



# ST THOMAS MORE PARISH, HADFIELD



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Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord’s Supper – 9 April 2020

My dear parishioners,

Greetings in the great and holy name of the resurrected Christ.

Holy Week holds a very special place in the hearts of all Christians. Yet this year we are witnessing a strange and frightful time. We are living the experience of this Holy Week and Easter in our own homes due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19. It will be unlike any other Easter we have ever had.

On the Sabbath, at dawn, the women and the disciples found that the tomb was empty. This shows that Christ emptied himself so that we may be grace filled. He detached himself from worldly pleasures. Especially at this time, we are detaching ourselves from worldly pleasures. We are being asked to self-isolate and to be apart from our families and friends. We are being made worthy to be God’s children, to participate in the glory of his resurrection and to be heirs of heaven.

Our hearts are sad to witness the deadly disease of COVID-19 that has taken the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters in the Lord. They have gone before us to see the resurrected Christ face to face marked with the sign of faith.

The pandemic is making the suffering of vulnerable people even deeper. Many feel alone with nowhere to turn. In the midst of all this sadness, loss and anxiety, we have a very real opportunity to journey more intentionally as a domestic church through Holy Week. As we gather in our home – with those we live with or individually – we gather seeking God’s mercy and healings and the end of this deadly pandemic. We as the people of God are united with them through our faith and prayers.

We are asked to live in isolation, yet we are growing more closer to God. We communicate with one another at this time in a special way through phone communications. At the same time, we also communicate with God through the medium of prayers. Prayer is the bridge that connects both the ends to and fro, and with open hearts we unite ourselves in spiritual participation and communion with one another and with God.

This week taps into the deepest elements of our faith in Jesus – his death and resurrection. The 40 days of spiritual preparations and spiritual renewal we did practice the cardinal virtues of praying alone, fasting and almsgiving. We know that beyond the pain of Good Friday, comes the joy of Easter Sunday. Now with great hope, faith and love let us renew our trust in God and let us join together in a spiritual way, yet as a community, to pray that this darkness will soon pass and together we shall overcome. Let us pray to find the deeper meaning of this challenge that is facing the whole of humanity and which is calling us to faith and to resurrection.

In the darkness of this crisis, the light of Christ will shine! May this special Easter celebration bring you, your families and loved ones the Easter joy and peace and may the blessings of the resurrected Christ be with you all.

**Fr Raj**



## THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS....



Our new Paschal candle for 2020

God, with you there is no darkness. Your character has no shadows, and you are pure and good. Yet in our broken world, we see so much darkness around us. Pain, sickness, and disease are in our community and in many of our homes.

Bring your light and restoring presence to the dark places in our lives. Bring your hope to hearts that feel defeated. Bring your love and compassion to those in pain.

May your light of hope shine in the darkness for families today. Show us glimpses of your presence with us and the comfort you bring.

In the pain and anxiety of today, help us to take a moment to be still and sit with you. To slow down, breathe deeply, and release our burdens to your strong hand. You are trustworthy, good, and true, and we thank you for caring for us so deeply and beautifully. Open our eyes to see you at work today. Give us your light.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## EASTER AT HOME...

While it will be difficult to not be physically present during these Easter liturgies that commemorate and celebrate this most sacred time in our Church, there are many options available for households and families to come together uniting with the Church in Melbourne, and the whole world, to celebrate these liturgies in your homes.

For those unable to live stream, **please note Easter liturgies at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised on Channel C31 (Channel 44 on digital televisions) as follows:**

Good Friday 10th April - 3.00pm  
Easter Vigil Saturday 11th April - 7.30pm  
Easter Sunday 12th April - 11.00am

Please stay safe, adhere to the Level 3 lockdown rules and DO NOT leave your homes except for essential travel for shopping, medical care, to exercise or for work and education if you cannot do so remotely. It is important that we all follow these rules and keep ourselves and everyone else safe. **Fr Raj**

## LIGHT YOUR EASTER CANDLES...

I will be celebrating the Easter Vigil Mass in Church (in private) at 6.00pm on Saturday 11th April.

I invite you all to light a candle (battery operated if possible) and place it in a prominent place in your homes. We will come together in spirit to pray to the Risen Lord, to praise and glorify His name and to ask for His blessings on us, our families and the whole world during this difficult time. **Fr Raj**



*Believe in God as you believe the sun has risen, not because you see it, but because of it you see everything.*

There is an Easter Message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as well as a Letter to the Faithful which can be viewed on both our websites:

**stmhadfield.org.au** or  
**cam.org.au/hadfield**  
Go to the Home page

## THANKSGIVING and DONATIONS TO YOUR CHURCH...

Thank you to so many of our parishioners who are dropping off their weekly thanksgiving envelopes and placing them either in the letterbox on North St (near the park) or when the gate is open, at the Presbytery letterbox. Your generosity at this time is truly appreciated. If anyone is able or wanting to contribute by EFT, then please note our banking details: **St Thomas More Parish BSB: 083 347 Account: 18028 8725.** Please put your surname as reference and email the Parish Office to inform us of your donation. However we understand that the impact of this current health pandemic has surely impacted many of you and your needs and care for your family are your first priority, however if you are able to help the Church, any donation, whether big or small is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you to you all! Please contact the Parish Office and leave a message if you have any queries. Details about your Project Compassion donations will be available in next week's bulletin.