



# The Parish of All Saints South Hobart

Diocese of Tasmania

Sunday 29 March 2020

Passion Sunday

All Saints Church  
S O U T H H O B A R T

The Gospel story of the raising of Lazarus is a symbolic narrative of Jesus' victory over death at the cost of his own life. We hear in it the seventh sign, the resurrection, and the last of the 'I Am' sayings: 'I am the resurrection and the life ...'

But it could also be called "The Confession of Martha". Jesus' conversations with Martha and Mary give us real insight into the journey to a profound faith which respond to love both human and divine, experienced from another.

Martha already has a simple faith in Jesus' power as a miracle worker, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died." But underneath there is a deep trust that God will grant Jesus' request. Jesus simply transcends the comment and says, "Your brother will rise." But Martha misses the point and simply expresses faith in the common Jewish belief in the general resurrection of the dead "on the last day."

Jesus replies with those powerful words, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Jesus puts Martha on the spot, "Do you believe this?" Rather than responding about the resurrection, Martha makes her confession similar to Peter, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

To be "raised to newness of life in Christ", as today's collect prays, is not just to experience Jesus as the true life that conquers death, but to accept him as God's anointed Son.

Then we have the foundation to serve "in holiness and righteousness."

Mary, then, meets Jesus, falls down, worshipped him and speaks the very same words of simple faith as Martha. We see a human Jesus, "greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved"; angry at the power of death and the hurt it causes; weeping at his friend's tomb.

Martha's comment about the stench brings the episode back down to earth. But still, they miss the point. Lazarus will die again, but Jesus, whose burial cloths

are left in the tomb, is the giver of life who will never die.

Jesus offers "eternal life," which begins with faith now and lasts forever. We are not talking about unending life, but authentic life, or life in its fullness. Eternal life begins, the author of the gospel writes when we truly believe that "Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

This is our experience at every Eucharist. Here we remember, we bring vividly into the present, his "offering made once for all upon the cross" and the promise of new life. Here we receive our pledge of a place at the heavenly banquet.

The collect for this week expresses it in this way: "We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: we pray that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his presence abiding in us he may raise us to joys eternal; ." There is a wonderful hymn by Brian Wren which makes this clear for us. The second verse reads:

"No more doubting, no more senseless dread:  
God's good self has graced our wine and bread;  
all the wonder heaven has kept in store,  
now is ours to keep for evermore."

This is the promise of eternal life; this is the fruit of the Eucharist. This is the fruit we carry into the world to live out during the week. The same hymn concludes; "praise the God whose food and friends above heaven starts here! The kingdom beckons now! This is the message.

We live eternal life as we reflect the loving presence of Christ. The Gospel passage speaks more often about Jesus' love than any other passage in the New Testament. This is the same love that he has lived; the same love that, in the Upper Room, he will command his followers to share. "By this all people will know that you are my disciples". This is the love that was the hallmark of the early Christian Church.

This is "serving Christ in holiness and righteousness." This is the new direction to take at Easter.



## Passion Sunday

The Book of Common Prayer Calendar calls this Sunday 'Passion Sunday'. BCP gives two Sundays to lead us up to the events of the cross and tomb. The colour of the season is Passion Red, signifying the blood shed by Christ the Lord.

One of the special hymns begins: 'The royal banners forward go, the cross shines forth in mystic glow; where he in flesh, our flesh who made, our sentence bore, our ransom paid.'

We have heard over the period of Lent, when we have read from John's Gospel, Jesus refer to his 'Hour'. The cross has had a mystic glow for much of the Gospel, each time, getting brighter and brighter.

Now, today, in the raising of Lazarus, the work of the cross and the promise of new life shine even more brightly.

In these last two weeks before Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day, we are asked to reflect more on the mystery of the Cross and prepare ourselves to accompany Jesus on his way of the cross.



## Online Services for Holy Week and Easter

**Sunday 29 March - Passion Sunday**  
Missa Cantata

**Sunday 5 April - Palm Sunday**  
Solemn Mass

**Thursday 9 April - Maundy Thursday**  
Mass of the Last Supper

**Friday 10 April - Good Friday**  
Solemn Liturgy

**Saturday 11 April - Holy Saturday**  
Lighting the New Fire and First Mass of Easter

**Sunday 12 April - Easter Day**  
Sung Mass and Renewal of Baptism Vows

## Something worth Pondering ...

In our best moments and deep inside us, we know that goodness and righteousness and courage are admirable attributes that we crave. Isn't it fascinating that we may envy and even respect hard, successful businesspeople, but we are seldom moved to admire them or love them.

Yet what happens when the world is confronted by a Ghandi, a Mother Theresa, a Mandela? We thrill, we admire them, we even get to adore and love them. People recognize goodness, and they want to emulate it. We are to live a life aspiring towards goodness because when we feel God's love for us, we want to live that love in our lives and share that love with others. It has often been said, "What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God."

*"God has a Dream"*  
- Desmond Tutu pp 121-122

## Assistance to Parishioners

We have an opportunity to live the faith we profess. Take the time to ring each other just to say hello.

Also, there may be parishioners over the coming months who, because of their isolation or self-isolation, are unable to do the regular shopping that would otherwise be part of their routine.

If you would be prepared to be part of a team that might be able to help in this way, please contact Andrea on 0407 417 355.

Likewise, if you find yourself in need of some assistance, *please* call Andrea on the phone number above. Don't be precious about it! We are a family and families help each other!

We will be happy to organise contactless drops for your safety.

## Thomas Merton writes:

"This is the crucifixion of Christ; in which he dies again and again in the individuals who were made to share the joy and freedom of his grace, and who deny him."

*from 'The Seven Storey Mountain'*



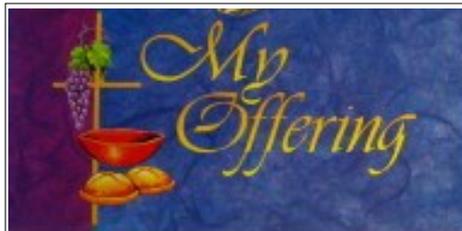
## Help Keep us Connected ...

Could you invite a couple of people to watch the Mass with you, join in the hymns and spoken parts using the order of service which will be posted online and then, after Mass, share a cuppa.

During Mass last Sunday, at the Greeting of Peace, one parishioner texted a group of people: 'Peace be with you.'

Watch the Mass and make an act of Spiritual Communion. See the article on page 4 which will explain the age-old tradition.

After you watch the Mass, consider making a cuppa and then ring a couple of people you would say 'hello' to on a Sunday at Church.



## My Offering

### HOW CAN I CONTINUE TO GIVE REGULARLY?

The first thing is to re-assure you that the Church is still operating. We may not be able to meet in the regular way for Mass or in our groups but the prayer of the Church is still going on daily, services are being provided online and telephone ministry is happening. In addition, bills will continue to flow in, even though some may be reduced through less use.

- The Wardens and Council ask you to consider again setting up a direct debit from your personal account. Details are:

Bank ANZ  
 BSB 067 002  
 Account Number 2801 6823  
 The reference is the service time you attend.

- Calling in to The Jesse Tree and making your offering by EFTPOS using your card.
- Ringing The Jesse Tree on 0438 094 661 and using your credit card over the phone.
- Dropping in your Weekly Giving Envelopes or cash offering in an envelope to The Jesse Tree.

BPAY and PayPal will be available very shortly.

Thank you for your generous support, especially at this difficult time.

# Thank You

Thank you Gemma and Frederik for their superb production of last week's 'Mass Online'. Thanks also to Adam for acting as Cantor. It was a steep learning curve and we were delighted with the outcome. We have more equipment this week: hopefully it will make Gemma's job easier.

Thank you, also, for your encouragement as we begin this period of communicating in a new way and also worshipping in a new way. One comment said that they felt 'present' at Mass.

Thank you to Pene, Sally and Peter Tullgren who are organizing the delivery of simnel cake and posies. We are very grateful for their time and effort and to those who will assist in the delivery process.

## Updates on meetings ....

The Study Groups now need to cease meeting in person.

Wednesday morning's 'Celtic Lent' Study Group will be contacted by Gemma to make alternate arrangements.

The 'Saturdays with the Sacraments' group will have material emailed and the possibility of an online meeting explored.

The Choir is in recess. We will be able to have a very small group of singers to help with the online Easter Liturgies.

The Men's Luncheon Group is also in recess.

The Rector and Wardens will discuss how Parish Council continues to meet.



### THE JESSE TREE

Thursday, Friday  
10.30am to 3.30pm

Saturday  
10.00am to 2.00pm

At this stage, The Jesse Tree remains open but with reduced hours. The Diocese has set clear and strict guidelines on staffing requirements.

Sadly, the *All Saints Market* has been closed until further notice.

## About Making a Spiritual Communion

In my early days we were encouraged to attend The Eucharist often. In my Parish Church the Eucharist, initially celebrated on Wednesdays and Holy Days, became a daily offering. Sometimes it was a struggle to be up and at Church if we happened to be rostered on as the server.

At that time, we were also taught that, if we could not get to the Eucharist or could not take the Sacrament for some reason, we should make an act of Spiritual Communion.

This has dropped out of the Anglican tradition in most places, perhaps because there is more opportunity to receive the Sacrament. However, in this time when we are unable to come to Church and receive the Sacrament in person, this is a good time to 'dust off' a valuable custom and make it our own.

Through Baptism we are incorporated into the Body of Christ and so, whenever the Eucharist is celebrated, the whole Church, in heaven and on earth, is present in a mystical way.

Jean-Marie Vianney, the famous parish priest of Ars, taught his people about the value of making a Spiritual Communion. He believed strongly that 'no wall can shut us out from the good God.'

What is required of the one who wishes to make an act of Spiritual Communion is the desire for Jesus to come into their hearts and embrace them. This means an act of turning to Jesus with the desire of renewing one's life.

You will be able to print out both the Order of the Mass and the Pew Bulletin each week. When you watch the Mass online, you will be able to join in with the spoken parts of the service, and even sing the hymns with us. When it comes to Holy Communion, while the priest receives the Sacrament, make this prayer, printed in the order of service, your own:

Blessed Jesus,  
present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul  
by faith with thanksgiving.  
I cannot at this moment  
receive you sacramentally,  
but come spiritually into my heart, I pray.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never let me be separated from you. Amen.



## How You Can Contact Us

Because we will mainly be working from home, in accordance with the Bishop's direction, the Parish Office will not be attended. Please do not leave a message. Rather, call

Father David      0419 891 409  
fatherdavid@bigpond.com

Gemma              0407 495 920  
gemmalemes@gmail.com

For the Market, Jesse Tree, Hall - call  
Yvonne              0417 370 819  
therectorswife@gmail.com

*We are available and will welcome your call.*

## Pray with us this Week ....

For the leaders of all nations during this pandemic and especially our Federal and State Governments. Give to them all wisdom and compassion to listen to one another and to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

For all frontline medical professionals as they seek to care for, heal and help those affected by coronavirus and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

For the World Health Organisation and chief medical officers in our states; for medical researchers working to develop a vaccine; and for those whose task it is to implement protective measures: that they may be given wisdom and insight and the grace of perseverance.

For your Church as it seeks to be a sign of hope and renewal. We pray for Philip our Primate, Richard our Bishop, Chris Vicar General, health care chaplains, pastoral carers and the clergy and people of this Diocese. May they bring to those around them the healing presence and love of Christ.

For the sick, especially those who suffer from coronavirus or are in isolation, uncertain of their diagnosis; for those who mourn the loss of loved ones as a result of this virus; and for those who bear the burden of ongoing illness: Gordon, Peggy, Sallie, Robin Angela, Layton, Roslyn, John, Merle, Tony, David, Richard, Liz.