

BULLETIN IN EXILE

Burnside, Bryndwr & Papanui Catholic Parishes

FROM FR EDWIN'S DESK

Fr Edwin Colaco SDB

Divine Mercy, Integral Dimension of Faith and Prayer

I would like to start this pastoral note with a sincere word of appreciation and gratitude for the prayers and concern you showed to me at the time of my illness.

This Sunday we are celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. On this day, all sins would be forgiven for those who go to sacramental confessions and receive the Holy Eucharist on this day.

The Feast of Divine Mercy was recorded in the diary of St. Faustina granting the biggest promise of Grace from the Devotion of Divine Mercy. On this day, all who receive communion may obtain total forgiveness of their sins, meaning that the person would go directly to heaven without suffering in purgatory.



Such as in times of illness, or in the situation of a lockdown as we are in today, confessions can be made at home in front of a rendition of the Divine Mercy Image of Jesus and at an opportune moment to a priest when available.

"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet" (Diary, 699).

Plenary indulgences are granted by the Catholic Church by reciting certain simple prayers.

Saint Faustina Kowalska was a Polish nun who received visitations and visions of Jesus, where he asked specifically for a feast of Divine Mercy to be founded the Sunday after Easter. The first Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday was held on March 23, 1937. The Divine Mercy movement is often called the greatest grassroots movement in the history of the Church. Saint Faustina was canonized on April 30, 2000, by Pope John Paul II on the Sunday after Easter of that year. The world needs the healing that comes from Christ's Divine Mercy, as Jesus told St. Faustina, *"Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to God's mercy" (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 300).*

That promise of peace isn't merely about the fate of nations, Jesus goes out of His way to be with us particularly when we're struggling the most. So if you're going through a dark period in your life; if you're worried about the world, if you're worried about your family, worried about your health, worried about your parish, worried about your neighbour - whatever it is, whatever the source of the fear and anxiety and grief, that's exactly where Jesus wants to be with you right now, because He knows that you're struggling with that and He wants to be with you, and that's why He's here, and He wants you to know that.

**That's the message of Divine Mercy, not just today, but for the rest of our lives:
"Lord Jesus, I trust in you; Lord Jesus, I trust in You."**

ELIZABETH'S REFLECTION

Elizabeth O'Sullivan (St Joseph's Parish Youth Worker)

It can be seen as an act of God's providence that we entered into Holy Week during lockdown. The quarantine has certainly acted as a means of stripping us back from the comforts of a life beyond home. On Good Friday this gave us the opportunity to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's Passion and death. In the same way that the disciples felt deprived of our Lord through His crucifixion, we too experience His sacramental absence in our lives today.

Like many of you, I have found the inability to go to Church, to participate in Holy Mass, and receive the sacraments both disorientating and saddening. However, **I now realise the complete and utter gratuity in which God gave these gifts to us in the first place.** We never deserved our sins to be so swiftly forgiven through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but they always were. We never deserved daily or even Sunday Mass but it was always offered, whether we showed up or not. As Saint Paul teaches; it is by grace we have been saved through Faith, and this is not by our own doing; but by the Gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). Holy Mass and the Sacraments are always a superabundant gift from above, and quarantine has allowed me to better grasp that fact. **Absence has definitely made my heart grow fonder.**

To be a Christian is to be a person of hope. So for us to have celebrated Easter in the midst of a global pandemic is a stark reminder of the necessity to constantly live of this theological virtue, regardless of whatever circumstances befall us. We know that, even in the worst and bleakest of times, God works all things together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). This pandemic will cease to hold power over our lives one day, and until then we will continue to pray earnestly for all those who are grievously suffering and tirelessly serving us through it. Let us also remember, that as we continue to live through these ever-changing and turbulent times, it is Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Let the refreshment of Easter wash over us in the same way it did His disciples, and let the hope of the resurrected Christ sustain us during these times.



Sundays (During Term Time)

6 - 7:00 pm - Year 8 Youth Group

7 - 7:30 pm - Year 8 AND High School Youth Group Combined

7:30 - 8:30 pm - High School Youth Group

We encourage our young people to attend **5pm Mass** on Sundays before Youth Group

SR KATHLEEN'S REFLECTION

Sr Kathleen Rushton RSM

19 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter: John 20:19-31

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take... but by the moments that take our breath away." These words attributed to Maya Angelou relate the experience of awe and wonder as being intimately connected with our breath and with fullness of life. Breathing essential to all life on Earth features in John's resurrection story where it is associated with creation and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Breathed the Spirit on Them

"It was evening on that day, the first day of the week" (20:19). Jesus "breathed on them [the fearful disciples] and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (20:22). By breathing the Spirit in, the disciples grow as a community for mission.

The word "breathed" is found here only the New Testament. It is found only twice in the Old Testament and describes God creating. God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" and created the Earthling (*adam*) from the Earth (*ha'adam*, Genesis 2:7; cf. Wisdom 15:11). Jesus' breathing is connected with God's creating.

For Us Today

Consciousness of our breath and breathing can take us deeply into Jesus, the incarnation of God in the world God so loved. In the Book of Wisdom we find: "When I was born, I began to breathe the common air and fell upon the kindred earth" (7:3). All life in Earth – the community of life – shares the atmosphere.

The process of breathing evolved about 3.77 billion years ago. Then breathing the common air, modern humans emerged on Earth, our common home only about 100,000 years ago. We late comers are intimately connected with Earth. From earliest times Christian teachers have taught that God speaks to us through two books: the little book of scripture and the big book of creation.

When the Australian bushfires raged, the air we breathed changed colour. The airborne spread of Covid-19 reminds us that we all share the same air – we are not enclosed in our own sealed bubbles of personal space.

Some of the changes being forced on us because of Covid-19 give us insight into a cleaner world. Now people are being forced to change – to fly less and live lighter. There has been a dramatic drop in air pollution because of fewer cars and factories not running.

With the myriad threats to our environment and well-being, we are perhaps better placed than ever to understand the significance of life-sustaining breath, to believe, to participate in the mission of God. When Jesus breathes on the disciples his is – literally – the same air we breathe. Jesus breathes out a gift – the Spirit – and as disciples we breathe in. Jesus' breathing is intentional and life giving.

So breath, crucial to individual life, is shared. When we inspire we become inspirited. We can pause to treasure our moments of awe – the *breathtaking* moments when we become aware of our participation in God's creating.

Abridged from article in Tui Motu April 2020.

<https://hail.to/tui-motu-interislands-magazine/publication/lkRFhG1/article/bikWRbX>

For Sunday Gospel and other lockdown reflections:

<https://hail.to/tui-motu-interislands-magazine/publication/ak395Yu>

<http://www.tuimotu.org/>

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

Srs. Bertha and Marietta SMSM

"Exult, let them exalt, the hosts of Heaven... Christ, your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed His peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen." (Easter Proclamation)

The days following Easter are a special time given to us by the Church to reflect on and delve into the Mystery of Easter. The Easter Octave especially is such a wonderful grace-filled period. It offers us so much, so many things to reflect upon and pray about.

Our readings over this past week is of the Resurrected Jesus coming and revealing Himself. On Monday, Jesus came and met the women on their way back to town and revealing Himself. On Tuesday, Jesus came to a blurry-eyed Mary as she stands weeping at the Tomb, and He greets her tenderly by name - **Mary**. Wednesday, Jesus joins His disciples on the road to Emmaus. He listens to their story and then slowly reveals the Scriptures to them, and finally opening their eyes at the breaking of the bread. Thursday - Jesus comes to them when they are gathered in a room, full of fear, and shows Himself to them. **He gives them the gift of Peace**. Friday, on the shores of Lake Tiberious, He directs them to a catch of fish and reveals Himself again as the resurrected Christ. After eating breakfast, He confirms Peter to be the Shepherd and to look after the People of God. We, through our Baptism, are called to make a commitment to evangelising and to discipleship, with a passion for serving.

This reminds us that we don't have to search for Jesus. We have to be awake and alive to the gentle way He speaks to us... make a phone call to a person living alone, or to an elderly person, spend time in quiet prayer, read the Bible, smile at people, take a meal to a sick person, or to a family who are struggling...

Jesus, who is alive and is risen, is with us at all times, even when, like Mary, we may not recognise Him.

When we read the Resurrection, it is always the suffering and death and Resurrection of Jesus - New Life. We may be suffering now because our present parishes are dying, but we can look forward to the Resurrection (rising) and new life of our new parish.

"Then I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth, for the first Heaven and Earth are Past." (Rev. 21:1)

LOCKDOWN UPDATE FROM THE SISTERS

Even though we may be on lockdown, we still have had the privilege of joining in the Easter Ceremonies, daily Mass and the Stations of the Cross - thank you especially to Bishop Paul and his bubble at the Cathedral Presbytery.

We are both happy and healthy, especially with so many digital events on offer online and on TV. We are very relaxed as we have more time for prayer, some gardening, some "autumn" cleaning, exercise on TV, reading, and **just being**. Each day we spend quite an amount of time talking on the phone, keeping up connections with family, friends and parishioners, even though its not face to face! We are united in prayer with you all.

Thank you to many of you who have offered us help and to do our shopping - we are most grateful

May the Triumph of the Resurrecection fill you all and your families with hope and joy this Easter Season and always!



Srs. Nau, Marietta & Bertha at Lyttleton before the lockdown

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

Sr Nau SMSM

Easter Time is always a Hopeful and Joyful time.

Easter is special because it makes me feel anew.

I celebrated Easter at Ranui, Hei Hei, with Sr. Monika RSM. I came to Ranui to have a quiet time before my feast day, the Annunciation. The lockdown came and I obliged to stay until now.

Our Easter was really special because each of us has a very creative way to bring Easter Spirit into our lives. Strongly believed, without walking with Jesus to His death on the Cross, there won't be "Christ is risen today."

As the clock struck hour after an hour on Saturday afternoon, the excitement of Easter is starting to intrude our creativities.

Our chapel was beautifully decorated and really uplifted the expectation for The Alleluia to hit online. Easter Vigil Mass online was totally mixed feeling of emotions, knowing that the Catholics throughout the world, are sitting in front of any device, just like the two of us, to be connected. **Solidarity in Faith Journey!** Concentrating in every part of the Mass, with full participation, I was taken up with images of all those people who are helping in different ways to stop the Corona Virus and even feeling the sadness of those who passed away. The Mass was really overwhelming.

Easter Sunday, our chapel was different with brighter colours with an Alleluia Candle. We were fully participated in Easter Mass with strong feeling in union with the victims of corona virus and those who are working days and nights in different areas to rescue all those who are needed help. Conscious that I am away from my community, I always bring Srs. Bertha and Marietta into presence of Christ in the Mass.

Every day, Prayers are done in creative ways. We use music for reflections, daily Psalms and daily Readings with prayers, then quiet time for Meditations before daily Mass online starts. Because the homilies are inspiring and interesting, we never leave the chapel without commenting, verbally or quietly with Heart of Gratitude. The evening prayers are also creative, especially, the Rosary, (Mysteries of the day.) Singing the hymns are well harmonised by Alto and Soprano but if there is a technical problem then bass dominates.

This is my most favourable time of each day. Gardening and cleaning both outside and inside the house are parts of lockdown's privileges. Walking is never forgotten and even zumba in front of the TV. The most enjoyable time is cooking. How interesting to know that we can travel around the world with dishes we can make. I am grateful for "Mr. Google's" response in times of need. Amazing experience when Sr. Monika presented our Easter dishes. She took us to India, China, Tonga, and returned to Aotearoa. **It was a big wow!**

The rest of our times, we use them for resting, reading and connecting to our families and friends through internet. We follow seriously the news information and reading newsletters. We are well informed and well updated. As each day unfolding, I strongly appreciate with heart of gratitude for the sisterly love and care that Sr. Monika RSM has given me. I am truly enjoying every minute of my time here at Ranui with Sr. Monika.

Keep safe, keep healthy and keep smiling!



The latest edition of NZ Catholic is out now online!

Visit the following website to read the latest edition of 'NZ Catholic':

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/3851daa8-230c-49d1-ae7d-6afc771ce753>



PRACTICAL WAYS TO CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY IN YOUR BUBBLE

- Pray! Pray especially at 3 p.m. for God's great mercy.
- Offer a chaplet of Divine Mercy (and the Novena of Chaplets this week, from Good Friday).
- Act with mercy towards others, in word deeds and prayer.
 - Spiritual and corporal works of mercy are especially encouraged on Divine Mercy Sunday, to share in love the mercy given by God.
- Display and venerate an image of Divine Mercy. The image represents Jesus, who is love and mercy itself.
- Focus and refocus, as needed, toward Jesus' merciful heart in prayer. Returning time and time again to God's heart is a choice, a deliberate act of will to come back to God.
- Those who are homebound make a special spiritual communion with great trust.



BURNSIDE & BRYNDWR CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Sarah Strachan (Sacramental Coordinator, Holy Trinity)

This week we have been focusing on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom; Understanding; Council (Right Judgement); Fortitude (Courage); Knowledge;
Piety (Reverence); Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe) - Respect

The time has come for the young people to choose a Sponsor and their Confirmation name.

We ask that the parish keep the candidates in their prayers as they make their decisions.

God grant me:

The Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of the world and aspire only after the things that are eternal.

The Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth.

The Spirit of Council that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven.

The Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with you and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation.

The Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself.

The Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable.

The Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease him.

Amen

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Please pray for the following intentions

For Pope Francis and the Bishops of Aotearoa

For our Civil Leaders

For our school teachers and students who have begun the new school term

For those who have been in hospital recently

For those who are sick:

Jill Lever (Papanui Parish); Bishop Basil Meeking; Stephen Cassidy (Papanui Parish); Gerard MacManus (Papanui Parish);

For those who have died, especially during this time:

Brian Eccleton (Recently Deceased, Bryndwr Parish); Mary Lee (Recently Deceased, Papanui Parish); Anne Attwood (Recently Deceased, Papanui Parish); Brian Joyce (Recently Deceased, Bryndwr Parish); Erin Vermeeren (Recently Deceased, Burnside Parish);

This Week's
Feasts and
Memorials



Tues 21 April

St Anselm (Bishop, Doctor)

Thurs 23 April

St George (Martyr)

St Adalbert (Bishop, Martyr)

Fri 24 April

St Fidelis of Sigmaringen (Priest, Martyr)

Sat 25 April

ANZAC Day

If you would like to change to Automatic Payment for the Parish Planned Giving, please contact your parish secretary for more details.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS:



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