

23rd April 'Comfort my People' REFLECTION

Dear Friends

With so much to be achieved with the live-streaming of the liturgies of the Paschal Triduum, I was short of both time and energy last week.

We celebrated the funerals of two long-standing parishioners on Easter Tuesday and Easter Wednesday, namely Rita Pereira of Warren Road, and Rosa Gervasi of Lower Dandenong Road.

This week we held the Requiem Mass for Bernadette Sheeran of Clare Street and next week we will have the liturgy for Ann Curtain who died after a long illness following upon a severe stroke in 2018.

Please pray for the eternal repose of the souls of these mothers who participated for many years with their husbands and children in the life of the parish, and for Ann who served so many as a member of the Legion of Mary. We pray for the comfort of faith for Patrick, Domenico and Michael who have been widowed, and for their children.

Next Sunday's Gospel reading is the wonderful account of Jesus' making himself visible to two disconsolate disciples at Emmaus.

The words of the Pope at a recent daily Mass from his chapel give me a direction for the homily that I will prepare for next Sunday.

"For Christians, familiarity with the Lord is always communitarian. A familiarity without community, a familiarity without the bread, a familiarity without the Church, without the people, without the sacraments is dangerous.

You will get the Eucharist today," he told his tiny congregation in the chapel.

"But the people who are connected with us (via the media) only get spiritual communion. And this is not the Church: this is the Church of a difficult situation, that the Lord allows, but the ideal of the Church is always with the people and with the sacraments. Always."

May we thank God for the blessings we enjoy today.

A blessing that I have received is the prompt payment of Thanksgiving contributions and support for the Presbytery collection too. Thank you very much.

Michael