



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23rd 2023

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you and your families well. Our journey through Eastertide continues. I offer here some thoughts from Pope Francis:

“The Gospel from this Third Sunday of Easter is that of the disciples of Emmaus. They were two of Jesus’ disciples who, after his death and the Sabbath had passed, leave Jerusalem and return, sad and dejected to their village, which was called Emmaus. Along the way the risen Christ draws near to them, but they do not recognise him. Seeing them so sad, he first helps them to understand that the Passion and Death of the Messiah were foreseen in the plan of God and announced in the Sacred Scriptures. And thus he rekindles a fire of hope in their hearts.

At that point, the two disciples experienced an extraordinary attraction to the mysterious man, and they invited him to stay with them that evening. Jesus accepted and went into the house with them. When at table, he blessed the bread and broke it, they recognised him, but he vanished out of their sight, leaving them full of wonder. After being enlightened by the Word, they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of the bread, a new sign of his presence. And immediately they felt the need to go back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples about their experience, that they had met the living Jesus and recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

The road to Emmaus thus becomes a symbol of our journey of faith. The Scriptures and the Eucharist are the indispensable elements for encountering the Lord. We too often go to Mass with our worries, difficulties and disappointments. Life sometimes wounds us and we go away sad to our Emmaus, turning our backs on God’s plan. We distance ourselves from God. But the Liturgy of the Word welcomes us back: Jesus explains the Scriptures to us and rekindles in our hearts the warmth of faith and hope, and in communion he gives us strength. Read a passage of the Gospel every day and try to remember it well and on Sundays go to Communion to receive Jesus. This is what happened to the disciples of Emmaus: they received the Word and they shared the breaking of Bread, and from feeling sad and defeated they became joyful.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Word of God and the Eucharist fill us with joy. Remember it well! When you are sad or down, go to Sunday Mass and Communion, to participate in the mystery of Jesus. The Word of God, the Eucharist: they fill us with joy. *Pope Francis*

This weekend we welcome back Deacon Joseph Dowds and Mrs Susan Dowds for Mass at 10.30am. Deacon Joseph has recently retired from parish ministry and this is an opportunity for us to thank him and his wife Susan for the years they spent with us here and to wish them a very happy retirement. Deacon Joseph will assist at Mass and deliver the homily; afterwards we will have a parish coffee morning in the hall. *Please join us if you are free.*

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead: Eastertide is a time for the church to enjoy the company of the risen Lord and to reflect on the early days of the church.

Monday April 24th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am
Confessions from 6.30-6.50pm; Novena at 7pm

Tuesday April 25th: Requiem Mass at St. Paul's for Mary Anne Dorricott at 10am

Wednesday April 26th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Friday April 28th: Requiem Mass at St. Mary's for Giralamo Nelli at 10am
Reception on Thursday at 6pm

Saturday, April 29th
Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm
Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday April 30th
Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am
Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

CREDO, the parish faith-sharing group, resumes this Tuesday at 1 o'clock in the parish meeting room; new members are always welcome. After the meeting the members enjoy some tea and cake together.

Parish Pastoral Council, Tuesday 25th April at 7pm: the parish council is there to help serve the needs of the parish community and indeed to help build a sense of community, and so your thoughts, hopes and wishes are important to us. Should you wish to have a topic raised or leave a comment or suggestion, please e-mail PPC1846@hotmail.com. Alternatively, there is a box and some paper at the back of our churches for your comments.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Peter McCourt, Mary O'Donnell, Mary Dorricott, Giralamo (Gino) Nelli, Fr. Damien Gilhooley, Hugh Mulholland, Brian Kearney

Special Remembrance: George Scott, Angelina DiMarco, Ida DiMarco McKeown, Annie Whalen, James McMenemy, Kate Burns, Tom McCabe, Theresa McCartney, Esther and Thomas Reid, Linda and James Collins, Archie and Cathy Rodden, Mary Rodden, Helen and Benny Fleming, Margaret Kerr, Elizabeth Oakes, Patrick Healey, Jim Dow and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*