



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA

Easter Sunday

12/4/2020 Year A

Moruya Sacred Heart Parish.

36 Queen Street,

(P.O. Box 23)

Moruya. NSW. 2537.

Priest: **Fr. George Azhakath.**

Parish Office: 44742024

Parish Secretary: Grace Cirson

Office Hours: 9am—3pm

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Email: Moruya@cg.org.au

Web: <http://cg/org/au/Moruya>

Reconciliation: 10—10.30am Sat.

Mass online:

Daily Mass 6am:

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/

Daily Mass

Archdiocese of Melbourne: <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Daily Mass: 1.00pm (Mon-Fri)

Sunday Mass: 1.00pm

St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne streamed live and is then available as a recording on demand

Additional Video Resources: www.catholicvoice.org.au and www.cgatholic.org.au

Also U-Tube has many mass choices

CARING GROUPS:

Tuross Head: 0497 315 534

Moruya: 0431 354 993

SCHOOLS:

St Mary's: 4474 2817

Carroll College: 4471 5600.

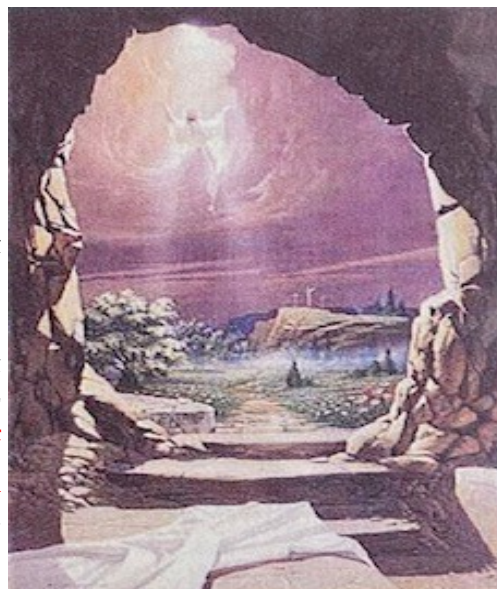
EASTER SUNDAY

THE LORD HAS RISEN INDEED

ALLELUIA

Significance of Easter:

Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church. "Easter" literally means "the feast of fresh flowers." We celebrate it with pride and jubilation for three reasons. **The resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith.** It is the greatest of the miracles, it proves that Jesus is God. Without the Resurrection, Jesus



would have remained for ever a good person who met a tragic end. People would remember some of his teachings and a handful of people might try to live according to them. All the basic doctrines of Christianity are founded on the truth of the Resurrection. "Jesus is Lord, he is risen" (Rom.10: 9) was the central theme of the kerygma (or 'preaching') of the apostles. There is a story of two women who stood before Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. One asked, "Why can't we build structures like this anymore?" Her friend answered, "The people who built this had faith. Today we have only opinions. And you can't build a cathedral with opinions." **Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection.** Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies: (Jn 11/25-26). Christ will raise us up on the last day, but it is also true, in a sense, that we have already risen with Christ. By virtue of the Holy Spirit Christian life is already a participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #10002, #1003, p261). **Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement** in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the real presence of the risen Jesus that gives meaning to our personal, as well as to our common, prayers. Our trust in the all pervading presence of the risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations, and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland reads: "Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part."

Fr. George Azhakath.

CHRIST THE RISEN LORD, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

- R. This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.
1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' R
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. 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. R

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE *THIS WEEK ...*

1. *We are to be resurrection people:* *Easter, the feast of the resurrection, gives us the joyful message that we are a “resurrection people.” This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits and dangerous addictions. It gives us the good news that no tomb can hold us down anymore - not the tomb of despair, discouragement, doubt nor death. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the resurrected Lord in all the events of our lives. “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad” (Psalm 118:24).*
2. *Source of lasting peace and celestial joy:* The living presence of the resurrected Lord gives us lasting peace and celestial joy amid the boredom, suffering, pain and tensions of our day-to-day. *“Peace be with you”* was his salutation to his disciples at all post-resurrection appearances. For the true Christian, every day must be an Easter Day lived joyfully in the close company of the Risen Lord
3. *We are to be transparent Christians:* We are called to be transparent Christians, showing others, through our lives of love, mercy, compassion and self-sacrificing service, that the risen Jesus is living in our hearts.
4. *Inspiration for self-control:* Our awareness of the all-pervading presence of the risen Lord in and around us, and the strong conviction of our own coming resurrection, help us control our thoughts, desires, words and behaviour. This salutary thought inspires us to honour our bodies, keeping them holy, pure and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction about the presence of the risen Lord in our neighbours, and in all those with whom we come into contact should encourage us to respect them, and to render them loving, humble and selfless service.
5. *Easter gives us the assurance that Good Friday is not the end:* Easter reminds us that every Good Friday in our lives will have an Easter Sunday, and that Jesus will let us share the power of his resurrection. Each time we display our love of others, we share in the resurrection. Each time we face a betrayal of trust, we share in the resurrection of Jesus. Each time we fail in our attempts to ward off temptations, but keep on trying to overcome them, we share in the resurrection. Each time we continue to hope - even when our hope seems unanswered - we share in the power of Jesus' resurrection. In short, the message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us, not pain, sin, rejection or death, because Christ has conquered all these, and we too can conquer them if we put our faith in Him.
6. *We are to be bearers of the good news of resurrection power.* Resurrection is good news, but at the same time, it's sometimes painful because it involves death. Before the power of the resurrection can take hold in our own lives, we're called to die to sin, to die to self. We may even have to die to our own dreams, so that God can do what He wants to do with our lives. Resurrection is about seeing our world in a new way. Early that Easter morning, Mary did not find what she was looking for, the dead body of Jesus. But she found something better than she could have imagined: the risen Jesus. Sometimes, the things we think we want most are not granted to us. What we get instead is an experience of God's new ways of working in the world. That's the power of the resurrection. When those moments come, we must spread the news ... just as Mary did: *We have seen the Lord!*

EASTER MESSAGE

CORONA (CROWN) OF THORNS

Just a few months ago, none of us had heard of CORONAVIRUS. Now it is our uninvited Easter guest. It seems the whole world has become sick due to its global presence. We cannot get away from it. It has turned our world upside down. We are anxious and fearful. Even in supermarkets we appear to be suspicious of each other. We are trying our best in our home insulation. The experience so far is one of mixed blessings. New routines are not easy to navigate on our own. Now whole families and others are to negotiate a new way of daily life for the next few months.

"Corona" is a Latin word meaning "crown". This pandemic has become a crown of thorns for us all. In the hours before his death, Jesus too knew of a crown of thorns. It became one of his terrible sufferings before his death on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus suffers with us in our sufferings. This is the meaning of the key word compassion.

The Easter message is clear: by suffering with the suffering Jesus we enter by Grace into the hope of Resurrection in Him. Doing this is not something of mere human initiative. We surrender to the Grace invitation of Jesus. The Risen Lord awaits our YES coming from our deepest selves. We do this as Church through, with and in Jesus. Mary and all the saints participate in do this as Church through, with and in Jesus. Mary and all the saints participate in this saving encounter. We are never alone.

This Easter will be celebrated in unprecedented circumstances. All our Churches are closed. Many, but not all, can participate via online platforms. It will be so new to us. Yet, this pandemic will eventually be contained. Hope insists on this. We want, however, from the quasi-Monastic anchorage of our homes, to encounter Jesus more than ever. Our lives are in flux. Only Jesus remains forever. Alleluia!

Our new found Easter faith insists that it be expressed in practical charity. We do all we can to help those struggling. We thank the medical professionals, cleaners and volunteers, emergency forces, priests and religious, lay faithful and all who give us particular leadership in our time of real need to human closeness and the caress of the Lord who rises in our midst. Happy Easter and every blessing to you all

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese: Apostolic Administrator of Wagga Wagga Diocese

Easter Greeting & Prayers

May the Risen Lord be a living experience to you, pervading every aspect of your life, blessing you, strengthening you, and inspiring you. May He bring you healing of mind and body from the clutches of pandemic, dispelling, the darkness of fear leading you into the light of Christ, the conqueror of the world. May the peace and joy of Easter be your treasure today, tomorrow and always. Happy Easter.

Fr George Azhakath.

"The Lord is Risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!"

"This is the day the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it, Alleluia!"

A note of thanks from Diana Ebbelaar for your many prayers, card and letters, too many for us to answer personally. We wish all at the Sacred Heart Church and Fr George many blessings for Easter and always. Gerry is improving slowly, we are trying to find a unit close by as he can no longer stay at the Hospital. Continue to pray for him. Thank you, from Diana