

Towards Plenary Council 2020-2021

Easter 2019

He is not here; he has risen.





EASTER

From the Readings

Gospel: Holy Thursday John 13:1-13.

Gospel: Good Friday John 18:1-19:42.

Gospel: Easter Vigil Luke 24:1-5.

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering they could not find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled about this, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women bowed their heads to the ground. But the two said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen'.

Reflections

When we are young, we want to see, we want to see the world around us; we want to see everything. The scene of Good Friday is powerful, even in its horror; seeing it can lead to revulsion or to mercy that provokes an encounter. This was the way of Jesus in the Gospel every day, including today. He encounters Pilate, Herod, the priests, the guards, his mother, the Cyrenean, the women of Jerusalem and the two thieves, his final companions on the way ... if we follow Jesus with all our heart, also on this mysterious journey to the cross, courage and trust can be reborn. After we have seen, and opened ourselves to encounter, we will experience the grace of praying, no longer alone but together. *The Way of the Cross*, written by young people, led by His Holiness Pope Francis, Colosseum Rome, March 30 2018

The resurrection happens in the present moment, but it is a present moment bathed in future, a new relationship with God, a new union, a new wholeness—a new catholicity — by which life is wholly unified.

Ilia Delio, Making All Things New: Catholicity, Cosmology, Consciousness

The Crucified One is God's standing solidarity with the suffering, the tragedy, and the disaster of all time, and God's promise that it will not have the final word. The Risen One is God's final word about the universe and what God plans to do with all suffering.

Richard Rohr, Immortal Diamond



CHRIST ON THE CROSS BETWEEN THE TWO THIEVES 1619 - PETER PAUL RUBENS

Memo for Easter

Holy Thursday: wash the feet of an Iraqi mother;

Good Friday: bring a flower to the cross for her dying child;

Holy Saturday, the day of waiting:

light a candle from the great primeval lifefire of Easter
immersed in the flowing waters of creation.

Light it for a humanity whose inventiveness is so often destructive,
whose intentions are so often terrible
whose actions are so often horrifying.

Sunday, early, in a garden,
watch and listen for reminders of hope,
for seeds of faith, for signs of love ...
for signs of love.

Monday: same as Sunday.

Pope Francis, *'The Joy of the Gospel'* 279

Prayer

Swayed by Love

Dear God we pray
to be swayed by love
for love to find its way
into the violence and conflict
the tyranny and abuse
the greed and apathy
the destructive fear
the distractions and absurdities
that are wounding this world.

Grace us to choose the most loving way
the way of the Spirit that frees us
empowers us draws us together.

Help us to make decisions
that come from our hearts
create a new day
dawn a new world. Amen.

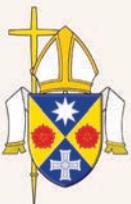
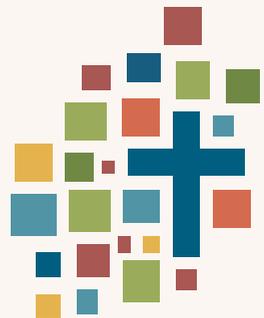
Noel Davis, Heart Coming Home, 127

For Plenary Council 2020-2021

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.
O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia.
Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

(From the Plenary Council 2020 Prayer)



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

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