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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YR A

**25TH & 26TH APRIL,
2020**

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

The Easter mystagogical instruction continues. Today we reflect on life as a journey. This theme expresses well the fact that life is not static, but is a movement from one point to another. Actually, we do not so much make the journey as we join one that is already in progress. Nor are we alone on it. We



have companions who share their encouragement and support, their talents and insight. Like the two disciples travelling to Emmaus, we have certain expectations which Jesus does not seem to fulfil. They did not realise that through his death he had accomplished everything. They did not realise that the Risen Lord himself was their travelling companion.

As with them, so with us. We may not see the extraordinary in the ordinary. We may not see the hand of God in our lives. Perhaps we need someone to interpret for us both the tradition and the events of life. Despite appearances, something is happening beneath what we are able to observe. God is at work beneath and within our lives. Once we realise who this unique travelling companion really is, our hearts too will burn within us, our eyes too will be opened, and we too will look at life with the assurance of faith.

Easter faith will transform our disillusionment into missionary zeal. Some of us may be called upon to give public witness, as did Peter. Most will preach with the example of our lives. All can enter this mystery as we recognise him in the breaking of the bread.

Living the Gospel – Living the journey

The story of the road to Emmaus is a perfect model for our Christian life. It reminds us first of all that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don't recognise his presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist and table fellowship we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the good news with others. Where do you find yourself in the events of this story?

Greg Sunter

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES

**Masses & Adoration
have been suspended
until further notice.**

**Fr Christopher is privately
celebrating Mass each day
and will continue to pray
for all parishioners.**

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Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
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Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College – ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Easter

19 April 2020

First Reading

Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

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

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. 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.)**

2. 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.)**

3. 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.)**

4. 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 Pt 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus 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.

Gospel Acclamation

See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

At an evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35 may be used as an alternative.

Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They recognised him at the breaking of the 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.

(continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

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.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Companionable Breaking of Bread

This story is the story of each one of us at Mass. Each Mass is structured on the Road to Emmaus travelogue.

Two men set off on a journey of their own making. At the beginning of Mass we confess that we have gone off course. The traveller helps the men on the road to Emmaus understand what had happened to Jesus of Nazareth by showing God's plan revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Scriptures expounded, revealing more fully the true identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Every so often you will experience the burning sensation in your heart as something that is said hits home.

The traveller takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them to eat. In that moment of bread-sharing, the two men recognised their travelling companion as the Risen Lord. Eat the bread consecrated at Mass, and we receive into our very being the Divine Companion for our journey through life.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the privilege at every Mass of having our eyes opened so that we recognise Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Alleluia!

THE ANZAC ODE



*They shall not grow old,
as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
we will remember them.
Lest we forget.*

REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * What is significant about the two disciples walking away from Jerusalem to Emmaus?
- * What did they do once they realised they had seen the Risen Jesus?
- * What might have prevented the disciples from recognising Jesus on the road?
- * Why might the act of breaking bread have been the catalyst for them to recognise Jesus?
- * How is it possible to become more aware of the presence of Jesus in your own life?

Questions for Adults

- * What does it reveal about Jesus that he allowed the disciples to tell the story of their grief?
- * Why was it necessary for Jesus to refer to Moses and all the prophets in his explanation?
- * What insight does this event reveal about the nature and significance of Eucharist?
- * How does this episode reflect the key elements of the Mass?

Questions for Children

- ◇ What did the two men walking on the road say to Jesus?
- ◇ Why do you think that they didn't know it was Jesus?
- ◇ When did they recognise it was Jesus who was with them?
- ◇ What would you say to Jesus if he was beside you?
- ◇ We remember that Jesus is always with us.

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**This Sunday, 25th April, we celebrate ANZAC Day.
The following pages contain a worksheet,
prayers and discussion starters for parents to
talk about with children.**



ANZAC DAY STORY FOR CHILDREN

ANZAC Day is our solemn memorial to honour our Army, Navy and Air Force service personnel who have paid the supreme sacrifice of their lives in the battle to keep us free and to protect the democratic values for which we stand.

On Good Friday, Jesus died for us to show he loved us. It was hard. It hurt, but he didn't run away from what was facing him. He died on the cross to set us free from sin and death and so that we can be with him forever in heaven. Good Friday is a sad day because of the hard sacrifice Jesus made for us, but the story doesn't end in sadness, because on Easter Sunday Jesus rises from the dead.

Like Jesus, the men and women who have fought in wars for their country had to do hard things. They left their families behind, knowing that they might never see them again. They knew they would be placing themselves in danger to protect others and what they thought was right.

On ANZAC Day we pray for the fallen but also for ourselves so we remember that we have a responsibility to work for peace every day.

Praying for Peace

On war fields around the world, in places like Gallipoli, the Pacific Islands, Korea, Vietnam and Europe; the men and women of our armed services gave of themselves to protect our country and to strive for lasting peace. Today we enjoy freedom won for us by their sacrifice. We remember what Jesus did in dying on the cross and we remember how if we are brave we can also make sacrifices that bring the gift of peace and justice to our world.

We pray for all those who died in time of war so that we may be free.

We pray for all innocent victims of war—the children, the families, the refugees.

We pray that we bring your love and peace into the lives of everyone we meet.

Send us your peace, Lord. Amen.



THE ANZAC ODE

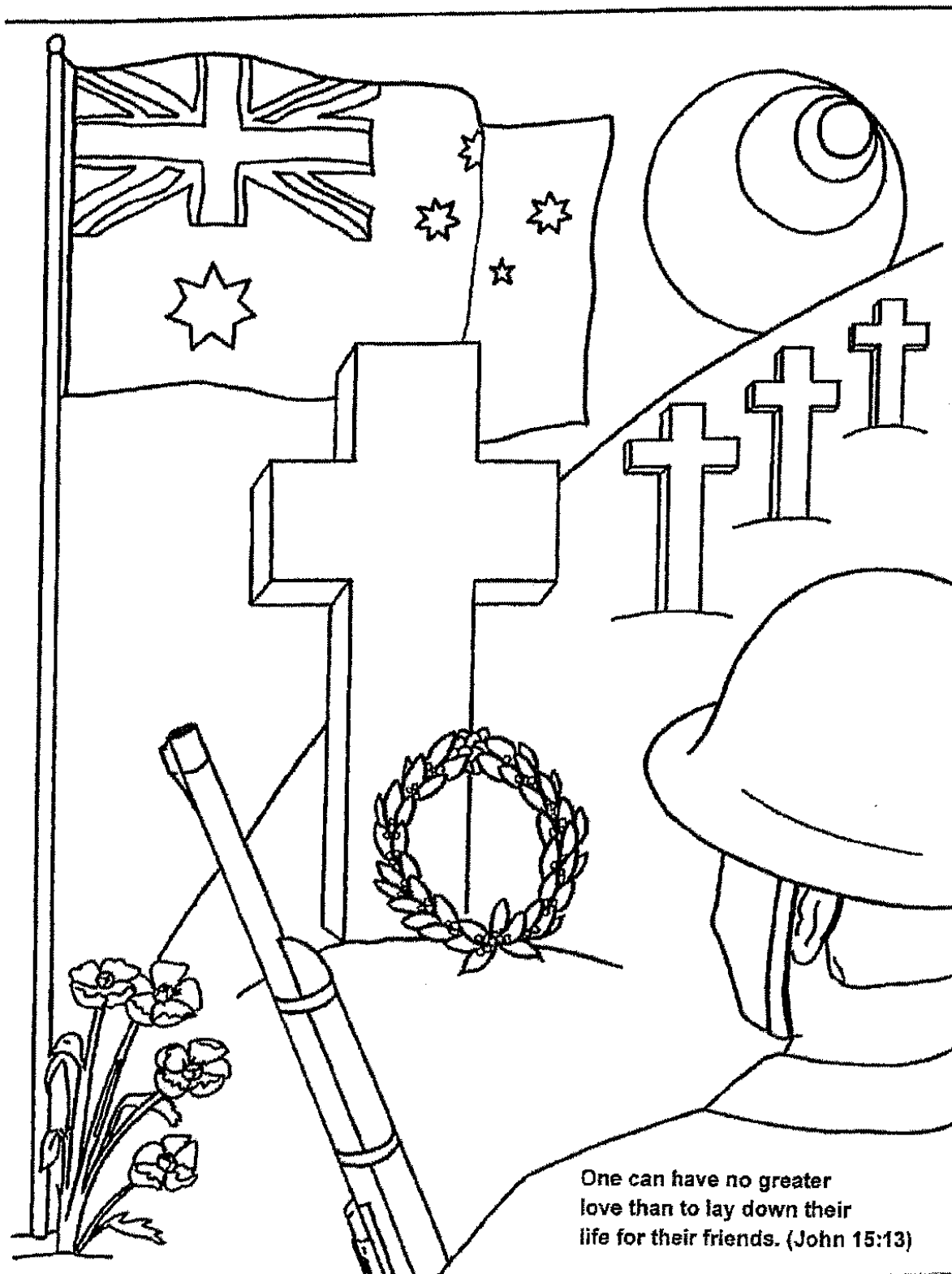
*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we will remember them.
Lest we forget.*

Questions for Discussion

- * How do you feel when you know you have got to do something hard?
- * What are some of the things that would have been going through your mind if were being sent to war to protect your country?
- * Discuss that ANZAC Day and Easter are both celebrations about sacrifice, honouring what has been done for us by Jesus and others who follow his example.

On Anzac Day we remember those who fought and died for our country in times of war.
We also pray to God for peace in our world.

Anzac Day (April 25)



One can have no greater
love than to lay down their
life for their friends. (John 15:13)

Lord help me to be a peacemaker by....

Thank You dear parishioners for your ongoing financial support to the parish.
Your generosity is helping with the ongoing running expenses of our parish.

During this challenging time of isolation many are struggling to cope.
If you are in need of pastoral support or care please contact Fr Chris on 0415 505 594.

Parish Office Hours

During this time of church closure the Parish Office will remain open. You are welcome to telephone or email. At this stage, our operating hours have not been formalised, so please leave a message if we don't answer the phone and we'll get back to you. In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

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Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online. Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	Granville Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA) example - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0
ST JOSEPHS CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjip15Jl6H8TrHkEB6lSdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
ST MARGARET MARYS	Merrylands Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtuMSyWUSnaAcA
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OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS	Rouse Hill Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/150713848317487/videos/835921950226114/
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	Seven Hills Parish	Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Most Holy 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,
please come spiritually into my heart.*

I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



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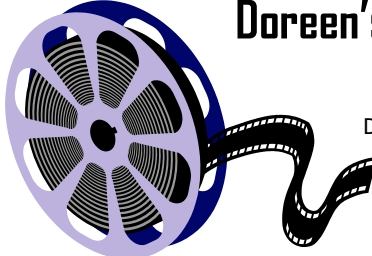
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