

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

**Thank You**

**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. aleluia.*

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

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

**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 St. Michael:** Tuesday after Mass  
**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** Friday after Mass



**Parish Priest**

Fr Peter James Strohmayr OSPPE

**Assistant Priest**

Fr Casimir Zielinski 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 St. Michael:**  
Tuesday after Mass  
**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:**

**Sacred Triduum,  
Year B**

**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 THE NEW MARTYRS**

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

**Easter Message 2024**

**And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone - which was very big - had already been rolled away. (Mark 6:2 - 4)**

The women who went to the tomb early on that first Easter morning were concerned with rolling the stone away from the tomb. They had just experienced a very traumatic event in their lives. They had seen someone whom they loved very deeply killed in a most horrific and inhumane manner. Moreover, the burial of Jesus was done in haste. There was no time to properly anoint the body, or arrange the body of Jesus. The women wanted to complete their ritual of honouring the body buried in the tomb. In other words, they were still concentrating on the past events of the passion and death of Jesus.

As the Resurrection account continues we see the women encounter "a young man in a white robe", an angel. The young man then engaged them in conversation. He pointed out the empty tomb and told them that they needed to tell Peter and the other disciples to go to Galilee to meet the resurrected Christ. If you notice in this Resurrection account, it is the presence of the "young man" more than the empty tomb that is the focus for the women. The empty tomb falls, as it were, into the background and the focus is the instruction of the angel. These words change everything, because they instruct the women to look to the future and not to the past. The angel was telling them that there was something new here, a new beginning, a new life and a new way of discipleship.

Our Lenten Pilgrimage has brought us to this point and with the days of Lent over the message of the angel to the women is the same message that we are given at the empty tomb. With the Resurrection of Christ, we have something new; a new beginning, a new life and a new relationship with God as an Easter People. Christ calls us to look to the future and not to the past, to concentrate on where we are going, and not where we have been. Our world at the moment is crying out for the message of Easter. Just as the women are told at the tomb "go and tell", so we are told "go and tell". We are being asked to be Missionary Disciples looking towards the future with hope.

This Easter when you gather around the Easter Table to celebrate Christ risen from the dead, give thanks to God for the gift of each other and be sure to encourage one another to be missionary disciples.

On behalf of Fr. Casimir and Fr. Damian thank you for your prayers and your presence at our Liturgies, not only at Easter but always and may you all have a blessed Easter.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Indeed he is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Fr. Peter James*

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: 7 APRIL 2024**



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.

1:00 pm Rosary  
1:15 - 2:30 pm Reconciliation  
1:30 pm Spiritual talk by Fr. Damian  
2:00 pm Exposition  
2:15 pm Divine Worship

2:30 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
2:45 pm Benediction and Reposition  
3:00 pm Holy Mass followed by blessing of Divine Mercy images  
Refreshments in the Montefano Hall

## 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 Gen 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,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
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 Mk 16:1-7

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Mark

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."



#### REMINDER ~ PLEASE TURN OFF MOBILE PHONES

Please remember to turn off your mobile phones – or switch to silent – when entering the Church.

#### PARISH DONATIONS

**First Collection** (Priests) Account : Smithfield House –

Order of St Paul the First Hermit

BSB 066711 Acct. No. 007392

**Second Collection** (Parish) Account : Smithfield Catholic Church

BSB: 062784 Acct. No. 100001084

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