

## Easter Sunday (Year A) 12 April 2020

Dear people of St Ambrose Parish

It is Easter. This year's Easter is so different. It's hard to come to terms with what is happening in our parish and in our world. The church is actually closed at Easter time. It's supposed to be full of people praying and expressing their faith in Jesus. We are supposed to be singing and shouting for joy at the Resurrection of Jesus.

Can we get through this time of virus? We better not lose faith. We have to believe that the loving kindness of God has not ceased. God's love did not end last year or some time in the past. We rely on God's faithful love to get us through. God's love goes on forever.

We are the people of the New Covenant. Jesus left us the Eucharist to remind us of this. God binds to us in loving kindness. We have TV Masses to help us get through this time. In the Mass, whether you are physically present or watching from home, we are reminded that Jesus died and rose to change the world.

Jesus brings us love, peace, healing, justice, deliverance.

May Jesus be with us all this strange and anxious Easter.

Fr B



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**Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm**  
Sunday 9.30am & 5pm  
**Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)**  
Tuesday evening 7.30pm  
**Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm**  
**Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,**  
**Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am**  
**Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am**  
**Baptisms: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.**  
**Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.**

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**2020 Sacraments Program**

**Our Sacramental Program has been suspended  
until further notice.**



## HOLY WEEK AT HOME

Please find listed on our website under the Publications, then Bulletin tab, some beautiful liturgies prepared by Liturgy Brisbane which can be used by you and your family during Holy Week at home.

1. Palm Sunday
2. End of Lent
3. Holy Thursday
4. Good Friday
5. Easter Sunday



### CWL Silver Circle Results – Week 3

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	No. 32	\$20.00	June Clark
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	No. 5	\$10.00	Roseanne Hogan

### CWL Silver Circle Results – Week 4

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	No. 4	\$20.00	Helen Cook
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	No. 40	\$10.00	Amy Pellegrino

For those who wish to support the parish financially we now have an active 'donate' tab on our website. MasterCard or Visa donations can be made via this means. Select from the options available for your giving.

You may also opt for a monthly debit to your credit card. Please call or email the parish office for an authority form to have this option set up for you.



**Please remember in your prayers the following for whom Masses will be offered.**

**Recently Deceased:** Maureen Gleeson, Pedro Espado, Tony McLeod, Gianni Musumeci, Frank Alvaro

**Anniversaries:** George Crvenkovic, L A Fernandez, Ron & Ruby Tolhurst, Lidia Merlino, Julia Georges, Jack Kucina, Stanley Evan Sheedy, Benito Portelli

**Others:** Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betro, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloj, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Mehseen Mawad, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppa & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Solomon Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

### **Please pray for the sick especially:**

Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Imogen Warner, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther and Terry Tully, Gary and Leslie Mc Grath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Veronica Rutherford, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, , Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick

Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Vitezchnik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

### **Mass Intentions / Offerings (Effective 25 March 2020)**

Mass intentions/offerings are welcome. Please email Fr Chaminda on [mcrwanigasena@gmail.com](mailto:mcrwanigasena@gmail.com)

Information Required: Intention and the date intention to be offered. eg, kindly offer Mass for the soul of \_\_\_\_\_, on date. Please indicate if it for a special reason please eg, anniversary of death, recently deceased.

If your intention is related to recovery of illness, please supply name of the sick person and the date you would like the Mass offered.

For all other intentions please state basic intentions and the requested date.

If you or anyone you know within the Parish is experiencing distress or anxiety during this current situation, our priests are available to have a chat over the phone (parish office 9743 1023, please leave a message if unattended) or alternatively you can email Fr Chaminda on [mcrwanigasena@gmail.com](mailto:mcrwanigasena@gmail.com) so that he may contact you.

In the event that you or someone you know is experiencing problems with lack of food please contact CatholicCare on 131819.

## **ST AMBROSE CHURCH IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Your intentions will be offered to God by us  
in our private masses.

**Fr. Brian Egan (Parish priest)**  
**Fr. Chaminda Wanigasena (Assistant Priest)**



**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**12 April 2020**



### **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2020**

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

### **DO YOU HAVE PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND CASH TO HAND IN?**

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at 'lent.caritas.org.au' and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney, NSW 2001. Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash please call our friendly team on 1800 024 413.

### **Collection for Holy Land postponed**

The tradition collection on Good Friday to assist Catholic communities in the Holy Land has been postponed until later this year.

### **Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic**

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here-

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

### **A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney**

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police



### **Br Julian's Reflection – Easter Sunday**

*The angel said to the women: "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised up just as he said..."* Matthew 28, 1-10

We're all familiar enough with the Gospels to know that they are not four different accounts of Jesus' life story. Rather they are more like theological attempts to identify who Jesus was and what his mission was all about. The gospel readings for both the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday are designed to demonstrate the dramatic way in which God vindicated all that Jesus had said and done during his public ministry. In other books of the New Testament, we hear people like Peter and Paul attesting to the fact that Jesus spent his public ministry demonstrating in action the love, compassion and mercy of God. For instance, in the Acts of the Apostles there is a story of Peter being invited to visit the home of Cornelius, a gentile. After the preliminary greetings, Peter addresses Cornelius and his extended family: "I now understand that God has no favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who respects God and does what is right is acceptable to God...God had anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, he went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of evil...Now we are witnesses to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judea and in Jerusalem itself; and they killed him by hanging him on a tree; yet on the third day God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen" (Acts 10, 20-48).

The events of Jesus' life that we have relived during this last week confirm the truth of Peter's assertion: "I now understand that God has no favourites." The consequences of Jesus' humanity were that he not only lived within all the limits of time and space but that he was prone to be a victim of the prejudices and jealousies that we human beings resort to when we feel threatened, or believe that others are trying to harm us or undermine our safety, status and importance. Consequently, Jesus was targeted by leaders for whom self-interest was number one priority. When they moved in on him, he felt fear as we feel fear, he experienced rejection and betrayal from those closest to him and from whom he surely expected better. He even asked the question that is currently on the lips of countless people living in fear of Covid-19, - Christians and other people of faith and those of no faith - "Where is God?" When he felt totally abandoned, he cried in desperation from the Cross: "My God, why have you abandoned me?"

There was no special treatment for Jesus. Having embraced the human condition, he committed himself to undergo the same isolation, confusion, doubt, fear, loneliness, injustice and vindictiveness that we all experience from time to time. But the miracle of Easter that we celebrate today confirms that death is not the end, that there is more, that there is something far better awaiting us. His confusion, suffering, fear and doubt, as well as the hope that were almost extinguished in him, were embraced by God's love. And Easter proclaims and demonstrates that God's love is stronger than death. Just as Jesus identified with us in our pain, rejection, fear, suffering and death, so, too, does his being raised from death constitute a promise that we, too, will rise from death to a kind of life that goes far beyond what we are able to imagine.

Jesus identified with each of us as brother, friend and companion on the journey of life, with all its upheavals, disappointments, tragedies, and even joys and successes. While we cannot imagine what resurrection after death might look like, we know that we are still capable of fitting into our limited heads and tiny hearts the conviction that Jesus Christ really did suffer, die and rise. He loved us enough to identify with us to the point of sharing in our death. And therein lies the guarantee that we will eventually come to share in his life. So, at Easter we shout "Alleluia" - for Jesus, for ourselves, for all those who have gone before us and for all who will come after, because God's love embraces the whole world. God's love knows no limits, it embraces the whole of creation. Perhaps

the only thing that will crimp and cramp it is our ignorance, our prejudice, our reluctance to open our hearts to it. On that score, I sometimes wonder how Jesus dealt with the frustrations he experienced when he saw that his disciples just didn't get it. Surely he sought an outlet among friends like Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and looked for support and encouragement from them. Sadly, the Gospels are silent on matters such as these.

There's another forceful message for us in the gospel reading of the Easter Vigil, based on what Jesus said to the two Marys when he encountered them on their way to bringing to the disciples the message the angel had given them at the empty tomb. Jesus urged them not to be afraid, not to delay: "Don't hang on too tightly, don't be afraid, go and tell *my brothers* that they are to go to Galilee and that I'll meet them there." In calling the disciples "*my brothers*" Jesus demonstrated that recriminations and attributing blame were farthest from his thoughts. But there was also the implication that there was work still to be done. As disciples of the risen Christ, we are not meant to be mere observers of his resurrection. The focus of our lives is to be agents of resurrection in the lives of people we encounter. We bring resurrection into the lives of others and, indeed, to our own lives to the extent that we reach out in care, compassion, forgiveness, affirmation, love and encouragement to everyone who comes into our daily lives. The empty tomb is a challenge to us to bring resurrection to others. Moreover, if we care to open our eyes, we will see resurrection at work in the care given so selflessly by physicians, health-care workers and service providers across the globe during this time of the covid-19 pandemic. We will see it too in the courage of very ordinary people.

In this context, I share with you the story of Mathew Makot. This young man is now a practicing lawyer in Brisbane, Australia. Mathew was born in Uganda but, as a child, came with his family to South Sudan as war refugees. As an 8-year old, he saw his father killed in the civil war that had erupted in the Sudan. At the age of 9, he was forced into military service. By the age of 10, he had been promoted to the rank of Captain because he was multilingual by then, and able to drive a truck. He transported troops to war zones and brought civilians back to safety. Because he carried a rifle, he, too, became a target. The fact that he was shot in one leg and knifed was what ironically saved his life. He ended up in hospital where he came to the notice of officials from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Several years later, they

arranged for him to come to Australia where he was welcomed by the Principal and whole school community of St Patrick's College Shorncliffe. I met him during his final year of school when he very generously accepted an invitation to participate in a retreat with a group of students about to start university. What struck us is that there was not an ounce of hate, anger or self-pity in this young man. The message he left us was: "I want to go back to South Sudan one day to help bring peace to my country and my people. Meanwhile, please work hard for peace and justice yourselves." What a wonderful agent of resurrection!

# JRS FOODBANK

During these unprecedented times people seeking asylum in the community need your help now more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated.

## Food items:

- Basmati Rice
- Cooking Oil
- Long life milk
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit
- Biscuits and muesli bars
- Oats and cereal

## Toiletries:

- Nappies (large sizes)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Sanitary pads and napkins
- Razors and shaving foam
- Deodorant (male & female)
- Soap

Thank you for walking with us at this critical time! We provide emergency payments and food to hundreds of individuals, including children to pay for rent and life-saving medications. These individuals do not have access to Centrelink, Medicare, the pharmaceutical benefits scheme so your support is critical.

Please contact [Amelia.Savage@jrs.org.au](mailto:Amelia.Savage@jrs.org.au) to donate.

