



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



Easter Sunday

Saturday 11th April and Sunday 12th April, 2020

FROM FR JOHN CORRIGAN

Happy Easter! The Resurrection of the Lord is so significant to our faith, and such an important feast, that the Church celebrates it for eight days in a row. From a liturgical perspective, it's Easter Sunday every day for a week.

That provides me cover for a small fib I told last week. I rashly promised that I'd deliver this bulletin and a small bottle of Easter water to everyone *on Easter Sunday*. That was before I knew how long letterboxing the parishes takes — even with the welcome help of several volunteers! So you may be reading this *after* Sunday 12th April. But whatever day it is, from the Church's perspective it's still Easter Sunday, so your bulletin and Easter water have arrived right on time!

On the back page of this bulletin is the ritual for renewal of baptismal promises which we would normally celebrate together at Easter Mass. You're invited to adapt this ritual to your situation at home.

Liturgically, every day may be Easter Sunday, but in another sense, every day during this extraordinary pandemic is *Holy Saturday*: our churches are empty, the sacraments are suspended. But the stillness and silence is deceiving! I have included a beautiful ancient homily which expands on what happened on that first Holy Saturday, 2000 years ago. Remarks from Cardinal Sarah hint at the graces unfolding in the stillness of our own time.

Those who are able might like to play the role of the first Christians at the first Easter. We can imagine how they made a pilgrimage to the empty tomb to see for themselves. You can make your own pilgrimage — not to the empty tomb, but to the church porch in Port Fairy.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will occur from 12pm to 6pm every day of the Easter Octave. We are permitted to leave our homes for physical exercise. That can incorporate *spiritual exercise* too, should your walk bring you by the church.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



We commend to the Lord's mercy *Pat Dwyer* and *James Chadwick* who died recently, and *Yolande Groenwegen* whose anniversary occurs at this time.

IN PLACE OF HOLY MASS

Mass For You At Home is broadcast on WIN at 6am Sundays, and on Foxtel's Aurora at 3am, 6am and 10am every day. It can be viewed online any time at: www.mfyah.com

Sunday Mass from St Joseph's, Warrnambool can be viewed at: www.tiny.cc/joe3280

Daily Mass with Pope Francis (in Italian, with English dubbing) can be viewed at: www.tiny.cc/vatican



From an ancient homily for Holy Saturday:

The Lord's Descent into the Underworld

Something strange is happening – there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parents, as for lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both the Son of God and a son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: “My Lord be with you all.” Christ answered him: “And with your spirit.” He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: “Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

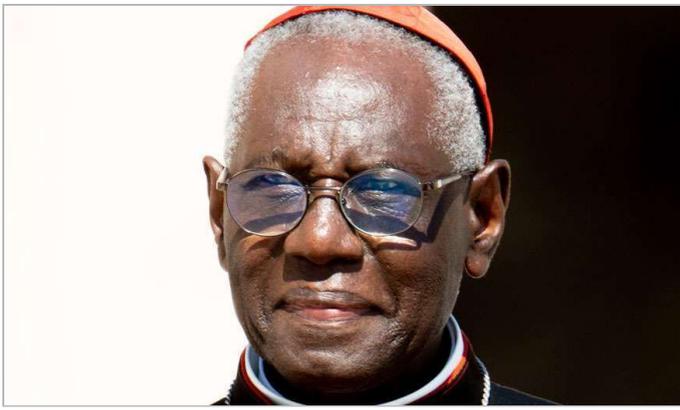
“I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to

awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated. For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, banished from a garden, I was betrayed in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

“See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

“I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

“Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.”



FROM CARDINAL SARAH

When we are weak, God is strong!

This virus acted as a warning. In a matter of weeks, the great illusion of a material world that thought itself all-powerful seems to have collapsed. A few days ago, politicians were talking about growth, pensions, reducing unemployment. They were sure of themselves. And now a virus, a microscopic virus, has brought this world to its knees, a world that looks at itself, that pleases itself, drunk with self-satisfaction because it thought it was invulnerable.

The current crisis is a parable. It has revealed how all we do and are invited to believe was inconsistent, fragile and empty.

We were told: 'you can consume without limits!' But the economy has collapsed and the stock markets are crashing. Bankruptcies are everywhere.

We were promised to push the limits of human nature ever further by a triumphant science. We were told about artificial procreation, surrogate motherhood, transhumanism, enhanced humanity.

We boasted of being 'a man of synthesis' and a humanity that biotechnologies would make invincible and immortal. But here we are in a panic, confined by a virus about which we know almost nothing. 'Epidemic' was an outdated, medieval word. It has suddenly become our everyday life.

I believe this epidemic has dispelled the smoke of illusion. The so-called 'all-

powerful man' appears in his raw reality. There he is naked. His weakness and vulnerability are glaring.

The experience of confinement has allowed many to rediscover that we are really and concretely dependent on each other. When everything collapses, only the bonds of marriage, family and friendship remain. We have rediscovered that as members of a nation, we are bound by bonds that are unbreakable but real. Above all, we have rediscovered that we are dependent on God.

Being confined to our homes will hopefully allow us to turn our attention back to the essentials, to rediscover the importance of our relationship with God, and thus the centrality of prayer in human existence. And, in the awareness of our fragility, to entrust ourselves to God and to his fatherly mercy.



PARISH CENSUS

Fr John C is gradually calling everyone listed in the parish census, just to stay connected. However, the census data is 5 years old, and some of the contact details are out of date. If you have changed address or replaced your landline with a mobile phone number in recent years, please call or text 0422 342 499, so that he can update the records.

PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

The First Rite of Penance is not presently suspended but it is discouraged. Instead we're encouraged to make examinations of conscience and frequent acts of contrition. Fr John Corrigan may respond to individual requests for the sacrament, but he can't advertise confession times nor can he open the church for confessions.

EASTER RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

All stand, holding lighted candles in their hands, and renew the promise of baptismal faith. The priest addresses the faithful in these or similar words:

Through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life.

And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

I do.

Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

I do.

Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

I do.

Then the priest continues:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

I do.

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

Amen.

The priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water, while all sing a chant that is baptismal in character.

(For example, the Celtic Alleluia:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The right hand of God raised me up.

The hand of the Lord has triumphed.

I shall never die,

I shall live, telling God's deeds.

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia.)

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Our Child Safe Policies can be read at our church entrances and on our websites.

Our safe-guarding officer is Peter Sanderson.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter)

First Reading. Acts 2:42-47. "The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common."

Second Reading. 1 Peter 1:3-9. "You did not see Christ, yet you love him."

Gospel. John 20:19-31. "Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them."

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