



Parish of St Justin

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St Justin's Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

8th April 2023

**A Very Happy Easter from St Justin's Parish to all the families,
Remember all the blessings God has bestowed on you over the years with Joy,
Peace and Love**

Jesus is risen

First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

God created man in the image of himself,

in the image of God he created him,

male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The word of the Lord

Response - Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32

(R) The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord

Response - Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 15

(R) Keep me safe, O God: you are my hope.

Third Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.' Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his own horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried 'the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!' 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,' the Lord said to Moses 'that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.'

'Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ex 15

(R) Let us sing to the Lord: he has covered himself in glory

Fourth Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
a leader and a master of the nations.
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
those unknown will come hurrying to you,
for the sake of the Lord your God,
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord

Response - Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Is 12

(R) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation

Fifth Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, the members of the House of Israel used to live in their own land, but they defiled it by their conduct and actions. I then discharged my fury at them because of the blood they shed in their land and the idols with which they defiled it. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them in foreign countries. I sentenced them as their conduct and actions deserved. And now they have profaned my holy name among the nations where they have gone, so that people say of them, "These are the people of the Lord; they have been exiled from his land." But I have been concerned about my holy name, which the House of Israel has profaned among the nations where they have gone. And so, say to the House of Israel, "The Lord says this: I am not doing this for my sake, House of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I mean to display the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord – it is the Lord who speaks – when I display my holiness for your sake before their eyes. Then I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries, and bring you home to your own land. I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols. I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God."

The word of the Lord

Response - Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50

(R) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Sixth Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord

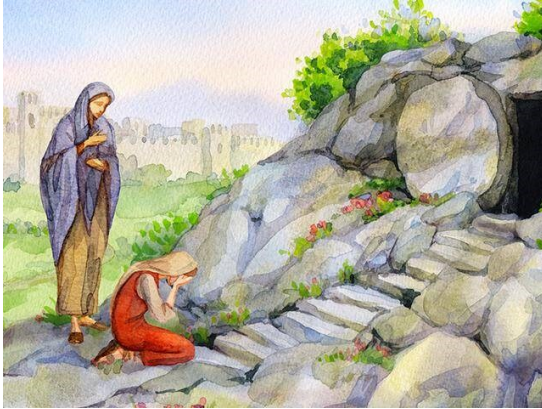
Response - Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23

(R.) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

(R.) Alleluja, alleluia, alleluia..



Gospel Mt 28:1-10

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

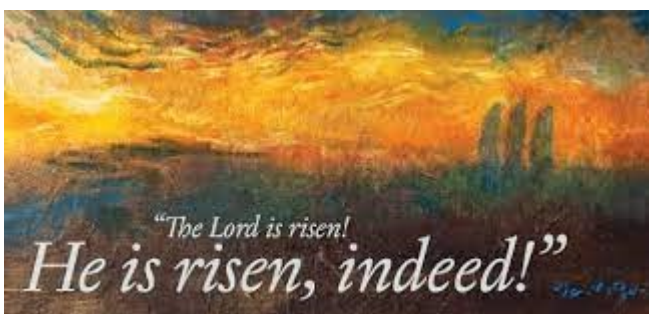
A reading from the holy Gospel according to **Matthew**.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

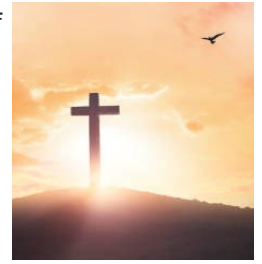
The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection - How to be a winner

This experience is only a glimpse of what happens at Easter. For us Christians, Easter is the greatest victory of them all. During his life Jesus won many victories over evil, pain, suffering and diseases. But then there was Good Friday, when everything that Jesus had said and done seemed to come to an end. If the story of Jesus had finished at this point it would have been a tragic defeat. But Good Friday is followed by Easter Sunday. At the very moment when everything seems to have been lost, Jesus' resurrection becomes the greatest victory.



It is a victory for Jesus but, as the captain-coach of the team, he wants to share this victory with you and with all his friends and followers. And remember that Jesus' victory is not just a game. Jesus has become the winner in the greatest game of all. It's the game of life, the life we live here on earth and the life we are called live forever in Heaven. In this game Jesus wants you to be a member of his team. He doesn't just invite you. Because of his death and resurrection, he guarantees you that you will be in the winning team.

What kind of victory does Jesus guarantee? He guarantees you that in your life you too can share in his victory: the victory of love over hatred; healing over hurt; forgiveness over revenge; compassion over selfishness; goodness over evil; life over death. He guarantees you that you will live this life with a sense of purpose and fulfilment and then, after death, you will live forever with him in Heaven.

A Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ,
You are the true King of peace.
In You alone is found freedom.

Please free our world from conflict.
Bring unity to troubled nations.
Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart.

Dispel all darkness and evil.
Protect the dignity of every human life.
Replace hatred with Your love.

Give wisdom to world leaders.
Free them from selfish ambition.
Eliminate all violence and war.

Glorious Virgin Mary,
Saint Michael the Archangel,
Every angel and saint:
Please pray for peace.
Pray for unity amongst nations.
Pray for unity amongst all people.
Pray for the most vulnerable.
Pray for those suffering.
Pray for the fearful.
Pray for those most in need.
Pray for us all.

Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, hear our prayers.
Jesus, I trust in You!

Amen.



2023 WORLD YOUTH
DAY

BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

World Youth Day brings millions of youths together to celebrate their faith, and is happening in Lisbon, Portugal this year.

Abbie Tiong and Isabelle Devadass would really appreciate your help in getting there!

Your support would help cover some of the costs of our journey

We will be selling baked goods **after the Holy Saturday Vigil Mass and Easter Sunday Masses** at the foyer of the church



CUPCAKES

Quantity	Price
1x	\$3.50
4x	\$12.50



BROWNIES

Quantity	Price
1x	\$3.00
2x	\$5.50

Pre-orders for any larger amount are also available, and will be delivered for following Sunday (15/04).

CASH ONLY PLEASE

Contact 0466 532 381 for more details,

Message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

Easter 2023: 'Recognised, healed and sent'

Dear Friends,

Three things flow from the resurrection of Jesus Christ; three things that matter. In his resurrection, Jesus *recognises us* personally; he *invites us* to peace; and he *sends us* out.

The very first word Jesus spoke following his resurrection was a name: Mary. He saw his friend, and although she could not yet recognise him, he called her by name.

Similarly, Jesus personally recognised his friends, to whom he appeared. There was something intimate, and tender, and hospitable about the risen Lord. He draws us into his own resurrected life.

Jesus, in his resurrection, also offered an invitation to peace. 'Peace be with you' was his first—and repeated—declaration. It was an invitation to a share in his forgiveness, and to be healed. Jesus reconciled all creation to himself on the cross; now, he offers us a share in his healing peace.

Finally, through his resurrection, Jesus sends forth his friends. Jesus charged his followers to share the Good News of redemption, and our life in his.

Mary: Go and tell the others.

Peter: Go and feed my sheep.

Friends: Go and make disciples.

Jesus gave out this task so that the gift of his death and resurrection would not be only for the few.

These same three things from Jesus' resurrection—his recognising, his inviting, his sending—all belong to us now; they are ours to share in.

The risen Jesus recognises each of us personally by name.

The risen Jesus invites each of us to share in his healing gift of peace.

The risen Jesus sends each of us out in his name, with the gift of life.

He says to us, 'Follow me,' that we might live each day illumined by his resurrection, as the reason for our hope.

So, may our lives be filled with the energy, joy and youthfulness of the risen Jesus, knowing that, in him, I am recognised, I am healed, and I am sent.

Happy Easter to all,

St Justin's Parish Community BIGGEST MORNING TEA 2023

Thursday 25th May at 10.00 am

In the Parish Meeting Room

To assist with planning please add your name to the form on the table in the Church Foyer or Parish Office.

Entry \$5.00 Donation

Lucky Door Prize

Bring along your gold coins / cash for Raffles and a fun Trivia Game.

If you would like to bake for the morning tea please indicate on the form provided.

Donations for raffle prizes also greatly appreciated.

Any queries contact Mai Ling 0412 499 205

CHILD SAFE PARISH

Here at St Justin's, Wheelers Hill Parish we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we implement procedures and standards as directed by the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

All Volunteers must have a current Working with Children Check Card.

If you need assistance or for more information- please contact the Parish Office or

Fr Andrew - wheelershill@cam.org.au on 9401 6335.

Safeguarding group ;

wheelershill.safeguarding@cam.org.au

Combines Societies of Mary: Feast of Mercy,

Join the Combined Societies of Mary on the Feast of Mercy. Holy Mass will be followed by Adoration and Divine Mercy prayers.

There will be first-class relics of St Faustina, St John Paul II and Bl Fr Sopocko, and we will be joined by Divine Mercy priest Fr Kasper Gorski from Poland.

On Sunday 16th April - 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Holy Cross Church, 707 Glenhuntly Road, Caulfield South

ALL WELCOME!

For all enquiries, email csmary.org@tpg.com.au or call (03) 9509 2207.