

SACRED HEART PARISH - MUNDARING

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NEWS, HAPPENINGS & CELEBRATIONS

Archbishop's message continued

God, whom the Bible tells us created us in the divine image, cannot be content with this – but perhaps God's discontent is not born of anger but of profound sorrow as God sees us do such damage to ourselves and to others. Saint John's Gospel hints of this when it tells us that "God loved the world so much that he gave His only Son.....not to condemn the world but so that through Him the world might be saved." (John 3:16-17). In the mind of God, it seems, we need saving from ourselves, and, often, also from each other....

After the journey of Lent this year, during which we have had an opportunity to reflect more deeply on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, it is important we recognise that this call to "love as Jesus did" is the very heart of our faith and of our discipleship. Each one of us knows how difficult it can be to live this call to love with constancy and fidelity, but each one of us, in the depths of our heart, will also recognise that this is exactly what Jesus meant when He described Himself as the Way, and the Truth and the Life. His way is the way to true happiness and the fullness of life: that is why we follow Him.

Easter is a time when we are called to recognise once again the seeds of hope which lie in this call to love. It is true that we can easily be overwhelmed when we see the horrors which continue to unfold in Ukraine, in the Middle East, in Sudan, in Myanmar and in so many other places around the world. We can shake our heads in desperation as we encounter more and more homeless people living on the streets with no apparent solution in sight. We can fear for the future when we read stories of increasing violence in our schools, both secondary and primary. In the face of all these problems we can feel helpless. But the triumph of Jesus over the powers of hatred and evil is a powerful antidote to this. It is the promise of a new and better way to live. It is a source of hope and equally a call to action. If

we, as members of the Catholic community and the wider Christian community in our society, committed ourselves to taking the gospel of Jesus seriously and set ourselves to walk in His Way, to embrace His Truth, and live His Life, we would be a powerful force not only for good, but for transformation and renewal in our wider community. Of course, we cannot do this on our own. We need to be a people of hope, not just individuals with hope; we need to be a community of service, generosity and practical assistance to those in need, not just individuals who do their best to help where they can; we need to be a communion of forgiveness and healing, welcome and hospitality, and not just individuals who try their best without the support of others... Dear friends, this Easter, I invite you to remember that Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and alive with us, is at the heart of Easter, just as he is at the heart of the Church, and of every aspect of the Church's life.

Jesus calls to us and asks us to make room for Him so that He can be the companion on our journey, enabling us by His presence among us to love as He did.

"There are three things that endure", says Saint Paul, "faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love" (1Cor 13:13).

Have a Happy and Holy Easter

Weekday Masses: Tuesday 2nd April to Saturday 6th April.

Tuesday 8:30am, Wednesday 9:00am,

Friday 8:30am (*followed by Adoration*)

Saturday 8:30am (*followed by Reconciliation*)

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: Vigil Mass – 6:00pm, Sacred Heart, Mundaring

Sunday: 7:30am – Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chidlow.

9:30am - Sacred Heart, Mundaring.

EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

When I was a young boy first learning about my faith both at home and at school, there was an unmistakable stress on the horror of sin, on how deeply offended God was by sin, and on the dreadful consequences of failing to turn away from sin and repent of the evil things we had done.

While in my case this was balanced by an equally strong emphasis on the love and compassion of God, it seems that many people of my generation only really heard the first part of the message. Inevitably, this led to an understanding of faith based primarily on fear. This in turn led to an image of an angry God who demanded retribution for the offences committed against Him. Sin is a dreadful thing, which leads us away from God and from those we love. It closes us in on ourselves and leads us to make the satisfaction of our own desires the decisive criterion of our decisions and of our lives. It leads us to think that we will be happy when we get what we want, no matter the cost to others or even, ultimately, to ourselves.

EASTER SUNDAY - Year B

FIRST READING Acts 10:34,17-43 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.'

■The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:1-2, 16-17.22-23 **R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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 cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

SECOND READING Cor 3: 1-4

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.

■The word of the Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY - Year B

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Cor. 5:7-8 Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice: let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 20: 1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

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.

■The Gospel of the Lord.

