

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

It is not always wise to discount someone's story just because it sounds like fantasy. In Luke's resurrection account, that is what the "eleven and all the rest" do with the women's stories of a rolled-back stone, no body and heavenly interpreters. The notion of resurrection was not in itself extraordinary in a first century Jewish context.

The Pharisees believed in a general resurrection, but the idea that God would raise one person from the dead before the time of the general resurrection was quite unthinkable. From the men's perspective, therefore, the women are talking nonsense. Peter decides to go and confirm their testimony, indicating that he suspects there is some truth in what they have to say. Their account checks out and he goes away in amazement, no apology, just amazement.

This gospel and the whole Easter celebration is about "the one who lives". Luke's account leaves no doubt about the death of Jesus: there are witnesses, there is evidence. The same goes for the burial. Now, in the story of the empty tomb, Luke wants to assert that Jesus is alive. The women (Mary of Magdala, Joanna the wife of Chuza, Mary the mother of James and unidentified others) are confronted with the question: "Why are you seeking among the dead the one who lives?" They are then entrusted with the message of resurrection: "He is not here, but has been raised." They are invited to remember the prophetic words of Jesus. They do indeed remember and they return to proclaim the good news. In line with countless prophetic figures before and since, their testimony is rejected, but is nonetheless effective through the telling and retelling of the story.

In the reading from John's gospel for Easter Sunday morning, mention of the first day of the week "while it was still dark" evokes the first day of creation and God's word bringing light. The two angels guarding the tomb call to mind the heavenly creatures who barred the way to the tree of life in the Genesis garden story. The biblical story has come full circle, from creation to resurrection and new creation.

We take time at Easter to re-member, re-enact and re-tell these originating stories of our tradition, to dramatise and celebrate in solemn ritual what we celebrate in lower key every Sunday of the year. In our liturgical re-telling, all the power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is present to us and to our world. Resurrection faith is a commitment to life. In these times of planetary uncertainty, a commitment to life includes taking seriously the findings of reputable climate change scientists who no doubt can feel a bit like the women of the gospel whose message was discounted. In a world where vested interests distort truth and where constant repetition of lies leads to confusion, distrust and the unspeakable violence of war, resurrection stories remind us that Christ remains present in the community and that the seemingly impossible is not beyond reach.

welcome

As we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ this Easter, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and excitement to celebrate my First easter with you, my new parish family. Though I have only been with you for a short time, I already feel deeply blessed to be a part of this vibrant and faith-filled community.

I am from a small, close-knit family in Kerala, India, where I was raised in the embrace of faith and love. Rooted in the institute of Voluntas Dei founded by Rev. Louis-Marie Parent OMI, I have dedicated my life to serving God's people, following my ordination in 2014. My spiritual journey has taken me from the lush landscapes of Kerala to the vibrant Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2018, where I have had the privilege of serving in several parishes. Each experience has enriched my understanding of the universal Church and deepened my commitment to serving God's people.



In my free time, I find solace and inspiration in the pages of books, particularly non-fictional, religious, and philosophical works. I am also an avid traveller, finding joy and enrichment in exploring new cultures and experiences.

Now, as I step into the role of administrator (Parish Priest) here at our parish, I am humbled by the opportunity to walk alongside each of you, sharing in the joys and challenges of our faith journey. It is an honour to be entrusted with the spiritual care of this community.

This easter, let us rejoice in the promise of new life and the hope it brings. May this Easter be a time of renewal and spiritual growth for all of us, as we reflect on the immense love that God has for each and every one of us.

Big Thanks for welcoming me into your parish family with open arms. I look forward to getting to know each of you better in the days and weeks ahead, and to working together to build God's kingdom here on earth. May the joy of Easter fill your hearts and homes today and always.

With blessings,

Fr. Dixon George Kuriappilly IVDei



CELEBRATION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY AND BLESSING OF ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTHCARE



On Thursday, March 21, 2024, the parish joyfully celebrated the grand opening ceremony and blessing of St John of God Healthcare, located at 54-56 Blanche Street, Ardeer. The occasion was graced by the presence of Fr. Barry Hughes, who has initiated this transformative project for the betterment of our parish and all other stakeholders.

The event was well attended, with parishioners, our esteemed new parish priest Fr. Dixon George, educators, students from two local schools, and representatives from St. John of God Healthcare, the Archdiocese, and various organizations committed to promoting the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities.

The newly constructed two houses boast state-of-the-art facilities designed to cater to the unique needs of individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, the incorporation of cutting-edge smart technology promises to enhance independence and elevate the quality of life for its residents. These two houses will be affectionately referred to as home by six adults with intellectual disabilities.

Key message and takeaway from the event were, we all are thankful to abundant blessings of God we had as a parish and will continue the good work for the greater glory of God.



St. Theresa's Parish Notices Page

Parish Priest: Fr Dixon George IVDei
Presbytery: 17 Drummartin St., Albion 3020
Phone: 9311 3091
Email: caalbion@netspace.net.au
Website: <https://pol.org.au/albion/Home.aspx>
Polish Chaplain: Fr Marian Szeptak
Residence: 185 William St., St Albans 3021
Phone: 9310 9057



"Do Small Things Well"

St. Theresa's Primary School - 93119070
16 Drummartin St., Albion 3020
Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School - 93631734
Blanche St., Ardeer 3022
Principal: Assunta Iacovino

MASS TIMES

ST THERESA'S

Drummartin St, Albion

NO MASS 9am Friday

10.30am Sunday

MOTHER OF GOD

Blanche St, Ardeer

10.15am Monday (Polish)

10.00am Wednesday (Pol)

NO MASS 9am Thursday

5.30pm Saturday

10.15am Sunday (Polish)

QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Holt St, Ardeer

NO MASS 8am Wednesday

9.00am Sunday

2ND TUESDAY TO 5TH FRIDAY NO ENGLISH MASSES, Parish office still open as usual.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all volunteers who helped prepared and participated in our Holy week celebrations.

CUPPA AFTER MASS Join us next weekend (6th & 7th April) after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Why not take this opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners, and get to know one another better? Please bring a plate to share.

COLLECTIONS RECEIVED

Thanksgiving \$929 Loose Money \$352 Presbytery \$635

COUNTERS 7TH April

Team 2: J Meilak, P Pace

READINGS Today

Acts 10.34a,36-43++

Ps 118.1-2,16-17,22-23 (R24)

Colossians 3.1-4

John 20.1-18++

Next Week

Acts 4.32-35

Ps 118.2-4,16-18,22-24 (R1)

1 John 5.1-6

John 20.19-31

HAPPY EASTER FROM ALL AT CARITAS AUSTRALIA!



Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, *for all future generations.*

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2024 Lenten appeal.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

THANK YOU TO ANNA RAJTMAYER for her generous donation of a Portable Speaker for use in our outdoor Church Services.

PARISH FOOD BANK A reminder that we have a food bank cupboard and can provide basic food for those in need.

QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN NEEDED For paid work to check switchboards, smoke detectors tag and test within the Parish buildings, please contact Parish Office on 9311 3091

PARISH CARAVAN, Safety Beach / Dromana SCHOOL HOLIDAYS If you would like to use our Caravan please call the Parish Office on 9311 3091 to book. It sleeps up to six (cosy) and costs \$60 per night.