

BLESSING OF HOMES DURING EASTERTIDE

LEADER: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever.
R/: Blessed be God forever.

LEADER: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ, risen from the dead, who is our source of hope, joy, and comfort. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke: 24:28-32

As the disciples approached the village to which they were going, Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"

LEADER: The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.

R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, through you every dwelling is a temple of holiness: build those who live in this house into the dwelling place of God in the Holy Spirit. We pray: **R/.**

Lord Jesus Christ, the disciples recognized you in the breaking of the bread: grant that the members of this family may be open always to the presence of Christ in Word and sacrament. We pray: **R/.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you appeared to the frightened Apostles and said, "Peace be with you": grant that your abiding peace may remain with the members of this family. We pray: **R/.**

ALL: Our Father

LEADER: Lord, we rejoice in the victory of your Son over death: by rising from the tomb to new life he gives us new hope and promise. Bless all the members of this household and surround them with your protection, that they may find comfort and peace in Jesus Christ, the Paschal Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
R/. Amen.

Move through the house sprinkling Holy Water

Thank You

A BIG THANK YOU to all our parishioners who gave so generously of their time and talents to ensure our Easter celebrations were beautiful and holy.

May the Lord bless you a hundredfold for all that you have given to build our parish faith and life.

EASTER OFFERINGS

Easter Offerings **help support our priests.**

Easter Offering envelopes will be available in the Church pews from the Easter Vigil and throughout the Easter Season.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish priests.

PASCHAL CANDLE DONATION

Thank you to **Mark Malone** from **Integrity Funerals** who very kindly donated the Paschal candles for both St Benedict's Shrine and St Therese's Church.

EASTER TABLE PRAYER

Creator God and Lord of Life, You who call forth from the darkness of death all those who love You, we rejoice, on this Easter Sunday, in the resurrection from the dead of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Visit our home and this table with Your bright blessing of peace and life.

We pause in the midst of this prayer to remember all the holy dead of our family who live now in You and who await the final and glorious resurrection of the dead.

Pause for silent reflection to remember those who have died.

May they and we, because of our faith in You, our God, taste in the victory of life over death.

May the Risen Christ, our Lord and Saviour, be our guest as we celebrate His resurrection with this Easter Sunday dinner.

Bless those whose work to prepare this meal has truly been a work of prayer, and bless all of us who shall share it with Easter love and joy.

May You, then, bless this table and this food, and each of us in Your holy name.

Amen.



Edward Hays, "Prayers for the Domestic Church: A Handbook for Worship in the Home"

REGINA CAELI



Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.

For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.

He risen, as he said. alleluia.

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

St Benedict's Shrine

Corner Justin & Neville Street
SMITHFIELD

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm;
9:00 am (Italian); 10:30am; 6:00pm.

Weekday Masses:

9:15am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday;
7:00 pm Wednesday

Weekday Public Holidays: 10:00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Adoration:

Wednesdays after evening Mass with Novena to St Benedict until 8:30 pm; *Saturday* from 4:30pm—5:30pm; & *Friday* after the 9:15am Mass

First Friday of the Month:

9:15 am followed by Devotions
7pm Mass & Adoration followed by Devotions

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tuesday after Mass & Friday after 9:15am Mass with Exposition.



Parish Priest

Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE

Assistant Priest

Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE

St Therese's Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street
FAIRFIELD WEST

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm (Vietnamese);
7:30 am (English); 12 noon (Spanish); 6:00 pm (Syriac)

Weekday Masses:

Mon - Fri 7:00 am; Saturday 8:00 am
Weekday Public Holiday: 8:00 am

First Friday of the Month:

6.30 am Exposition & Confession; 7:00 am Mass

First Saturday of the Month:

7:00 am Rosary 8:00 am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Tuesday after Mass

Sacred Triduum, Year A

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night



Our Easter Vigil will include:

- Blessing of the fire and the preparation of the candle
- Procession
- Exsultet
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of Baptism
- Prayers of the Faithful
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Solemn Blessing of Dismissal
- Regina Caeli

EASTER MONDAY MASS TIMES

St. Therese's Church 8:00 am

St. Benedict's Shrine 10:00 am

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER For a culture of peace and non-violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Easter Message 2023

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee and they will see me there.' (Mt. 28: 8-10)

The sight of the empty tomb was something indescribable and incomprehensible to the women who had gone there to visit the Sepulchre. Never had they imagined that the body of Jesus would not be there! All of their emotions of fear, disbelief, confusion, grief, disappointment were put at ease when they heard the voice of the angel who told them, "There is no need for you to be afraid." It is interesting that Matthew uses "you". This was a direct instruction to the women. While the guards who had been placed at the tomb to ensure that the disciples did not steal the body of Jesus "were like dead men" because of their fear, the women were told, "There is no need for **you** to be afraid." Jesus had spoken many times of his resurrection, he had tried to prepare his disciples and followers for this moment. Until this moment, they did not understand, but now they experience the resurrection. From this moment they are the first Easter People; the first to look upon the empty tomb, the first to experience the resurrected Christ and the first to tell the Good News of Christ risen from the Dead.

They need not fear, because they hold in them the love, the joy and the hope that the Resurrected Christ will meet them on their pilgrimage in life.

The message of that first Easter, is the message of this Easter, and that is one of love, joy and hope. We live in the knowledge that the Resurrected Christ does not leave us in our past fears and disappointments, but looks forward to bringing us into future hope.

This Easter when you gather around your Easter Table to celebrate Christ risen from the dead, be confident that the Risen Christ brings to your home love, joy and hope. Give thanks for the gift of each other and pray for those whose Easter may be overshadowed by doubt and fear.

Thank you for your prayers, your presence at our Liturgies and for the gift that you are. Have a blessed Easter!

Christ is Risen ! Alleluia! Indeed he is risen, Alleluia!

In Christ,
Fr Peter James and Fr. Wojtek

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: 16 APRIL 2023

Jesus requested to St Faustina that the first Sunday after Easter should be the Feast of Divine Mercy and proclaimed in a special way. In addition to our parish Mass timetable, there will be a special celebration at St Benedict's Shrine.

2:00 pm: Prayers & Devotions

3:00 pm: Mass



The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

BLESSING OF THE FIRE AND THE PREPARATION OF THE CANDLE

PROCESSION

PRIEST: Lumen Christi

RESPONSE: Deo Gratias

FIRST READING Gn 1:1-2:2

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God’s spirit hovered over the water.

God said, ‘Let there be light’, and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light ‘day’, and darkness he called ‘night’. Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, ‘Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two.’ And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault ‘heaven’. Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, ‘Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.’ And so it was. God called the dry land ‘earth’ and the mass of waters ‘seas’, and God saw that it was good.

God said, ‘Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.’ And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, ‘Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.’ And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, ‘Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.’ And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying ‘Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.’ Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, ‘Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.’ And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

God said, ‘Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.’

God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of

heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.’ And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

- 1. Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe. (R.)
- 2. You founded the earth on its base, to stand firm from age to age. You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak: the waters stood higher than the mountains. (R.)
- 3. You make springs gush forth in the valleys: they flow in between the hills. On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; from the branches they sing their song. (R.)

THIRD READING Ex 14:15 – 15:1

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.’

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his own horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. ‘Let us flee from the Israelites,’ the Egyptians cried ‘the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!’ ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea,’ the Lord said to Moses ‘that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.’ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh’s whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

- 1. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph! Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea! The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation. This is my God and I extol him, my father’s God and I give him praise. (R.)
- 2. The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name. The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea, the flower of his army is drowned in the sea. The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone. (R.)
- 3. Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power, your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe. (R.)

FIFTH READING Is 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

- 1. Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (R.)
- 2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples, declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
- 3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, People of Zion, sing and shout for joy make them known to all the earth! for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

EPISTLE Rom 6:3-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(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 corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

GOSPEL Mt 28:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, ‘There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him.” Now I have told you.’ Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. ‘Greetings,’ he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.’



REMINDER ~ PLEASE TURN OFF MOBILE PHONES
Please remember to turn off your mobile phones – or switch to silent – when entering the Church.

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