

Third Sunday of Easter

26 April 2020



Readings for this week:

Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35



Readings for
next Sunday

Acts 2:14, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-100



Liturgical Jottings Spiritual Communion

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent anyone from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting oneself in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping him in his Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid sin.

During the COVID pandemic, many are viewing Mass at Home or over the internet. The celebrant invites the distance-congregation to join in the prayer of Spiritual Communion (see right column) so that they feel connected to the Mass and one another.

Looking at the Gospels

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus, proclaimed in today's Gospel, travel on a unique journey which has many implications for them, other disciples and for us today. Firstly it becomes a moment of conversion for them. They are despondent and shattered by the death of Jesus. Secondly after recognising the Risen Christ they are overcome with joy and enthusiasm. They quickly reversed their journey, despite the lateness of the hour to share their experiences with the Twelve.

Some years ago I had a day in London waiting for a flight home. Not to waste the opportunity I visited the NGA and arrived just in time to hear a lecture on Caravaggio's painting "The Supper at Emmaus". The art expert, an Australian, enthralled his audience for over an hour. He retold the story, and highlighted the genius of the artist in drawing the two companions out of the painting by the torn sleeve but at the same time drawing the viewers into the scene by the magnanimous arms gesture of the other. We are invited to share the meal, listen to the Lord and go out to spread the [good] news. The lecture and the painting gave me material for many a homily and much food for prayer. I was so impressed I bought the painting. Well, not really, but four A4 prints of the work.

Good Idea for the Week: Spiritual Communications

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there And unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

Pope Francis Easter Urbi et Orbi 2020 Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, indifference, self-centredness, division and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words forever! They seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us, that is, when we do not let the Lord Jesus triumph in our hearts and lives. May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of his glorious day, a day that knows no end. With these thoughts, I would like to wish all of you a happy Easter. (final paragraph)



On the Lighter Side

The art lecturer [Looking at the Gospel, above] told his audience about the bowl of fruit half sitting on the table and half suspended in the air. Each morning one of the gallery's curators must come in and pick up the bowl of fruit fallen on the floor and place it back onto the table.

	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Tom Flanagan
	Our sick and their carers	Fr Ted Harte, Cecilia Bannan

Stronger Tonight

Lockdown can't stop us! We'll be bringing our next Stronger Rally right to you in the comfort of your own home! It won't look quite the same as a regular Rally but this special Lockdown Edition is here to help keep our faith going strong!

What do you need to do? Keep Friday 1st May free from about 6:15pm until around 8:30pm and join us and our special guests for the evening! Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Gen Bryant, Fr Rob Galea, and a special international guest will all be making an appearance. This is going to be a night you don't want to miss out on!

We invite all young people aged 14-26, and those interested in watching along with them, to join us on the Stronger Youth YouTube Channel while we chat, listen to some music and pray.

Sandhurst Youth Ministry's Weekday Morning Prayer

To help everyone get their day started while working and studying from home Sandhurst Youth Ministry will be posting weekday Morning Prayer videos at 8:30am starting on Monday 20th April. We will be using a range of prayer styles offering young people the chance to pray in different ways each morning. Videos are posted on the Sandhurst Youth YouTube Channel.

If you are aged 15-30 and would like to be involved in the Weekday Morning Prayer videos, please get in touch with Ruth: ruth.lawlor@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



ANZAC Day 2020

By •Dr. David Cohen

<https://www.vose.edu.au/anzac-2020/>

So much has been happening in Australia and abroad with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic that it's been almost impossible to focus on what we would normally be doing at this time of year. In 2020 ANZAC day will be like none before it. No dawn services, no marches through cities and towns and no communal celebrations. Perhaps some lone buglers will stand on street corners offering the Last Post and Reveille as a musical soliloquy to remembrance. But that's about all!

We can all still pause to remember though, albeit in a different way this year.

Previous generations lived through the horrors of war and experienced the resulting freedom from great sacrifices. However, many of us have been fortunate to exist in a society not directly affected by armed conflict. This lack of experience can result in complacency in regard to the freedoms we have, particularly in Australia. In recent days our freedoms have been clearly challenged through the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. It's been interesting to hear the emergence of the pandemic characterized as a 'war' by some. We've been urged to fight against the spread of the virus and gain victory so that our freedoms might be restored. In Australia, where individual freedom is both assumed and prized, it's not surprising that we feel like an enemy is threatening our liberty. Waging war seems to be a reasonable response.

The onset of the pandemic and ANZAC day commemorations both underline the immense value of freedom and what it feels like when that freedom is threatened or lost. Recently, Easter has reminded us that the Good News about Jesus is also a message of freedom. In Luke 4 Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah as a way of describing his mission to liberate humankind. This year, under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, may we pause to remember those who fought in wars for the freedom we sometimes fail to cherish until it is threatened. Perhaps the pandemic 'shadow' will prompt us to value our freedoms more than we have done in the past. It may also remind us, as people of faith, that, 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free!' free!

ODE TO THE FALLEN

They shall not grow old, as we are left to grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we WILL remember them.

LEST WE FORGET



