

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

11th & 12th April 2020

Easter Sunday, Year A

Acts 10:34, 37-43; Ps 117; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9



Christ Is Risen, Alleluia

Dear Parishioners,

Jesus, buried under the earth, rose again to new life; no ground could hold him. It is a historical fact that the risen Jesus radiated his new life in all its power and glory where he went and whomsoever he appeared. The disciples to whom he appeared were suddenly transformed from a band of despairing men into brigade of daring missionaries. Everywhere they preached the Good News of Christ's resurrection the power of Easter began to work in peoples lives; despair began to give way to hope; darkness began to give way to light, hatred began to give way to love and sorrow began to give way to Joy.

During these days all of us are feeling like, we are buried within the walls of our homes. It is the first time in the history of the Church, we celebrate the highest feast of our faith, Easter without the "Exultet" being sung. The darkened Churches will not be lighted up with lighted Candles and joyful singing. As we Journey through this challenging times what is the relevance of Easter?. The relevance is that by raising Jesus from the dead God has confirmed that the way of Jesus is the way of life for all in all times, he sided with the poor, cured the sick, helped the needy, praised and blessed those who were not regarded worthy of society. He placed human beings in the centre of the stage. This is the relevance of Easter. Easter has relevance for today because it gives us hope of new life here and now. As we all experience and suffer the loss of many lives in different parts of the world and go through a bit of suffering, Easter gives the faith in the presence of risen Jesus in our midst and the will to discover new dreams and pursue new challenges. We are disappointed and worried, we are diminished in some way. But if we believe in the real presence of the risen Christ, we will find that the impossible becomes possible and we may discover the wellspring of a new beginning. It is true that we can't be in God's temple together to celebrate this Easter, but where he sits is a temple and where he walks is holy ground. It is much true at this time. He has made his home in us and we are his temples. Hence we may place the rest of humanity beside him in our little temples of Christ and ask Jesus to grand them peace.

May his Easter message resound in our hearts. "Do not be afraid". "Peace be with you".

Wishing you a blessed and safe Easter.

Father Jolly Chacko, MS

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

DIocese OF PARRAMATTA COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE

Holy Week Resources

The Office for Worship has created Holy Week resources that are available for use by you and your communities. Please download these resources below:

Holy Week Resources Material (download) - <https://tinyurl.com/holyweekresources>

Holy Week Resources Material (flipbook) - <https://www.yumpu.com/s/kR9Cu2FfZMD67zHS>

Holy Week Family Activities (download) - <https://tinyurl.com/holyweekfamilyactivities>

Holy Week Family Activities (flipbook) - <https://www.yumpu.com/s/kgAz2sL4YJ3SwTyN>

They are also available at www.parracatholic.org/covid-19

Holy Week Masses with Bishop Vincent

You are invited to watch Holy Week Masses (livestreamed) with Bishop Vincent. Please see the attached graphics for further information.

Please visit the Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) or the St Patrick's Cathedral website (<https://stpatscathedral.com.au/>) for details on how to watch the Masses.

The Masses will be streamed live on **YouTube** (www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese) and **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/parracatholic).

Readings for the Mass, provided by Universalis, can be [found here](#).

Message from Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited

Early Years Education & Care: Vacation Care - Term One 2020

At this time of crisis, the Diocese's network of early years education and care services provides a vital service for families who continue to require childcare, in particular any family involved in providing essential services. Vacation care will operate at the following 11 locations:

Mother Teresa Primary Westmead

St Bernadette's Primary Castle Hill

St Monica's Primary North Parramatta

St Paul The Apostle Primary Winston Hills

Good Shepherd Primary Plumpton

Holy Cross Primary Glenwood

Mary Immaculate Primary Quakers Hill

Catholic Learning Community of St John XXIII Stanhope Gardens

St Michael's Primary Blacktown South

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary Wentworthville

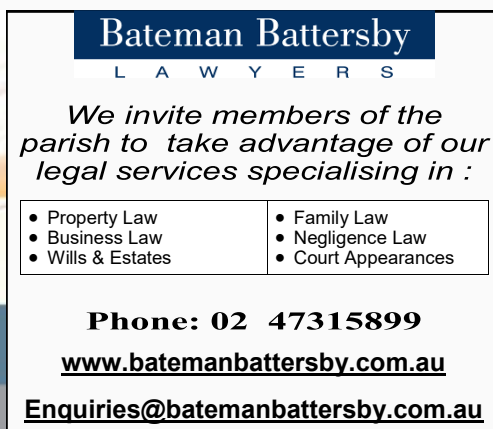
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DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE

Relief Package

Last week, the Federal Government announced its Early Childhood Education relief package. Families must be enrolled to receive the benefits of this package. To help families, all enrolments cancelled or changed in these last few weeks have been reinstated. This will ensure families hold their place and receive fee relief. Should families wish to alter their enrolment in the future we have a dedicated team in place to discuss their individual circumstances and provide support if required.

Families will not have to pay the gap fee whether or not they choose to send their child(ren) to a care centre. Please contact Anthony Goonan via anthony.goonan@parracatholic.org for more information.

Useful links and information

The following agencies in the Diocese of Parramatta have further information regarding COVID-19.

Diocesan Development Fund - Please contact Helen Steyns via enquiries@parradfd.org.au or phone (02) 88394500.

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited – Early Years Education & Care - For information relating to our network of Catholic Out of School Hours Care services and Catholic Early Learning Centres, please contact Anthony Goonan via anthony.goonan@parracatholic.org.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta - Please direct inquiries to Community Liaison via (02) 9840 5796 or communityliaison@parra.catholic.edu.au. You can also visit [this website](#).

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains - Please visit [their website](#) or phone (02) 8843 2500.

Clergy Health - Please contact Mark Buhagiar 0477 004 678 or Ellen Small 0408 914 621.

Tribunal Office – Please call (02) 8838 3480.

REFLECTION

*Life is what you make it.
Grab a hold and shake it.
Hold on tight and take it.
Don't be afraid and fake it.*

*You may think I'm a dreamer.
More likely I'm a schemer.
You may think I'm a sinner.
But in truth I'm a winner.*

*I do my best.
Never mind the rest.
My life is blessed.
I'll stand the test.
So life is what you make it.
Don't lose your nerve and break it.*



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Reflection on the Gospel

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Elise Doyle (Jacqui Visser's Sister), Patrick Hanson, Patricia De Mattia, Ken Moore, Maureen Purcell, Veronica Blair (Marg Holden and Bly Miers Mother), Merle Catlin (Margaret Richard's Mother), Jim Barrett, Anthony Campbell (Alison Howard's Brother), Hilary Doyle and Denis (Mick) O'Sullivan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Adam Carlyon (Theresa Luczak's Son in Law), Maria Macri, Eugene Daley (Margaret Rivas' Friend), Ryder Lopez, Rev. Max Barrett (CSSR) (Jim Barrett's Brother), Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Pam Clyne, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Sophie Hollies, Colleen Nolan, Michelle Anthony and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Max Callaghan, Mary McAtamney, Joan Barker, Kevin O'Duffy, Holly O'Toole, Laura Wilson, Andrew Mason, Robert Hill, Mathieu Fransen, Patricia Young and Leonard Mott.

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