

**2nd Sunday of
Easter**
19 April 2020

Parish Office: Open Tuesdays & Fridays (9am-3pm)
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A vibrant and detailed Easter basket is presented on a rustic wooden surface. The basket is overflowing with various festive items: a large orange egg decorated with colorful buttons and white stars; a pink bunny mask with large eyes and green ears; a pink bunny figurine; a yellow chick in a green nest; a blue chick; a wooden cross; and a cluster of red berries. The basket is surrounded by green leaves and grass, creating a lush and cheerful scene.

Welcome to St. Patrick's Catholic Church Mortlake

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
2:42-47

The faithful lived together and held everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (continued)

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
1 Pt 1:3-9

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens.

Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24.

R: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (R.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

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GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John – Jn 20:19-31.

**After eight days Jesus came in and stood
among them.**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. **Jesus** came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord

"OKAY, HOUSTON, WE'VE HAD A PROBLEM HERE."

On April 13th, 1970, 50 years ago this Monday past, those famous words were uttered initially by Jack Swigert, then repeated by Jim Lovell as *"Uh, Houston, we've had a problem."* It was of course the early sign of distress for the near fateful Apollo 13 space mission in 1970, where following damage to oxygen tanks and wiring, the crew of the Apollo 13 and mission control personnel in Florida, were forced, in rushed and dire circumstances, to come up with novel and unique ways of ensuring the safe return of the space craft's three crew members to Earth. Various movies and documentaries have covered the event, and so it was, for the sake of a more 'dramatic theatre effect', for the 1995 film 'Apollo 13', the expression was shortened to simply *"Houston, we have a problem."*

So it is with us now – We Have A Problem. A problem which can and will be adapted to and overcome. We have teams of medical professionals looking at: cures; treatments; and preventative measures to deal with Covid-19. We all are radically adapting to the new reality. Because that is what needs to happen. And it needs to happen quickly. We give thanks for all service workers and personnel working tirelessly to keep us safe – the supermarket workers; the nurses; doctors; police and ambulance officers; etc. Physically we are adapting very quickly – and so far, we are told the "curve" seems to be "flattening".

Spiritually too though – We Have A Problem. Especially as Catholics, we have traditionally been bound to a priest led and Mass centred liturgical regime. Even now, when Mass cannot be celebrated in a physical gathering of community, we rely on live-stream Masses for us to witness. The Mass is rightly the centrepiece of our faith life as Catholics. But perhaps at this time – we can ask ourselves, in a life giving way – what other ways of worship, in addition to the Mass, may I encounter Christ? How can I as a Christian lay person, not formally trained to lead worship, nevertheless lead my immediate family community? After all, the Home is always the first Church.

The Church's tradition of course provides for this in: *Lectio Divina* and the meditative reading of the bible; the rosary; various devotions; simple family prayers; to pray through song and poetry; and also, to examine new ways to praise God. Going forward, this IS THE PROBLEM we must face. How can I, and we as a Church, look at prayer and engagement and true encounter with my God and humanity in a new way and quickly? **Fr. Tom**

Welcome to St. Patrick's Catholic Church Mortlake

'LOCKDOWN STRESS' - ADULT & CHILDREN MENTAL HEALTH

Statistics released this week revealed that high percentages of our community are becoming increasingly stressed about the following significant issues we may be facing: 77% of us are becoming stressed over Not Seeing our Families; 60% of us are stressed over our ability to Pay our Bills; 49% of us are stressed over the possibly Losing Our Jobs.

In these times, it's important to know professional help is available, and we need to reach out for help if we feel things are becoming too much. The below links are some possible avenues for assistance which I commend to you:

- **Black Dog Institute:** <https://blackdoginstitute.org.au/coronavirus-anxiety-resources>
- **The Brave Program:** <https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/child-program>
This is a free online anxiety program for parents and children (3-17yo)

Phone Buddy Network

Parishioners who may like to be part of a program can register. Parishioners will be paired up with one another and become 'Phone Buddies'. Buddies will then contact each other (via phone) a couple of times a week to have a chat, share a story, pray, etc. This is in order to help people stay connected during this period. If you would like to register, please call the parish on 9743 1017 or email parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au

DONATIONS & PLANNED GIVING

For those of you who are able and wish to continue to assist the parish financially, either through donations or the planned giving programme, you can Direct Debit funds to St. Patrick's through the website: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/mortlakeparish>

Or, by direct debit: **BANK TRANSFER DETAILS**
BSB: 062 784
Account Number: 5015 0001
Reference: *Your name.*

If you wish to contribute by way of your existing 'Planned Giving Envelopes', then those envelopes can be physically placed in the beige locked letterbox, located outside the Presbytery (35 Gale St).
Thank you.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Lenten **Project Compassion Boxes** can be dropped off at the parish office on Tuesday and Friday's between 9am and 3pm or in the box in the parish hall on Saturday's 11/18 and 25 April, between 8am and 12 noon.

Thank you.

LOCAL FRESH FRUIT & VEGGIES: Individuals wanting fresh fruit and vegetables can contact parishioner John Borger on 0418 119 569. John sells organic 'fruit and veggies' here in the St. Pat's parish hall every Saturday between 8am and 12 noon. For the aged and isolated, John is happy to take your order and arrange delivery of his seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY: Fr Peter Morrissey (former parish priest of St Pats 1997-2003, now 92 yo); Steven Windon; Magda Cassis; Sr Judith Clark; Nanette; George; Jill; Edward Azjan; Maryellen Partlin; Tony P; Marie; Loretta; Antonietta; Bill Young; Don Khoury. To have your petitions included, please see one of the group or phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES: Frances Gleeson (4 yrs); Renzo Trinco (1st Anniversary); Audrey Vertannes; Jennifer McAfee; Gary Traill; Samira Hanna; John Walker; George Cepak; Michael Geoghegan; Raffaele Melizza (Italy); Maureen Johnson; John McAnelly; Gerard Lopez; Dovilio Favero; Brian Clark.