



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Office Hours: 8:30 - 3:30 Monday to Friday

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

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*AFTER HOURS: Anointing of the sick for medical emergencies
phone 4151 6666 and follow the prompt*

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

FOCUS by Fr John Daly

This weekend we celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday. And so, we begin Holy Week! A few years ago in a homily, I used the symbol of Jesus' hands to focus on what He did for us from his entry into Jerusalem through to His dying and rising. After that homily a parishioner and local poet, Coleen Heathwood wrote the following poem.

THE ARMS AND HANDS OF HOLY WEEK by Coleen Heathwood

The townspeople lifted their arms.
They sang hosanna and waved green palms.
They were excited and welcomed this king.
Salvation they were sure he'd bring.
He rode a donkey and held the reins in his hands.
The palms and young colt were part of a plan.
Around a table they ate with dread.
With his hands he broke the bread.
With those same hands he blessed the wine.
He said this body and blood is mine.
He bent down low to wash their feet.
Each friend he would eagerly greet.
Tomorrow he would go to slaughter.
He used his hands dipped into water.
Each dusty foot was washed by him.
His hands were gentle as he handled each limb.
In the garden he reached his arms up high.
He prayed, "Let this cup pass me by."
Terrible hands drove nails through his wrists.
In anger they raised their arms and fists.
They mocked him with a thorny crown.
Strong arms whipped him and he fell to the ground.
They nailed his hands and taunted and swore.
This king would be seen like no king before.
His arms were stretched wide on the cross.
His mother stood still in this time of loss.
His blood dripped down and soaked the ground.
His words live on. His love's still found.
His arms still eagerly gather us in.
His hands still bless. He's still living.
Will he live through my work and the words I say?
What will my hands and arms say today?

Yes, "What will my hands and arms say today?" We have heard a lot about "hands" during this Coronavirus attack – wash your hands (maybe pray a "Hail Mary" as you do so!), don't shake hands, use your own biro etc. During this time hands can reach out in kindness – pick up the phone and call someone you would normally visit or socialise with; text; get on Facebook with positive stories; join your hands in prayer; use your hands to place money in your Project Compassion envelope so the poorest in the world are not forgotten; pray especially for those in Italy, Spain and other places where some relatives of our parishioners currently live; why not journal or with scripture in hand write a poem?



Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

In relationship with Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we serve joyfully as a people beloved and called by God.



BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD

In this time of breathtaking and abrupt change surrounded by uncertainty and speculation we can easily succumb to fear and helplessness. It is good to take a breath, and centre yourself and reflect on what is truly important in life. It is important to ensure your feet, heart and mind are in the same place.

Reflection:

Take a seat in a quiet, reflective space.

Place your feet on the ground, your hands gently on your lap and relax.

Breathe in slowly to the count of four, pause and breathe out slowly to the count of seven.

As pilgrim people we cannot even imagine to know the immeasurable love of God. But as believers and followers of Jesus and through the power of the Spirit living in our inner being we can begin to experience the love and goodness of the Father. (Read Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 3:14-21). A stunning letter full of hope and praise.

Through most of the history of Christianity we have believed that God's ways are beyond our ways. However from the time of The Enlightenment (Around the 18th Century) we have begun to believe that our rational thought is the only way of experiencing life. Yet rational thought still is not able to determine the simple, but profound concepts such as Existence, Life and Love itself. We need to look into higher realms than rational thought. Our artists delight in magnificently expressing these concepts but leave the source of these concepts in the heavens somewhere.

Through most of history our world has often been ravaged by plagues, earthquakes, floods and famines. As Post-Enlightenment people we appear to assume there must be a pill or something that will stop it all and someone is to blame. For the early Christians these events were not the end of the world but the natural way of the world similar to the way we expect illness, the prevalence of the different cancers and death itself. In most of history people did not live far beyond childhood let alone beyond sixty years of age!

At the time of plagues and other devastating events in the early days Christians took this as a call to look after people and nurse them. The Christian doctors and nurses would say "Well this is what I am here for" as others would head for safer grounds. One of the reasons Christianity grew in the early years was because people would say, "Why are you helping us yet you are not even part of our family or tribe?" to which would come the reply, "Because this is what Jesus did!"

The Jewish and Christian traditions have always sought the wisdom that comes from prayer, care for our neighbour and the best technology and medicines. As an example, in our Scriptures, when there was a famine in Jerusalem the Christians in Antioch sent money and help to the people in Jerusalem (Acts). This "Good Samaritan" act was unheard of as each tribe had enough difficult making its own way. We too are being called to assist our brothers and sisters not only here in Bundaberg, Queensland, our other states and territories but also to our brothers and sisters who are in trouble in other countries.

As the Corona Virus event in our time has emphatic and striking consequences it is time for us to lament, pray, reach out where we can and use the best technology and medicines. There is every chance that we or someone who is dear to us will be feeling the consequences of the virus. It may be physical, psychological, emotional or spiritual health that is being impacted upon. We are only beginning to see the consequences of the economic stress and the imposed self-isolation.

One way to deal with the situation is to lament. Write your own lamentation down. It may be raw! It may not appear to have a good outcome. (Read Psalms 88 and 89). Those of faith should also read Psalm 46 written in the midst of "Cosmic and natural tumult". It is in this Psalm that the composer writes:

Be still and know I am God.

You can use these words as a reflection. Use the **Reflection** exercise mentioned earlier. This time pray and repeat the words of the psalmist slowly. Each time leave off the end word and meditate. Then omit the next word and meditate until you are left with **Be**. Meditate. Then pray again, starting with **Be** including each of the words until you complete the prayer in its fullness.

Let us pray in silence and listen to what Christ is calling us to be and do.

Fr Peter Tanti

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."
MATTHEW 21:9

SCRIPTURES

for next Sunday

12 April 2020

Resurrection Sunday

First Reading

Acts 10:34, 37-43

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel

John 20:1-9

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Monday: 5:30pm Bible study

Tuesday: 5:30pm Youth Rosary and Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Wednesday: 5:30pm Games Club

Thursday: 5:30pm The Last Supper via Zoom

Friday: 1:30pm Good Friday reflection

For more information please contact Elizabeth Kelly at 0456 635 542

HOLY WEEK MASSES

Celebrate via live stream from St Joseph's Cathedral

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>

Holy Thursday

(Mass of the Last Supper)

Thursday, 9th April at 6.00pm

Good Friday (Stations of the Cross)

Friday, 10th April at 9.00am

Good Friday (Passion of the Lord)

Friday, 10th April at 3.00pm

Holy Saturday (Easter vigil)

Saturday, 11th April at 6.00pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, 12th April at 9.30am

Live stream from

Shalom College Chapel

Easter Sunday

Sunday, 12th April at 9.30am



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