

## 3rd Sunday of Easter - Year A, 25th - 26th April 2020

**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

*It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and fore knowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy; my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

**R/** Lord, you will show us the path of life.

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 1:17-21

*The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:** See Lk 24:32

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: Make our hearts burn with love when you speak. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Luke 24:13-35

*They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our Chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe in the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord



## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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### 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER, Year A

25th - 26th April 2020

#### Our "Emmaus" Journey

In his homily for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Fr Matthew Charlesworth, SJ, tells that the story of the journey to Emmaus, on the one hand, recounts the story of the two disciples, who after the resurrection are on the way from Jerusalem to Emmaus, and on the other hand, outlines for us the journey that we all take: from not recognising Jesus, to understanding of what the Scripture says about him, to encountering and recognising him, who he is. and then giving witness to what we are experiencing ourselves.

Fr Matthew then points out five things we can learn from this Gospel passage.

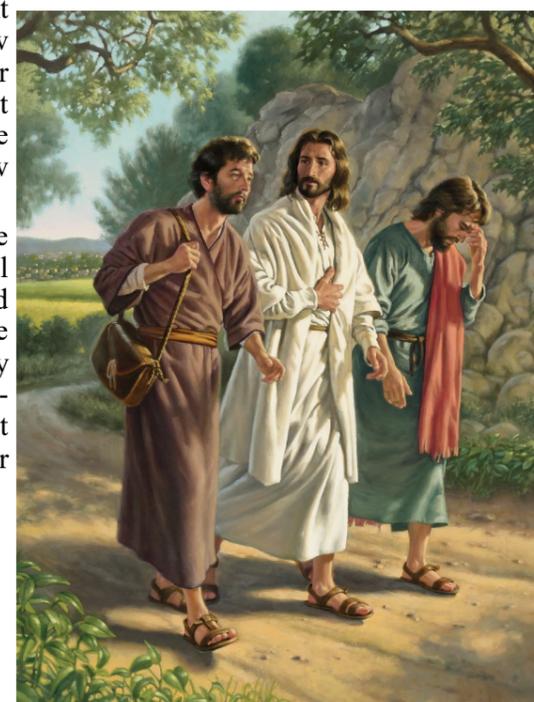
1/ Jesus seeks us. He finds the two disciples as they walk to their village confused and disappointed. He seeks them out so that he could meet them face-to-face and heart-to-heart, to transform and encourage them in their grief. On our life journey Jesus is continually seeking us out, desiring to find us.

2/ Things did not happen as the disciples had expected. They had preconceived ideas of how things should be and were not open to accept the way God works. They lacked faith in the resurrection of Jesus and therefore dismissed as a failure of all the hopes and trust they had in the Messiah. But God's ways are not our ways. What we consider as failure and defeat might not be so in God's eyes. It might be a necessary step to something much greater. Lord, help me to see as you see!

3/ Jesus reveals himself through the Scripture and in the breaking of the bread. We encounter him in the Eucharist when we listen to his Word and are nourished with his Body and Blood. In the intimate sharing of our life with Christ we get to know him and experience him. We must always be grateful for this experience.

4/ Jesus moves them and all of us to share our experience of him with others. When our eyes have been opened we will want others to have their eyes opened. How do we do this? By the way we live our life, by the values we choose to adopt and by the way we choose to behave and relate to others. Our life must show that we journey with Christ.

5/ We are all called to proclaim the Word of Christ, to heal the world and all humanity of its blindness and doubt and fear, especially in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. But this can only happen if we ourselves, like the two disciples, experience in a deep way Christ speaking to us, and if we allow our hearts to burn as we hear his word.



**Office Hours:**  
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD  
**Priest in Residence:**  
Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD  
**Parish Office:** Cristina Agius  
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Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

**Child Safety Committee:**  
Robert Dullard (Chair)

**Parish Council Members:**  
Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),  
Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,  
Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,  
Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,  
Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solo-  
mon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

**Parish Finance Committee:**  
Peter Constable (Chair)  
0425 779 831

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**  
Pauline O'Day (President)  
Ph: 9484 2445

#### Online Masses

##### St. Patrick's Cathedral

Live Streaming at:

[https://  
melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass](https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass)

Monday-Friday: 1pm  
Saturday: 9am  
Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be  
viewed at:

[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

#### TV Mass

**Channel 10:** Mass for you at  
home, Sunday mornings at 6am.  
**RAI:** Italian Mass from the Vati-  
can, Sunday mornings at 8:30am



### **World Mother Earth Day 22 April 2020**

It might seem a little sentimental to refer to the earth as our mother. But this metaphor suggests that our relationship to the world is personal and expresses reliance on it.

The world is not simply a thing that is at our disposal. Nor is it something for which we need have no feeling, something on which we do not depend. When people imagine our relationship with our world today, they don't usually see it as personal. We more often see it as something that we can dig, burn, clear, poison, sow, fertilise and change in any ways that meet our needs and our desires. We see it as a mine, a field, an empty site to be occupied, a possession to be defended.

If we see the relationship in this way, it is one-sided. The reality of climate change has told us that the world is not a mine, not our slave. That what we do to one part of it will have consequences for other parts of it. If we burn coal and oil in one place, it will affect other places, assisting the temperature of the earth to rise, rainfall to be more unpredictable, droughts to increase, forests to burn more easily, water temperatures to rise coasts to be eroded, and to damage the quality of life for many human beings, especially the poor.

The coronavirus also reminds us how we ourselves, our plans, our cities, transport and our livelihood can be paralysed by one of the tiniest beings in our world.

In fact, our relationships to the world are two-sided. We are part of the world. What we do to one part of it affects other parts, including ourselves. Our relationships to the world are personal. The images of the world and as wet nurse suggest this. The earth has its rhythms and timetables that we must respect because we are part of them. It needs to be understood as we need to be understood as part of it.

To recognise that we need to take time to look around us and to change the way we live in the world.

To consider the world as our mother pays attention to the rich and delicate relationships that form the rhythms of a flourishing world. When we stop before the wonder of our world we are led to ask how we can respect it.

Fr Andrew Hamilton

### **Sacred Heart Parish Prayer**

**Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **ANZAC DAY 2020**



Anzac Day is the day all Australians come together in remembrance. But this year we'll have to come together in spirit, instead of in person. Let us remember those who gave sacrificed their lives that we may live in peace in our prayer:

**God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Resources for the Third Sunday of Easter**

We invite you to share in these resources for the preparation of the Third Sunday of Easter with your families.

The first resource contains the [Sunday readings](#) with associated commentaries and prayers. It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together.

The [second resource](#) is designed for families with young children. An extract from the Sunday gospel is provided, along with some reflection questions, a family activity and a worksheet for children.

### **SmartLoving - Breakthrough**



All marriages go through periods of stress and disillusionment, especially when we in isolation. Every husband and wife needs to be proactive in keeping our marriages healthy by addressing the hurts we have accumulated and resolving any resentment.

SmartLoving BreakThrough Online will teach you how conflict arises in intimate relationships and show you how to take simple steps to heal any wounds, dissolve resentment and restore hope.

Private | Confidential | Effective

Divine Mercy Discount - 50% | until May 31, 2020.

For information and to learn more, visit:  
<https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>

### **Pray the Regina Caeli**

**Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.  
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.  
Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.  
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **COVID-19 Appeal from Caritas Australia**



Whilst we're locked down and living as best we can, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is amplified for those who are in communities already vulnerable to poverty, disease and malnutrition in other parts of the world. Now, more than ever, your compassion is needed. This year, exceptionally, Caritas Australia is running an urgent appeal as a Project Compassion extra wave.

For the next three weeks, our COVID-19 Crisis Appeal will be asking for urgent donations to help those families living in poverty to access hygiene knowledge, health supplies, soap and clean water that will save their lives. Through this appeal, we can expand our capacity to assist communities at serious risk of infection and to help contain the spread of the virus.

Of course we understand that many in Australia are 'doing it tough', but we are asking those who feel able to assist in aiding the many throughout the world whose lives and families may well be devastated by the pandemic.

The link below gives more detail as to the tasks around the world that Caritas Australia will be supporting through this appeal and details as to how to contribute to the appeal.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/covid-19-crisis-appeal>

### **At Home Retreats Opportunities**

For more details, refer to the Newsletter of the 2nd Sunday of Easter.

- 1/ [Six day stay at home retreat 3 - 9 May 2020.](#)
- 2/ [Full Spiritual Exercises at home over 90 days.](#)

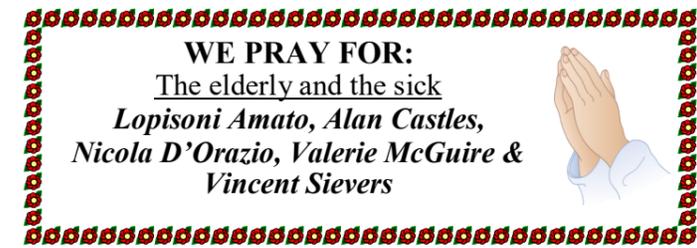
Contact Kardia for more information at:  
[enquiries@kardia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@kardia.com.au)

### **Collections**

1st Collection: \$140.00

2nd Collection: \$385.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



### **Thanksgiving Offering Easter Time**

Thank you for your ongoing support and contribution through direct debit. Due to current circumstances, we are unable to receive your cash contributions through envelopes. As a suggestion, if you usually contribute through envelopes and are able to change to another payment option, it would be very helpful to our parish. Some of these options are; via your credit card or via Direct Debit directly to the Parish bank account using these details:

Bank: NAB  
Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Church  
BSB: 083-347  
Account Number: 658787823

The financial support of our two priests and the needs of the presbytery does not come from the Church Collection (first collection), it comes from the second collection known as the Presbytery Collection.

If you wish to support the presbytery, (second collection) you may do so directly via these details:

Bank: NAB  
Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Presbytery  
BSB: 083-347  
Account Number: 659026014

We do understand that due to the current situation and these very uncertain times, financial circumstances of our parishioners might have changed. Please contact us promptly if your own circumstances have changed and you need to alter your giving or need other practical support. If you have any queries about the above, please contact the Office on 94803398 for assistance.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

**Social distancing doesn't mean turning our backs on our neighbours.**

**It means making sacrifices so they might live.**

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