



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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EASTER Year B, 30-31 March, 2024

The risen Christ is the only way out for humanity

Easter commemorates the most fundamental event in the Christian faith: Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. What significance does this event hold for us and indeed the whole world? For me, Christ's resurrection is the pathway to salvation. This belief does however raise a pertinent question: Why did Jesus take the path of suffering and sacrifice to gift us salvation? To answer this question, I would like to invite you to follow my personal reflection on Christ's passion, death and resurrection. I hope that this reflection may enrich your personal faith in the risen Lord.

There is no resurrection without death, so my reflection begins with death. What is death and why do we die? On the one hand, death is a biological phenomenon. Humans, like other living things, are subject to biological laws and these laws determine that one day we will cease to exist. On the other hand, (to the best of our current knowledge) humans, unlike other organisms, contemplate an existence beyond these limitations. We are beings who often seek to extend our physical life via medical intervention, but there are also those who express an innate desire for eternal life. We want to transcend our situation and move beyond these limitations, a journey if you like toward the infinite.

The story of salvation reveals that death is not only a biological fact, but also a theological event. Via their free will, Adam and Eve (humanity) chose to defy God's will, it was humanity who chose not to be in communion with God, and it was humanity that rejected the fact that their existence was dependent on God (the ground of all being). When humanity refused to rely on God, the Human-God relationship was severed and a chasm constructed by humanity materialized. The darkness took its opportunity to infiltrate into the brokenness of the God-human relationship, opening up the unbridgeable abyss of darkness. The Chosen people did

not however lose all hope as they prayed and longed for a Messiah. The Messiah came in the person of Jesus, but this was not the Messiah that many were expecting and both religious and political forces conspired to end His life. Jesus – the hope for all creation – was unjustly crucified on the cross, and seemingly defeated by powerful and fearful leaders. In the face of his beloved Son's death, God seemed distant and silent. When Jesus breathed His last, darkness came over all the land, there was an earthquake, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two (Mk 14:33-38). The darkness had overtaken the light. It seemed that there was no salvation for those who live a just life. God had forsaken creation and left humanity void of all hope.

However, in the midst of the immense darkness and despair, the true purpose of God's love and the great gift of salvation emerged. Jesus was raised from the dead and in doing so revealed to all people that death had no power over him (Rm 6:9). Our Easter Vigil liturgy vividly depicts Christ's victory. At the start of liturgy, all lights are turned off. The space appears to be engulfed in the darkness of death and despair. The Pascal candle suddenly lights up. The priest then proceeds with the Pascal candle. Wherever the candle leads, the light of hope spreads and drives out the darkness. The story of salvation is retold through readings in the liturgy of the Word. Before Christ's resurrection (Gospel) is proclaimed, the Gloria is sung while the bells are rung. It is like all the creatures in heaven and on earth singing in one voice to glorify the Son's victory. All lights are lit, illumining the entire space. It is like the glory of God is restored, shining and reigning over the darkness. This is truly the day the Lord has made and all creation rejoices. However, creation rejoices not only for Christ's victory, but also for its hope of salvation. By disobedience, humanity fractured its relationship with God, but in Jesus the Word assuming human flesh and summing to God's will this very relationship is restored

.....PTO

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtube.com/live/xB11e57B-AU?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP
Dcn Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

St Paul Apostle North Primary School

Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle South Primary School

Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's Regional College

Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

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Jesus is the first human to overcome the unbridgeable abyss of darkness and death to be in communion with God. His humanity is reconciled with divinity. Thanks to Christ's reconciliation, all human beings who are baptized in Christ and incorporated in his resurrected body by Eucharist will be restored to be in communion with God. In Christ, they will see the light of hope shines in the darkness, even the darkness of the tomb. That is why Christ is truly the way for me.

Easter is the time to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Deeper than that, it is time for me to reflect deeply on my human condition and its limits. It is a time to reaffirm my faith and renew my hope in the risen Lord. He is the pathway in this life and this pathway leads to eternal life. And who is Jesus for you? I hope you can find reflect on this question during the celebration of our great Easter Feast.

by Deacon Tuan Paul

Readings for Next Week Second Sunday of EASTER Year B

First Reading *Acts 4:32-35*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need

Psalm

Let Israel say
"His steadfast love endures forever"
Let the house of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures forever"
Let those who fear the Lord say,
"His steadfast love endures forever"

"The right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly"
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.
The Lord has punished me severely
but he did not give me of the death

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone
This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes
This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Second Reading *1 John 5:1-6*

A reading from the first Letter of St. John

Beloved:
Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments.

And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.
Alleluia!

Gospel *John 20:19-31*

It was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

THANK YOU

As we celebrated the greatest day in our Christian Calendar, we wish to thank everyone who has been very generous with their time and effort in assisting us to prepare the Holy Week services & Masses.

All who kindly donated their palm branches, those who collected them and cleaned them up, and all who have been setting and resetting the Church, cleaning the garden and items required for the Masses & services, managing flower arrangements, preparing & serving both hot cross buns on Good Friday and breakfast on Easter Sunday, all ministers during all services and many more people who have helped us in so many different ways, which we may have missed to mention. Last but not least, to all who have joined us at our services and Masses during the Holy Week. Every one of you has made our celebration meaningful. **HAPPY EASTER!!**
(Parish Team)

YOUNG ADULTS (age 18 to 25 years old)

Congratulations for your great work preparing and running the Good Friday Station of the Cross. We hope that next year we will be able to do the same.

For those who are wondering what this group is all about, you can contact the Parish Office and we will provide more information. Also keep an eye on the news as we will keep you up-dated with information regarding the next gathering

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

YOUTH 4:12 (our Parish Youth)

This group is to accommodate our Youth who are in grade 5 up to year 9. All activities in this gathering cater for this age group. The next gathering is on **FRIDAY, 19th APRIL** at 7pm in the Tim O'Toole Annexe. Please contact Trish Brown on 0412 357 350, if you wish to attend

CHILDREN'S LITURGY (Reminder)

Just a reminder that this group does not run during school holiday, they will resume on 21 April at 11am Sunday Mass

This group welcome all primary school children and younger to our Children's Liturgy program at 11am Mass each week. ***Please note that the 11am Mass is being LIVE-STREAMED every week.*** We ask that children under 4 or with special needs be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. Our leaders will be easily identifiable, if your child has any allergies, a serious medical condition or special needs, please alert the leader on the day. Due to possible allergic responses we ask that you refrain from bringing any food into the Children's Liturgy space. When the children are returning to their seats after the session please ensure they are aware of where you are seated. We have provided labels for you to write your child's name if you wish. If you have any questions or feedback please feel free to chat to one of our Children's Liturgy volunteers or someone on the parish team

LIST OF THOSE WHO ARE SICK

We wish to remind you that if you wish to place someone's name on the sick list, you are required to get prior consent from them to do so. The name will be on the list for a period of 6 weeks. This does not mean that we stop praying for them, but rather serves to keep the list current. It may be possible to renew once the initial 6 week period is over.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Chamara Senaratna, Shamil Edirisinghe and Gihan Wijayasekara who have all received their Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil. We will keep them in our prayers as they continue their journey in faith.

Readings:

EASTER Sunday Year B

Acts 10: 34, 37-43 ;
Corinthians 5:6-8
John 20: 1-18

Second Sunday of EASTER Year B

Acts 4: 32-35 ;
1 John 5: 1-6
John 20: 19-31

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Stephanie Kinson, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Ronella Tyrell, Annette Evans, Meti Pereira-VanEijk, Danny Sugunasekera, Agnes Fernandez, Shirley C. Esteban, Joaquina Braz, Norah Ekanayake, Grace Sprigg, Lara Moyle, Michael D' Silva, Jamie Cabrera ***and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues***

Those who have died

Sharne Labrooy, Naureen Norico, Alice Money, Jose Bearreto Martins, Ofelia Lim Abad, Mo Ahmed, Olivia D'Silva, Selena Leroux, Domenico Serra, Colleen Foran, Jonas Hoareau, Donald Macleod, Nigel Macleod, Sandra D'Costa, Wendy de Santos, Denise Rodgers, Giovanna Satragno, Esperanca Duarte, Maria Duarte, Michael Guinan ***and all who are named in our church memorial book***

May they rest in peace

*In His great mercy, he has given us new birth into living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3)*

Happy Easter!!

