



ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC PARISH OF CROUNULLA

Vol 44 No 32
26.4.20

Incorporating: Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena & St John Fisher, Kurnell
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AS A COMMUNITY WE SERVE GOD



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

Prayer of the Church:
Psalter Week 3

Entrance Antiphon:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Acknowledgement to Country

St Aloysius Catholic Parish acknowledges the Gweagal people of the Dharawal Nation as the traditional owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves in prayer and action to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Please be aware that all relevant Archdiocese Policy, Protocols and guidelines for safeguarding children, are public documents and are available on the Sydney Archdiocese website.

"We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected." Pope Francis



Reflection from our Parish Priest



Today's Gospel recounts one of the great post-resurrection experiences in the early Church. The Gospel is full of meaning, and in 22 verses, Luke masterfully depicts a journey, an encounter with Christ, a lesson about the scriptures, a meal of supernatural significance, a return journey to Jerusalem and an experience with the community of believers.

According to Jewish law, faithful Jews were not permitted to undertake a journey on the Sabbath (Saturday). However, the day after the Sabbath was always a popular day for travel. The day after the Sabbath was the day of the resurrection of Christ, the day we now call Sunday, the day we undertake our spiritual journey.

Cleopas and his friend heard that Mary Magdalene found the tomb of Christ empty, and they were aware that Peter and John also visited the tomb, but they did not see Jesus. In a similar way to Thomas in last week's Gospel, Cleopas and his friend were unable to believe that Jesus was alive and they decided to return to their normal life. They moved on and began their journey away from Jerusalem towards a town called Emmaus (a town meaning "warm springs" – interpreted by some as meaning a place where one is lead towards the rivers of Hell.)

In the Scriptures, the city of Jerusalem is often connected with the Heavenly Jerusalem and identifying with Jerusalem was identifying with Heaven. The Gospel writer is illustrating the change in attitude of Cleopas and his friend. Through their actions, they had chosen to reject the ways of Christ and walk towards the "valley of darkness."

In the midst of their journey away from faith, the risen Christ comes to guide them and support them. Calling to mind Psalm 22, *"If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort."* The Risen Christ begins his encounter with "hard love." He calls Cleopas and his friend *"foolish men,"* and he firmly corrects them for their lack of belief. Then Jesus explains the Old Testament references to himself, how the Christ is the innocent lamb, how Christ will suffer and enter into his glory – the glory of his death and resurrection. The Old Testament is full of references to Christ and his glory. Jewish custom compelled Cleopas and his friend to offer hospitality to their new friend. In the context of the meal, their friend (the Risen Christ) took the bread, said the blessing, broke it and handed it to them. As they received the broken bread they were no longer able to see Jesus as a physical person, but recognised Jesus in the bread they had received and eaten.

Since their minds had been opened to the glory of Christ, and they had recognized Jesus in their midst, they immediately began their journey back to Jerusalem and the way of eternal life, and they spread the good news to the community of believers they had previously abandoned.

Christians are called together on the day of the resurrection (every Sunday) to enter into the Emmaus experience. Our Mass begins with a recognition that each of us are "slow to believe" and that we are foolish in the eyes of God (Penitential Rite). We then read the Scriptures and Christ comforts us and opens our eyes to Christ's glory in the Old and New Testament. Once we see Christ in our presence, the bread is taken (the offertory), blessed (the Eucharistic Prayer), broken (the Lamb of God) and given to us (Communion). Having received Christ in communion, we are sent into the world to bring the message of Christ to others: "Go in the peace of Christ to love and to serve the Lord."

The celebration of Mass is the great event of the story of Emmaus, the great celebration of the Scriptures and the great event of the Christian people. Let us listen to the Word of God, and pray that we will be given the grace to see Christ in the breaking of bread and enter into the journey towards eternal life on the day of resurrection with Cleopas and his friend.

**First reading: Acts 2:14,22-33** ::::

God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to this.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy; my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 15:1-2,5,7-11 ::::

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21 ::::

Your ransom was paid in the precious blood of Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in

silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 ::::

They recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Catholic Weekly

The Catholic Weekly Digital Edition for issue 19 April 2020 is now available. Click the link to view:

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

If you haven't already done so there is a Special Easter Supplement Magazine to view online as well. Click the link to view:

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/650730/>

Easter and the Easter Bunny

Christian art has several examples from the 2nd century through to the 16th century of rabbits being associated with Christ. In the early eastern Christian Church the rabbit was used on tombstones as a symbol of Christ. Some early Christians viewed the rabbit's hole as a symbol of the tomb of Christ, and thus the rabbit became associated with Easter, and the presence of the rabbit was a sign that life had emerged from the tomb.

The idea of rabbits as a symbol of vitality, rebirth and abundance of life also derives from the early Church. There is a curious and strange phenomenon called superfetation, which is most common with rabbits, although there is some suggestion of this occurring in other animals and even once or twice in humans. Superfetation is when a female animal falls pregnant on more than one occasion from different menstrual cycles – thus carrying embryos of significantly different ages during the one pregnancy. For example, the rabbit is pregnant for one month and then becomes pregnant and carries additional embryos after one month for the rest of the pregnancy cycle. This is how we get the expression “Breed like rabbits!”

Prior to scientific study and knowledge of this phenomenon, it was widely believed (by Ancient Roman and Greek Scholars including Pliny, Plutarch, and others) that the rabbit was a hermaphrodite that could spontaneously reproduce without loss of virginity. This led to an association with the Virgin Mary, with rabbits often being depicted in manuscripts and Northern European paintings of the Virgin and Christ Child.



Image above: **The Madonna of the Rabbit (1530)** painted by famous Italian painter Titian.

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GOD GAVE FIRST
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(through Parish Website,
Youtube and Facebook)

**2. Direct Bank Transfer Online**

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BSB: 062 784; Account # 04152001
Parish Second Collection Account:
BSB: 062 784; Account #: 04152000.

Please use envelope number as description, if you have one.

**3. By Phone**

(02 8522 0300)

**4. By Mail**

(using recurring
credit card giving form)

**5. In Person**

(through Parish Secure Dropbox)

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St Aloysius Cronulla
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250th Anniversary of the First Encounter between Local Indigenous and Europeans.
Tuesday 28 April at 5pm, the Parish will have a prayer vigil at Kurnell reflect on the perspectives of the European voyagers and the Dharawal peoples in the context of our Christian redemption story.
Mass on 29 April at 8am will be livestreamed from St John Fisher Church at Kurnell to pray for the healing of the Holy Spirit on our land, on her people, old and new, and for the unity of all.



Masses at 8am & 5pm

LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC DAY



25th APRIL

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St Aloysius Parish Cronulla

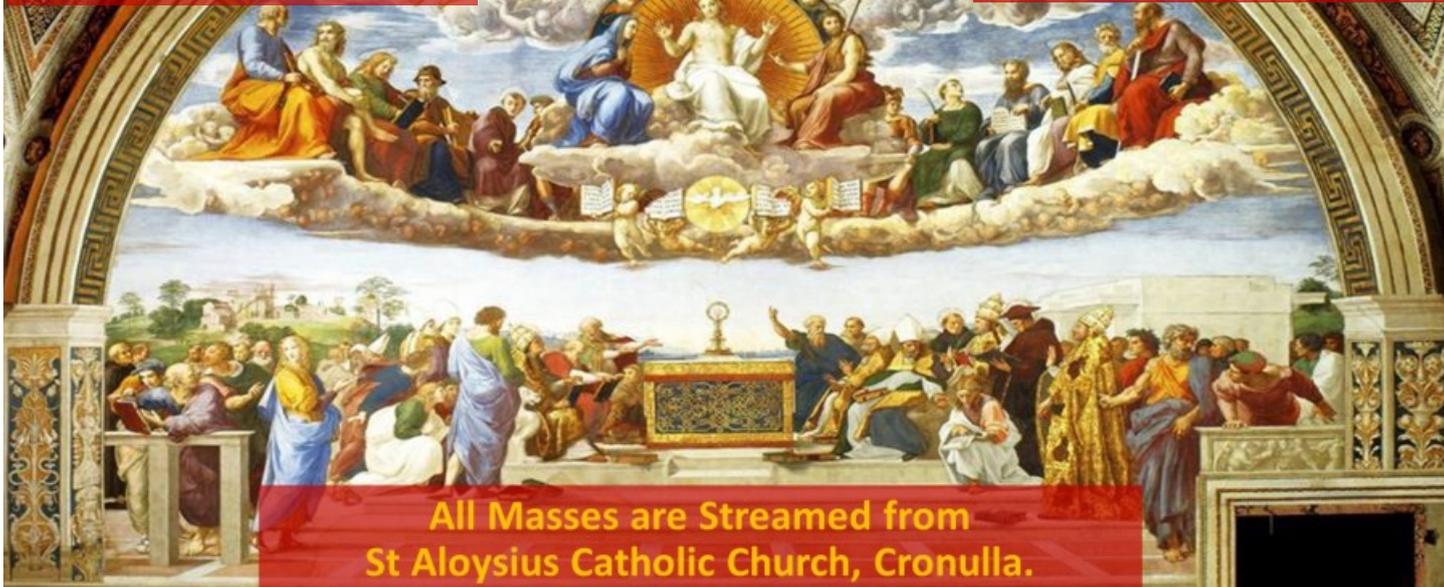
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 St Francis de Sales Primary9523 7323
 O.L.M.C. Burraneer 9544 1966
 De La Salle, Caringbah9524 9133
 De La Salle, Cronulla8522 1500

**Attend Live Streamed Masses Here:
8am Tuesday to Sunday & 5pm Saturday Vigil**

**View at
www.stalcron.org.au**

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(Cronulla Catholic)**



**All Masses are Streamed from
St Aloysius Catholic Church, Cronulla.**

Friendship across the sea

The St Aloysius Parish Community Cronulla
linked in friendship with
St Joseph Parish Hato Udo Timor Leste

