

Second Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy - 19th April 2020



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday 9.00am to 12 noon. Tuesday & Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm

PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

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Second Sunday of Easter - 19 April 2020

First Reading *Acts 2:42-47*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1*

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
A marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

Second Reading *1 Pt 1:3-9*

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel *Jn 20:19-31*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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Dear Friends in Christ

It happened again this year. The Easter celebration this year, was one of a kind, made special by the spread of the current COVID 19 pandemic. No doubt, celebrating Easter under the social distancing rules, the lockdown of some public places and the restrictions on movement and travel, affected family and social gatherings. The sharing of Easter eggs; the setting up of egg hunts; going to public parks and beaches; and enjoying each other's company, all these and more this year were not as usual. And from the religious perspective, the lockdown of churches and other places of worship wasn't a good experience either for most of the faithful.

However, it may be consoling to hear from today's Gospel reading, that the disciples of Jesus Christ, on the very day of Jesus' resurrection – the first Easter, had experienced a similar situation. The gospel tells us that the disciples were in a locked room for fear of the Jews. And Jesus went to them where they were. The doors were closed, but unhindered by physical or spiritual walls, he entered into the room they were in and said to them, "Peace be with you". Even after the resurrection, the disciples were wreathed in fear that they would not come out publicly, but gathered in designated homes of members, and prayed in locked rooms until Pentecost, 50 days after the resurrection, when the Holy Spirit rid them of fear and doubt.

Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. And every Mass is a mini Easter – a celebration of the sacrifice, death and resurrection of Jesus. That is the mystery of faith we profess at every Mass, during the Eucharistic Acclamation: "Dying, you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus, until you come again". In spite of being in "locked" rooms for fear of catching or spreading COVID 19, Jesus comes to us his brothers and sisters, whenever we join live streamed Masses. We, as the body of Christ, are locked in together in prayers during that Mass. And I can presumably hear him telling each and every one of us each Sunday, wherever we may be, "Peace be with you".

So, till the end of the COVID 19 rules and restrictions, let us stay in our homes, every Sunday, at the time set apart for it (about 45 minutes to one hour) waiting on the Incarnate Word, Jesus the crucified and risen Lord. He's sure to come to us, as in today's Gospel reading, he came again to his disciple gathered in a locked house, a week after his resurrection (that is, on the following Sunday). This time around Thomas the doubter was present. Is there a Thomas in your family – one who needs to tell Jesus "My Lord and my God"? Who knows, a miracle of conversion might take place one of these Sundays of COVID lockdown, if we believe. We will encounter him if we reverently follow the live streamed Sunday Mass, maintaining the decorum appropriate for a Mass in a church, actively participating by voicing the responses and avoiding other interferences and distractions with TVs and other smart devices. Every home is a domestic church so long as it is made a place of sanctity, prayer and worship.

Though it is challenging, it is a privilege to be part of this Church, as sons and daughters of God brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, fellowshiping in the Holy Spirit. We, like St Peter in today's second reading, need to bless God the Father, "who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead". And as we know, Jesus is DIVINE MERCY personified. On this second Sunday as the Church celebrates the Feast of Divine Mercy, we acknowledge the infinite love and mercy of God that overrides all our incapacitations and fears. I encourage all of us to make an effort to know more about this wonderful devotion that fits our time. Given by Jesus to St Maria Faustina, this devotion has wrought wonders in families and in the lives of the faithful.

As St Peter said, through our faith, "God's power will guard [us] until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials". Yes, even though we may have to follow COVID 19 lockdown and restrictions for a while, let our faith grow stronger. As in the first reading, "The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers," so may we remain faithful to the holy catholic and apostolic Church". And may the many miracles and signs worked through this catholic and apostolic Church, make "a deep impression on everyone" (see 1st Reading).

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

CHURCHES

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DAVID SEWELL
Principal

MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

Week Day Mass **Cancelled until further notice**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Cancelled	7.00 am
Wednesday	Cancelled	5.45 pm
Saturday Morning	Cancelled	9.00 am
Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the Third Saturday of next month at	Cancelled	9.00am

The next Anointing Mass will be to be advised

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	Cancelled	6.00 pm
Sunday	Cancelled	8.30 am

Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am, **Cancelled**
Saturday at 8.30am. **Cancelled**

Divine Mercy Prayer	Thursday	Cancelled	7.30 am
Adoration	Thursday	Cancelled	6.00-7.00pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am **Cancelled**

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church **Cancelled**

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont 4th Sunday of each month **Cancelled**

Next Mass at St John's : **to be advised**



We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus

We pray for the recently deceased : John Bayles, Cecil Morgan

We pray for the departed whose anniversaries occur at this time: Maurice Pyke, Karl Schelb

We also remember their families—may they be comforted and supported in their loss by this Community of Faith.

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Adam Smale, Brian Allen, Darren Sandstrom, John Sweeny,

Kruze Patfield, Pat Ashton, Elle Rosier, Tony Bertram, Daryl Williams, Ava Mansfield, Shirley Jean Carr, Kath Fisher, Brenda Dale, (Baby) Paris Organ, Maureen Bourke, Jasmine Fay Parada, Patricia Smith, Maureen & Paul Hume, Valda Silvy, Joan Gordon, Amanda Gordon, Shelly Ryan, Sandra Miller, Nona Maguire, Linda Harri.

Our prayers are also offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing Homes.



Celebrate the faith with your community, from home:

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is taking a number of actions to help protect the community and curb the spread of COVID-19. While Masses have been suspended, there are plenty of other ways you can celebrate your faith and connect with the Catholic community.

Watch Mass online. Mass from St. Stephen's Cathedral 8:00am weekdays, 8am and 10am Sunday at www.archbne.org/bzw.

The online edition of The Catholic Leader newspaper will be extended to all parishioners for free during this time. Keep faith with the Leader at www.catholicleader.com.au.

Our faith will sustain us through challenging times. Please keep helping your parish community by continuing your weekly offering via direct debit. Call the Archdiocesan Development Fund at 07 3324 3777 to find out how.

JOIN OUR SUNDAY MASS AT ST BRIGID'S

We will be live-streaming our Sunday Masses at 8.30am every Sunday via our website for the period of the COVID 19 Lockdown. Please visit our website: www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au and click on the button and join us for Mass.

RETURN OF KEYS

During this period while the Church building is closed we would like to take the opportunity of sorting out all the keys that have been issued over the past several years.

Would everyone who has a key marked C, P, or Mk, please arrange to return it to the office during office hours. Due to social distancing please call the office number prior to coming to the office. Keys will be reissued once this crisis is passed and we are able to again access the Church building.

Thank you for your cooperation

A Home Altar for the Lord

In the Book of Joshua, chapter 22, we read about the final settling of the Israelites in the Promised Land. When the Reubenites and Gadites (two of the tribes of Israel) separated from the rest of their brethren at Shiloh (their centre of worship) to live in the portion of the land allotted to them by Joshua their leader, they had to build their own altar. The other part of Israel that inhabited east of the Jordan, heard about it, and were appalled by the news, thinking the altar was built for another god or was a sign of division.

They knew what that meant for them, if that was the case. They knew the effect of the faithlessness of their brethren would reach every one of them. They remembered (1) the sin of Peor (the worship of the Baal of Peor - Numbers 25:1-15) that brought a plague that killed 24,000 of the Israelites before God's anger was averted by Phinehas; (2) the sin of Achan son of Zerah that brought shame on all the Israelites as they were defeated by the small town of Ai (Joshua 7). And so they convoked an assembly, planning to use military force to make the Reubenites and Gadites not to break faith with their brothers, but later decided to send messengers to find out the situation.

However, it was discovered that the Reubenites and the Gadites built that altar not for sacrifice nor for burnt offering but as a witness between them and their brethren on the other side of the Jordan, and between their generations after them, that they would perform the service of the LORD before Him with their sacrifices and peace offerings at the Lord's altar before the Tabernacle at Shiloh. They called their altar Ed, which for them means "Witness", for the altar shall remain a witness, a testimony of their union in sacramental fellowship, worship and faith with their brethren on the other far side of the Jordan, so that they, their children and children's children will remember to go to the Lord's altar of sacrifice as would be expedient for them to do so.

At this time of COVID 19 Pandemic, God is giving us an opportunity, to erect home altars, (family altars, prayer altars or sacred space – different names for the same thing). This altar shall be called Ed; a witness of our fellowship with all the saints in Christ, with all our brethren who participate in that live streamed Mass or another liturgical celebration we participate. **Its simple name is Ed.**

Next weekend we shall discuss how to create or erect an Ed: An Altar of witness.

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIALS as at 12th April 2020

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 306.75 - For Clergy Support (Greatly affected by COVID 19 Crisis)

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 690.75 - For Parish expenses such as administration, and maintenance of all our buildings and properties.

WE STILL HAVE AN OUTSTANDING DEBT OF \$3,000.00 from the installation of the air conditioners. If you feel touched to help, please do. I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Be assured of our prayers, and of your divine rewards.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

PRAYER WRITTEN BY ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

May the God to whom we turn in this moment listen to the pleading of our heart and answer as he has so often before, so that love may come from fear, hope from despair and joy from sorrow.

Almighty and all-merciful God,
Lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
In whom there is no shadow of death,
Save us in this time of crisis;
Grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
Watch over all medical people
As they tend the sick and work for a cure;
Stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
That hope may never die
And the light of Easter, triumph of life,
May shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

Aid to the Church in Need

The churches are locked but let us offer Masses for our world.

The **coronavirus pandemic** is testing all of us, but as people of faith, we believe in the power of prayer. At this time there is so much to pray for; those who have the virus, those who are losing their jobs, those who are scared, those who lead us, those who we love, and those who have died as a result of the virus.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is arranging a spiritual bouquet of Masses imploring graces that each of us will need during this time. For over 50 years, CAN has passed on the Mass offerings of the Catholic people to poor priests, who have no other means of material support. In return these priests offer a Mass for the intentions of the benefactor.

We are arranging this bouquet because the **Mass is the most perfect prayer and prayer is multiplied when united**. It is as if each person brings a single rose, yet when combined, the beauty is shared by all. **Especially when we are deprived the grace to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist**, this bouquet unites the participants in a particular way to a Mass that is offered for their intentions. Please visit, www.aidtochurch.org/coronavirus for more details.