



Sixth Sunday of Easter

16th / 17th May 2020

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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Mass at Sacred Heart North Albury

Join our virtual celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday while coronavirus restrictions remain which is broadcast from Xavier High School Chapel.

Simply click on the YouTube link provided on our website. Will be available for your participation by Saturday afternoon. Thanks to Nick Manning from the IT department at Xavier, Cameron Adam, to Ed & Marg Brown and James Burke (website) for their assistance in this regard.

Prayer Resources: Located on parish website under "Latest Newsletter".

From Liturgy Brisbane: The first document contains the Sunday readings with associated commentaries and prayers. It is suggested that families gather to read the scriptures aloud together.

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.

The Women at Jesus' Tomb

Pope Francis reflects in his Easter Vigil homily on the women who were the first witnesses to the Resurrection.

In the gospel of this radiant night of the Easter Vigil, we first meet the women who go to the tomb of Jesus with spices to anoint his body.

They go to perform an act of compassion, a traditional act of affection and love for a dear departed person, just as we would. They had followed Jesus, they had listened to his words, they had felt understood by him in their dignity and they had accompanied him to the very end, to Calvary and to the moment when he was taken down from the cross.

We can imagine their feelings as they make their way to the tomb: a certain sadness, sorrow that Jesus had left them, he had died, his life had come to an end. Life would not go on as before. Yet the women continued to feel love, the love for Jesus which now led them to his tomb.

But at this point, something completely new and unexpected happens, something which upsets their hearts and their plans, something which will upset their whole life: they see the stone removed from before the tomb, they draw near and they do not find the Lord's body. It is an event which leaves them perplexed, hesitant, full of questions: 'What happened?', 'What is the meaning of all this?'

Doesn't the same thing happen to us when something completely new occurs in our life? We stop short, we don't understand, we don't know what to do.

Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness God brings us, the newness God asks of us. We are like the apostles in the gospel: often we would prefer to hold on to our own security, to stand in front of a tomb, to think about someone who has died, someone who ultimately lives on only as a memory, like the great historical figures from the past.

We are afraid of God's surprises!

Dear brothers and sisters, we are afraid of God's surprises! He always surprises us! The Lord is like that.

(from Pope Francis' homily for Easter Vigil, 2013)

During the restrictions placed on movement and lifestyle as a result of the COFID-19 pandemic what has your entombment been like? Describe your feelings and response.

As the stone of restrictions are gradually removed what are you looking forward to most?

How has God surprised you over the last few months?

Parish Community



We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Jack Williams, Joan Skidmore, Loryn Guerin, Gerard Sullivan, Joan McLaurin, Bill Rourke, Alan Cowan, Debbie Yensch, Timothy Davern, Bert Steenbergen.

ANNIVERSARIES: Maria Brezovnik, George Kennedy, Dawn McLennan, Allan Perso, Brian Twomey, Leanne Patterson, James O'Connor, Joseph Rudig, Wally Larkin, Joan Althmeier, Gerard Osmond, Pierce Kelleher, Benjamin Daly, John Lewis, Bill Stewart, Frances Fletcher, Phyllis Hehir, Colin Mitchell, Robert McInnes, Jack Drum, George Davern, Val Lewis, Wyn McSweeney.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer for the Sick

We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.

May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.

We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen

This week we commemorated International Nurses Day.

Below is a prayer written by the Sisters of St Joseph for those entrusted with the vocation and ministry of nursing.

Nurses Prayer

May the wellspring of compassion
be open to you.
May soothing words find a home in you.
May tenderness bless you
as you reach out to comfort
in body, mind and spirit.
In the midst of fear or frustration
may courage be given to you.
May patience keep vigil with you and
peace of mind calm you.
May your heart find a song to sing
even when you are weary.
May abundant love lift you and
gratitude bless you as you
Live the mission of care entrusted to you.

Prayer during this time of COVID19

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, the 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.

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

'I'm living this as a time of great uncertainty. It's a time for inventing, for creativity.'

Parish News

COVID-19—Latest protocols for NSW Parishes

The NSW Premier has announced changes to COVID-19 restrictions effective Friday 15 May 2020.

Please note the following:

- Churches may now be open but will be restricted to no more than 10 people in the building at any time.
- Mass may be celebrated for no more than 10 people, excluding those conducting the service.
- Funerals celebrated inside the church building are restricted to 20 people, excluding those conducting the service.
- Funerals celebrated outside the church building are restricted to 30 people, excluding those conducting the service.
- Weddings may now be celebrated with 10 people, excluding those conducting the ceremony.

These gatherings are permitted with the physical distancing rule of 1.5 metres. No physical sign of peace is permitted and the current protocols for Holy Communion remain in place.

Rev Kevin O'Reilly, Apostolic Administrator—Delegate 13/5/2020.

It is not practical for us to resume our physical celebration of Eucharist at Sacred Heart Church until attendance numbers have been increased and the internal/external capital works project completed.

Update on Capital Works

The successful tenders for the capital projects as regards Sacred Heart Church are Meredith Roofs (Replacement of Church Roof); O'Connells Refrigeration (Heating/Cooling).

The total cost of the project without added extras is \$174,500 GST inclusive. As previously indicated the project will be funded from our reserves held in the Diocesan Provident Fund.

Scaffolding has been erected on our car park side of church. Materials have arrived. It is intended to remove and replace roofing in stages.

Gratitude is extended to Kevin Wesley for his practical advice on ways to upgrade our internal/external lighting.

Before the external units for heating/cooling are installed the pathway between the presbytery and the church, both sides of the memorial garden, will be re-concreted.

Thanks to Michael Byrnes for his maintenance work in the presbytery and to Gemma & Peter Whitehead for their assistance in maintaining our grounds/gardens.

Parish Pastoral Council

As NSW government COVID-19 restrictions now allow public gatherings of up to 10 people it is intended to hold a meeting of the Pastoral Council with no more than this number in physical attendance this Thursday 21 May at 6.00pm in our hall facility. Extra members will be invited to participate by zoom technology. This will give us an opportunity to discuss plans for gradually transitioning back to normal parish life in a 'post COVID-19 restrictions world'.

Any intended agenda items can be sent to Karen Purtle (Secretary) bevispurtle@internode.on.net or to our parish office.

EASTER PRAYER

Ever Present, God

*You have given us an example
of extraordinary love
through the death and resurrection
of Jesus, your Son.*

*He gave his life and through this
we have come to know
the greatness of your love.*

*Send us forth as messengers of your love
to speak boldly in the name of Jesus
and let the song of your truth and love
reach out to the ends of the earth.*

Amen

Diocesan Newspaper 'Together' Online

The new look 'Together' will be produced on a twice-monthly basis which will be online until our churches and schools open again.

You can access the latest copy online at:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/togetherwagga

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/togetherwagga>

Website: www.wagga.catholic.org.au/Diocesan-Paper-Together.aspx

Online Mass and Prayer Resources

Options for viewing Mass online:

Website: northsydney Catholics.com then 'Mass on Demand' (Mass 9.00am every day) can be viewed anytime after that. Lavender Bay, North Sydney.

1. Daily Mass: Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn: www.catholicvoice.org.au *Mass celebrated specifically for viewing online.*

2. Daily Mass: Archdiocese of Melbourne: <https://Melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Daily Mass: The 1.00pm Mass is streamed live daily (Mon-Fri) from St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne and is then available as a recording on demand until one hour prior to the next 1.00pm Mass.

Sunday Mass: On Sundays, the 11.00am Mass is streamed & also available as a recording on demand.

Sacred Heart Bank Account for Parishioner Depositing

Church Account Second Collection

Pays insurance and utility accounts. Covers all maintenance and pastoral/liturgical activities expenses.

Internet Transfer

Account Name: Sacred Heart North Albury Church Account

BSB: 066-789; **Account Number:** 100005574

Description: Surname & Envelope or Planned Giving Number.

Liturgy of the Word



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:5–8, 14–17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 65:1–7, 16, 20 R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
And my Father will love them and we will
come to them.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:15–21

Jesus said to his disciples:
'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave your orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

