

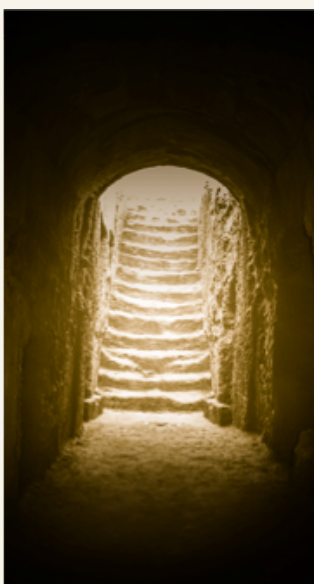
Dear Parishioners

Christ is Risen Alleluia, Alleluia

He is truly Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

This year amid the global COVID-19 Pandemic, we have seen our Sacred Triduum celebrated in a different way. From Pope Francis in Rome, to St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, to our own Parish, the pews remained empty as we walked with Christ and his disciples from the Upper Room, to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the Golgotha. But today that emptiness has a new meaning. We are not looking at empty pews and closed churches, but rather we stand in awe of an open and empty tomb! It is this sight, amid tragedy and anxiety, which gives us the courage and the unity to sing from the inner most place of our soul, "Alleluia! He is Risen!" That empty tomb gives us the promise that God does not abandon his people, that God has not fallen deaf to our pleading, that God promises us life and hope. It is this same life and hope that Christ brings to us this Easter Sunday. Today as you celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, remember that it is Christ's body, broken and raised, that unites us all. As St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans, "Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom.8: 38). May the Blessings of this Easter Season be poured with abundance upon you and your loved ones and give you the strength you need in these unusual and uncertain times. Happy Easter and God Bless! Alleluia!

Fr Jarek, Fr Wojtek and Fr Peter James



Spiritual Communion

Catholics are encouraged to make a 'spiritual communion'. St. John Paul II writes that "it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of 'spiritual communion', which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.'" (Ecclesia Eucharistia, no. 34)

How do I make a Spiritual Communion?

Below are recommendations for how to make a 'spiritual communion' when unable to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The recommendations can be adapted based upon personal and family needs.

- Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass
- Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray the Act of Spiritual Communion (see below).
- Close with the sign of the cross

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. (Pause for a moment in silence and adoration). I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Parish Donations

As our Parish and the Priests rely on the generosity of our Parishioners, not having Sunday Mass will place a very heavy burden on our Parish. I also understand that many of our Parishioners may have found themselves affected by loss of jobs in so many vital industries. If it is at all possible for you to continue to contribute to our Parish it would be greatly appreciated. We all anticipate the day we can celebrate physically together once more around the Lord's Table. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God Bless.

First Collection (Priests)

Account Name: Smithfield House – Order of St Paul the First Hermit

BSB 066711 Acct. No. 007392

Second Collection (Parish)

Account Name: Smithfield Catholic Church

BSB: 062784 Acct. No. 6675001

We acknowledge with thanks Mark Malone from Integrity Funerals for his generous donation of Paschal Candles for our churches. Thank you!

Archbishop Fisher's latest Pastoral Letter on COVID-19

The letter contains important information on the livestreaming and simplification of Holy Week services as well as updates to ensure that our pastoral care and support for the faithful is greater still during this time of pandemic.

Read the full letter on the COVID-19 website <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/>

Channel 7 to broadcast Easter Services from St Mary's Cathedral

We are very pleased to announce that Channel 7 will broadcast the Lord's Passion on Good Friday (10 April) at 3pm and the Easter Sunday Mass (12 April) at 10:30am live from St Mary's Cathedral. At a time when Catholic churches across Australia are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a wonderful opportunity for people across all ages and no matter where they live to participate in the Mass at the holiest time in our Church's year.

The Catholic Weekly has temporarily transitioned to a digital presence only due to the government's decision to close all Churches during the COVID-19 pandemic. While it has brought challenges, I am pleased to inform you that we have adapted extremely well and are continuing to produce the paper in a **digital form** making it available to everyone online at www.catholicweekly.com.au



Mark Malone J.P.

Director

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

ABUSE IS A CRIME. THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE TO DEAL
WITH A
CRIME ARE THE POLICE. IF YOU – OR ANYONE YOU KNOW
– HAVE
BEEN ABUSED, PLEASE CONTACT THE
POLICE. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN CONTACT THE SAFE-
GUARDING AND
MINISTERIAL INTEGRITY OFFICE AT (02) 9390 5810 OR
SAFEGUARDINGENQUIRIES@SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG. YOU
MAY ALSO
WANT TO SPEAK TO YOUR PARISH PRIEST WHO WILL BE
ABLE TO
PROVIDE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE. THE
ARCHDIOCESE HAS A LEGAL OBLIGATION TO REPORT
CRIMES TO THE POLICE.

**Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield has
extended the due date for Enrolment
applications for 2021 and 2022.
The new closing date is now May 1st 2020.
Starting Term 2, the College's Office hours
are 8am - 3pm.
Please contact the Enrolment officer on
9728 4488 ext 1011 for any inquiries.**

CATHOLIC Care Volunteer Program

The Archdiocese of Sydney is working alongside our so-
cial welfare agency Catholic Care to roll out a volunteer
program to help the needy access groceries, cooked meals,
medicines and other necessities at this difficult time. You
are asked to nominate a volunteer coordinator (not your
Parish Priest or parish secretary) and 5-10 people in your
parish who are young and healthy enough to carry out
these visits to the needy. Please provide their contact de-
tails to Laura Rahill at laura.rahill@sydneycatholic.org

**Advertising Space Available – Begin-
ning New Financial Year
Quarterly (No Easter Ads): \$330 Half
Year (26 Weeks – No Easter Ads): \$550
Annually (No Easter Ads): \$990 10%
discount for parishioners who are ac-
tively donating via the St Gertrude's
Fund.**

**Contact Parish Office – 9604 1199 Tues-
day—Friday 10am–2pm**

The Parish does not imply any endorsement for advertisements listed in this bulletin.