

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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Fr Richard Ross PP

Dear Parish Family,

Happy Easter!

As we celebrate the source of and reason for our hope, the Resurrection of Christ, we give thanks for the gift of faith and the presence and action of God in our lives.

Over these last few days, as we journeyed with Jesus through his Passion, we paused in the Garden of Gethsemane and we gathered in the shadow of the Cross. We contemplated the suffering we see and experience in our lives and our world: illness, fear and uncertainty, the scourge of poverty, the plight of refugees and the homeless, victims of war and violence and so many expressions of the abuse of power, not to mention the universal impact of the pandemic. Rather than feeling overwhelmed and powerless in the face of such suffering we are inspired by the Resurrection of Jesus to stand amid this suffering as people of hope. What an extraordinary and powerful thing!

In his latest book entitled "Let Us Dream", Pope Francis speaks to this experience when he says we are sifted by our suffering. It is painful, and we may feel powerless and afraid but never hopeless. He warns of three responses unworthy of the Christian. The first is narcissism, where we interpret every instance of suffering solely in terms of its impact on me. This victim mentality leaves no room for compassion to grow. Second is discouragement, where we lament and complain and become blind to the small positives and only see what we have lost. The third is pessimism where we see no hope for the future. The Christian response, Pope Francis says, is to identify small acts of love and service that we can do in response to the suffering we see, and to do them. This changes everything.

May we grow as people of hope: a light shining in the darkness which cannot be overcome. We strive to be people of light and hope and life in the midst of the struggles of this world, not as naïve optimists, but as convinced Christians,

believing that Christ himself is to be found in the midst of suffering, and that his presence changes everything and empowers us to journey on as Easter people. Alleluia!

Fr Richard

Divine Mercy Sunday on 11th April will be celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral: 2.00pm Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation, Divine Mercy Chaplet; 3.00pm Benediction; 3.15pm Mass with Archbishop Julian Porteous as main celebrant.

Bible Basics Course: An Introduction to the Bible. An overview of the Old Testament leading up to Jesus Christ. Relax at home and join the course online over five sessions via Zoom. Are you afraid of opening the bible because you don't really know what's going on? Well, join this study to learn about God's plan of salvation: how central figures like Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Moses, and David & Bathsheba, and Isaiah connect, and how they point to Jesus Christ. **When:** Tuesdays, 7-8.30pm, starting in 20th April. **Where:** online via Zoom. **Cost:** Free. **Register:** Dr. Christine Wood, christine.wood@aohtas.org.au or 6208-6222.

On the Reading Table outside the Office:

Latest edition of The Standard, Australian Catholics and The Swag

I would like to thank everyone for the prayerful support, phone calls and visits during my convalescents from my recent Spinal Surgery. Although not fully recovered I am able to get out a bit now and hope to be out of my brace in the next few weeks. Thank you, your support has been very much appreciated. Jane Allen

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday	6:00pm	Church of the Incarnation (Reconciliation 5:30)
Sunday	8:30am	John Paul II (Live streamed)
	10:30am	Corpus Christi
	6:00pm	Corpus Christi

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES No weekday Masses this week

Next week's Readings: Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31