



St Mary's Parish Concord

The Second Sunday of Easter

19 April 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD Year A

FIRST READING:

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

All who believed were together and had all things in common.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 117

Give thanks for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting.

SECOND READING:

First Letter of Peter 1:3-9

God has given us a new birth into a living hope.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

A week later Jesus came and stood among them.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for parishioners, family members and friends who have died recently: Giovanni Nigro, Terry Tully and David Reynolds.

We pray for those in many places who have died as a result of the COVID-19 virus, for their families and all who mourn for them.

We pray for all those who are sick and for the health workers who care for the sick.

We pray for those who struggle with the need to remain isolated from family and friends: the elderly, those in Aged Care facilities and those who live alone.

NSW Government Public Health
23 March 2020
(COVID-19 Places of Social Gathering)

All churches must remain closed.

The parish regrets that it is not possible to use the church for private prayer.

PROJECT COMPASSION: It is still possible to contribute to Project Compassion. Envelopes and boxes can be left at the Parish Office. You can also donate by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

BLESSING OF A HOME AT EASTER: Easter has been a time for the celebration of baptism since the earliest centuries and even when there are no candidates to be baptized, the baptism font is still filled with water that is blessed during the Easter Vigil. We then take water from the font to recall our own baptism. An extension of that recalling of baptism is the custom in many families to use the new Easter water at home with a pray asking for God's blessing on our family.

Although the church must remain closed, Easter water is available from an urn in the side porch of St Mary's church. You will need to bring a suitable container. Copies of the Blessing Prayer are also available on the table next to the urn.

You can also find the Blessing Prayer by going to the *Publications* tab on the parish website and then to *Liturgy Notes*.

FACEBOOK: If you are on Facebook, you may wish to join our new parish group, *St Mary's Parish Concord*. It has been created as a private group so that only those who join can see the posts. **Search for us and ask to join.** Only members can add posts. It is one opportunity to interact with each and share news.

Follow us on Twitter 
St Marys@ParishConcord

CELEBRATING AT HOME

We can be united with each other in prayer by setting aside a time when we can pause and read the Word of God and share our reflections. Many find it helpful to create a "prayer space" that helps us to focus.

We can also find those places where the Mass is being televised or live streamed.

For those who have access to the Internet there are many places that offer prayers and resources to help us.

Those listed below are some examples.

LITURGY BRISBANE offers a range of resources that will be updated each week. They can be found on the Liturgy Brisbane website at <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/preparation/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

SUNDAY READINGS READ AT HOME

The first document contains the Sunday readings with associated commentaries and prayers. It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together. This week features the readings of Easter Sunday.

FAMILY PRAYER WEEK BY WEEK

The second resource is designed for families with young children. An extract from the Sunday gospel is provided, along with some reflection questions, a family activity and a worksheet for children. We invite you to share these resources with anyone who may find them useful.

THE MASS Watch Mass online if you have a computer or a TV that allows you to search the Internet. There are many places now streaming the Mass.

GO TO THE WEBSITE of The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney www.sydneycatholic.org On the Home page there is a WATCH HERE button that gives links to parishes that are live-streaming Sunday Mass and in some cases weekday Masses and other devotions.

SACRED SCRIPTURE Set aside a time each day to read the Bible by taking a book, such as one of the Gospels or the Psalms, and working your way through it together. Pause and reflect on the passage. Use *Lectio Divina* when reading a bible text – this is explained in **Universalis** (see below) and also on the Jamberoo Abbey website.

THE ROSARY is a prayer that a family can easily recite together or can be said by those living alone.

APPS and PODCASTS: For those with access to a smart phone or a computer, the following Apps and Podcasts may help families and individuals to set aside time for prayer.

The Examen is a daily reflection that aims to help us to review how God is present in the ordinary moments of life. It is done at the end of the day and is inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Search iTunes or other platforms for the following podcasts:

The Examen with Fr James Martin SJ This 18 minute Podcast offers a guided reflection from the American Jesuits

We Wonder Lent is a 12 minute Podcast offering a daily reflection suitable for children. The one limitation is that it is from America and has references to the American seasons.

PRAYER: There are many different websites and apps that offer prayer and reflections. Some are Australian and there many others are from various English speaking countries:

Universalis is an app that will give you the texts of the Mass of the day and the Liturgy of the Hours (Morning and Evening Prayer). It is available for Apple, Android and Windows. There is a small once only cost to buy the app.

Jamberoo Abbey, Benedictine Nuns in NSW - <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/prayer>

Pray as you Go - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> (also an App) offers a daily Scripture reading and prayer

The God Minute - <https://www.thegodminute.org/> (also an App) invites us to pause for a minute during the day.

Sacred Space - <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> (also an App) comes from Ireland and offers a daily reflection and prayer in a range of languages.

FOODBANK DONATIONS: earlier this year a bin was placed at the back of the church and parishioners regularly donated food items to assist the Jesuit Refugee Service. With the church closed we can no longer donate food but we can still help.



Emergency Cash Appeal.

During COVID-19, many refugees and people seeking asylum need help to prevent homelessness and entering into new heights of destitution and hunger. For many, JRS Australia is the only safety-net. Many cannot access Medicare. Our clients include children, women and men living in Sydney.

Donating to our Emergency Cash Appeal will help us replenish our foodbank, pay for urgent medication, rent, support women out of domestic violence situations and assist people who have lost their jobs.

It's hard for everyone right now, but together, we can make it through COVID-19.

- \$40 feeds a single adult for one week
- \$70 feeds one family for a week
- \$350-\$500 pays for a week's rent

To help, please call (02)9356 3888 or email: jrsreception@jrs.org.au or click the link above this post.



Pictured: a donation to our foodbank. This food will be delivered to people seeking asylum and refugees.

LIKE IT. SHARE IT. AND FINALLY, THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM AND REFUGEES