunday of Easter, Year A

MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

Recently Deceased: Four Victorian Police Officers, Sheila Rohan, Malcolm Allison, 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: Vonnie Beath, 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

Kathleen Rennie, Rose Winstanley, Joseph Garside, 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, Lucy Duncan, Rod Duncan, Edith Schumann, Kevin Cains, Stephen Evans, Dermott Cummins.

SHATTERED AND RECAST

Today's Gospel is a beautiful account of transformation. What for all money seemed like dashed hopes are recreated as the foundation of deep faith. Light emerges in darkness. We all know the story. It is one of most engaging in the Bible. Two disconsolate disciples of Jesus are joined by a stranger enroute from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They do not recognise him. They are self-absorbed. They feel gutted after the death of Jesus. Like their contemporaries, they longed for a Messiah who would restore their political, civil and economic well-being. They thought that Jesus was the one they had hoped for. Instead he was crucified and their hopes crushed, though there is talk that he is risen from the dead. Go figure that? **The stranger then points out how the hopes of the people of the old covenant are not denied but rather fulfilled in the life, death resurrection of Jesus.** When they later reflect on what he shared, one of them exclaimed: *"Did not our hearts burn within us?"* That affirmation is reflected in the experience of all who under God's grace have seen their pain, loss and shattered hopes woven anew into the story of salvation, the 'Good News'. **However it is only after they invite the stranger to partake of their hospitality that he in fact invites them to the hospitality of seeing him in the 'breaking of the bread'.** They rush back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples of their encounter, but they too have experienced the risen Lord. They all see anew. They are keen to share their experience. *"In a pattern often found in Luke, the sharing of stories creates a deeper community experience of salvation (cf, the exchange between Mary and Elizabeth at the Visitation)"* Brendan Byrne SJ. **Sharing follows encounter.** Remember the Easter pattern reflected on last week: First, 'Come and see' and then, 'Go and tell'. We share our story at Mass especially. We are sent forth to witness to that story.

How are we to share, to witness to our faith? The Emmaus story offers insight, reflecting a pattern found in all the appearances of the risen Lord. *"Jesus meets people exactly where they are: Mary Magdalene in her weeping, Thomas in his doubting, the group gathered in the upper room in their fear. Here he meets the two disciples in their disillusionment and disbelief. Jesus respects their experience and lets them tell out their story to the end. Only then does he pick it up and weave it into his own instruction"* (Byrne).

Many stories have been told this year about bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ puts a contemporary overlay on this year's commemoration of Anzac Day. He suggests that as we acknowledge pain, loss and grief in war, we should also acknowledge that arising from the bushfires and illness. And on very positive note, he continues: *"As we remember Anzac Day and the trials of this year too, we remember and are grateful for the simple, humble and self-sacrificing lives hidden like pearls in the darkness of each event."* **In the midst of darkness there is Easter light.** We give thanks and ask for the grace to be that pearl as circumstances call. Or again, the reconstructing of shattered hopes and lives reminds me figuratively at least of Kintsugi, the Japanese art of putting broken pottery back together with gold. The result is a stronger and more beautiful piece. **The darkness will not overcome the Easter light. Stay safe and stay connected.**

Fr John

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

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. **I thank those who have already contributed to the support of the clergy and the parish.**

PARISH MEDITATION GROUP will continue to meet online. Details from Vikki McDonough, 0437 876 487 / 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 Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Pet 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10.