

EASTER SUNDAY YEAR A

23rd March 2008

THEME: John 20: 1-9

My friends, today we proclaim the impossible. One who was executed as a criminal, whose death was witnessed by friend and stranger - this one is alive. So we proclaim: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

LOVED AND THE EMPTY TOMB

Our faith tells us that we can call ourselves "the disciple Jesus loved."

The experience of that love may open our eyes to the possibilities of this first day of the week - as the beloved disciple's eyes were opened when he peered into the tomb. Love gave him sight. This love is not based on merit or achievements or our brilliant insights. Rather, as it is with love, it is given as a gift. We, the beloved, now can confront death in its many guises.

Love invites us to take a close look at what is before us on this first day of new life. We don't look back over our shoulder at who we were and what we did in the past. This is a new day with new realisations and possibilities; **after all, we are the beloved disciples.** The love we have received is a basis for a new way to live. We can begin - or start again - to act like loved ones. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we trust we will not fall out of the embrace of God's love and so we can take chances on loving others we might not ordinarily take.

We return from the empty tomb asking ourselves how we can live the life of the beloved disciple, St John. How can we love better? Especially, how can we show love to those who don't have the signs our culture loves - such as youth, looks, wealth and power?

Each of us makes the trip to the empty tomb today, peers into the tomb and into our lives. Is there someone we have not forgiven? Have we hesitated to get involved in serving others? What signs of death do we see that we must turn away from or confront? In the light of what we "see" on this first day of the week, what new life do we experience, and with whom should we share it in word and act?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Jack Walker, Marjory Stott, Stephen Aldridge, Cameron Thompson, Joe Mullavey, Br Pat Keogh, Gerri Boldrini, Mary Egan, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Allanah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph

Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Brenden Aldridge, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook and Luke Westaway.

Grant eternal life to:

Marcie Donahee, Archbishop Rahou, Shawn McCallum, Ernie Rockliff, William Toohey, Cathy Hindry, Michael Kelly, Bruce Stanton, Ian Read, and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Kirt Esler, Harry Livsey and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Brian Esler, Chiara Lubich, Anne- Maree Percy, Phillip Percy, Frank & Mary Percy, Ron Tanner, Faye McCormick, Mary Rowe, Bert Scammell, Anthony Kell, Deceased Members of the Rodrigues Family, Lionel Kirley, May Kirley, Michael Kirley, Dorrie Ries, Rose Livsey, Bill Livsey, Mary, Bill & Ken Kotthoff and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

**HUNTER DALY
COREY WALKER
PATRICK KING**

FOR YOUR DIARY

PROJECT COMPASSION

Happy Easter! Celebrate that many in our unequal world will have a new life because of your generosity. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS - BLOOD SERVICE

Easter is a time for religious celebration and reflection. It is also a time when people needing emergency care, cancer patients, premature babies and burns victims rely on the generosity of blood donors to ensure blood is available when they need it. Please see the noticeboard for details of how you can help.

WORLD YOUTH DAY INFORMATION EVENING

WYD - it's been talked about but you don't know what it is? Maybe you know a little about it but still have questions? You want to go but don't know how? Come along to an information/coffee night on Wednesday 26th March at 7.00pm in St Patrick's Hall and have all your questions answered. For further details contact:

Miriam mizmim@gmail.com 0400 419 981
Reece Bagseo@hotmail.com 0409 982 915

For more information on WYD see the noticeboard.

PARISH FAMILY MASS 10.30AM SUNDAY 30TH MARCH

All families in the parish are encouraged to come along to a Parish Family Mass at 10.30am on Sunday 30th March. The Mass will be led by staff and students of St Patrick's school. Following the Mass families are invited by the Parish Pastoral Council to a sausage sizzle outside the Church.

VERITAS CENTRAL EVENTS

- * Thurs 27th March - Divine Mercy Talk and presentation by Fr Murphy - (6.30pm)
- * Thurs 3rd April - Angels Wings Talk and Presentation by Fr Fowles of Thurgoona - (6.30pm)
- * Thurs 10th April - Miracle of Marcelino Movie - (5.30pm -7.15pm) - Bookings Essential
- * Thurs 17th April - The Good Pope, John XXIII Movie - (5.30pm-8.00pm)
Bookings Essential
- * Thurs 24th April - Real Choices Australia Talk and Presentation by Debbie Garratt - (6.30pm)

INVITATION

Veritas Central has been loaned two very special two- thousand-year old coins from the time of Christ. They are on view in the locked glass cupboards at Veritas Central. You are most welcome to come and have a look at these very special pieces of Christian history. Enjoy a cuppa back in the kitchen while you're there.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- * A refuge from violence and abuse...
- * World Youth Day vestments in earthy red colour

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Shrine of Divine Mercy at 'Marian Hills' celebrates its 10th anniversary on the Feast of Divine Mercy, Sunday 30th March with Bishop Hanna as the principal celebrant. 11.15am - confessions and rosary, 12.30pm - Mass followed by BYO lunch, 2.15pm - Eucharistic procession, 3.00pm - Chaplet and Benediction. For more information please see the brochures in the porch of the church or call (02) 6927 6438.

SACRED HEART PRESBYTERY TRIVIA NIGHT

To be held on Saturday 29th March at Sacred Heart Hall at 7.00pm. BYO nibbles and drinks. Supper provided. \$10.00 per person. Proceeds to support CARITAS Australia's work in East Timor. Enquiries: Leanne Michaels 6025 5912.

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 7 ENROLMENTS 2009

An information Day for Year 6 students will be held on Thursday 27th March at Xavier High School from 10.00am to 2.30pm. Students from St Patrick's Albury and Holy Spirit will be bussed to and from Xavier. All students attending the Information Day will be provided with lunch. Parents of students enrolled at other schools in the Albury area should phone Xavier on 6040 6388 to register their attendance.

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING

There will be a Parent Information Evening in the Arts Centre of Xavier High School at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th March. Parents of primary students in Years 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to attend to ask questions and gain information about Xavier High School and secondary education.

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Xavier High School will have an Open Day on Monday 31st March from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Student Leaders will conduct tours throughout the afternoon. RSVP to Cerina or Pauline on 6040 6388. All welcome.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholarships for Xavier High School are available for students entering Year 7, 9 and 11 in 2009. Application details may be obtained by contacting Mrs Cerina Meredith on 6040 6388 or email info@xh.wagga.catholic.edu.au

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH - SCHOOL FETE

The Holy Spirit Parish and School will hold their annual Fete on Sunday 4th May this year. The Fete will run from 11.00am until 3.00pm in the school grounds, corner of Mutsch and Prune Streets, adjacent to Holy Spirit Church.

SNIPPET

In the impenetrable gloom of death Christ came like light - the night became as bright as day and the darkness became as light. (Benedict XVI)