



He is
risen!

HAPPY EASTER

FROM FR KEVIN'S DESK

Fr Kevin Wei

What does the death and resurrection of Jesus mean to you?

The pagans, or atheists, say that he is just a man who gave his life for a lost cause. The resurrection is what the followers of Jesus made up to substantiate their case. There is no difference between the man called Jesus, Buddha, Mohamed, or Gandhi. Heroes for some and fools for others. The sects or religions which are based on earthly life following a god or gods. They are in fact worshiping their leaders as gods and so follow everything they are told. To them, Jesus was a myth invented by a so-called group named Christians. They were not doubting the man Jesus but they are not buying the resurrection and the teachings of Christ.

The Jewish people at the time of Jesus knew him as a fellow Jew who was radical and claimed to be God. If they believed that he really was Messiah, then they would have gone against their leaders - the Pharisees, Scribes, and the Sadducees. They also would have had to admit that those leaders and people had Jesus crucified unjustly. And that was very difficult to admit. Muslims, Jews, and Christians believe in one God. The leaders at that time gave the story that Jesus' body was stolen by his disciples from the tomb, a claimed that Jesus had risen from the dead. Many still believe that to this day.

The Jewish Bible of course is the Old Testament part of the Bible. The Koran the Holy Book of Islam has a number of the passages of the Old Testament woven into its writings as well as some references to Jesus and Mary. The big difference is that we also have the New Testament - the Teachings of Christ, the Son of God who became man to teach, show, and lead us to everlasting life with Him. What God began among his people Israel he fulfilled in the birth, death and resurrection of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

Could Jesus have avoided death especially the terrible one of crucifixion?

The answer is, **NO!**

St Paul says without the Resurrection, we are following a lost cause. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ we are raised with him. We receive the divine life and the promise of eternity. The Mass, or the Eucharist, is the sum and summit of our belief. It is an instruction from Jesus himself before he died and rose. In the Mass Jesus re-presents his saving death and resurrection and we are renewed and strengthened in that life.

In this time of lockdown, fear, and isolation, most of us have to forego Mass and the Sacraments. We, like Mary, the apostles, and the disciples after the death of Jesus, are locked up and afraid. For them, the light seemed far away. We too, like them, cannot see the light of normal life soon. Like them, let us pray together for the end of this difficult time.

Faith, hope, and love is what we are all about as Christians.

Be Strong!

MY MEMORIES OF EASTER

Jennine Baines (Holy Trinity Parish Secretary)

My memory of Easter starts on Good Friday as all six of us kids walked to church like ducklings behind mum and dad - I was always the straggler - on our return home. Our family tradition began with warm hot cross buns just out of the oven with butter, I still remember the smell (I believe the sherry also made an appearance at this time).

Easter Sunday we all waddled down to Mass in our Sunday best and then home to spend Easter morning with my father's family hunting for eggs and being spoilt by my grandmother's homemade Russian fudge and other treats she had made for us. Hyped on chocolate and sugar mum, dad my four brothers, sister and me would spend the rest Easter Sunday at my Nana's house where all the extended family would gather for an Easter celebration, roast lamb the most amazing roast potatoes, over cooked peas, fizzy drinks lots of fun, love and laughter and more egg hunting. As I have grown up these family gatherings have changed a little but for the first time in my lifetime Easter will not be celebrated with my extended family. Easter 2020 is going to be a first for all of us.

No catching up with cousins, nieces, nephews, grandparents, aunts, uncles and for me I will miss the presence of my daughter, sister and brothers the hugs the warmth the love and memories. This year we have a new addition to the family, she will be 1 week old, for now we will all have to be content with photos but meeting her is the promise of good things to come.

This Easter we will be with our bubble buddies. It will be for us a time to think about the loved ones we cannot be with, those whom we have lost and hopefully we will create our own special memory of the day and remember why we celebrate Easter. Whatever this precious time means to you be it bunnies, eggs, the sacrifices of Christ, his crucifixion and his resurrection or something else, remember to embrace family and friends, give thanks for what you have and keep safe and this will go down in history as an Easter to remember. I hope it brings you joy.

May you have a blessed Easter.

EASTER LITURGY TIMES

Join Bishop Paul Martin as we celebrate, as a Diocesan Family, the Easter Triduum via live-stream on

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbDyKPjjDeYWfpoz_hSDLfw

Holy Thursday (9th April) - Mass of the Last Supper, 7pm

Good Friday (10th April) - Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm

Holy Saturday (11th April) - Easter Vigil Mass, 8pm

Easter Sunday 12th April) - Easter Sunday Mass, 10am

Masses & Liturgies also on **Shine TV** (Free View Chanel 25 or Sky 201)

Good Friday Liturgy - 8:30 am

Easter Sunday - 1:35 pm (Every Sunday Mass at the same time)

IT WILL BE A TIME
TO THINK ABOUT
THE LOVED ONES
WE CANNOT BE
WITH, THOSE
WHOM WE HAVE
LOST... AND
REMEMBER WHY WE
CELEBRATE EASTER.



FROM OUR PRINCIPALS' DESKS

A message from the Christchurch North Catholic Primary School Principals

Kia ora E te whānau,

As the Principals of Christ the King, St Albans Catholic, St Joseph's and St Patrick's Bryndwr we would like to take this opportunity to send all our Schools and Parish Communities our best wishes and heartfelt prayers over this Easter feast.

In 2020 Holy Week and Easter are being observed in very different circumstances due to Covid-19 and we know this continues to be unsettling times for many. In schools, our Religious Education curriculum in Term One builds towards the Easter celebration with real intent. Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

We are very grateful for the time the Christchurch Diocese and the recently created Christchurch North Catholic Parish Facebook Page has done to share a range of resources on social media and for families to use at home. Our students are very attentive to their Lenten promises and sincere and devout in their portrayals of the stations of the cross. They are active participants in the sacraments leading up to Easter and year by year gain a far deeper understanding of the meaning of Easter through their Catholic faith.

Unfortunately the school weeks leading up to Holy Week have been taken from us but it has also created a special opportunity for you as families to delve into Easter together. We understand that many parents will be on triple duty. Working, parenting and teaching from home and all while striving to keep your bubble healthy and balanced. **Remember that you are not working from home; you are at your home during a crisis trying to work.**

Pope Francis sent his Holy Week video message to all Christians around the world preparing to celebrate Holy Week. He spoke about Covid-19 and the need for hope. His message was simple. **"It is the hope of a better time, in which we can be better, finally freed from evil and from this pandemic. It is a hope: hope does not disappoint; it is not an illusion, it is a hope."**

We wish you a Happy Easter and our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Take care and God Bless,

Mike Bonisch - Christ the King School

Abraham Atherton - St Albans Catholic School

Aaron Richards - St Joseph's School

Tom Wallis - St. Patrick's School



"I'LL OFFER A MASS FOR YOU..."

Fr Alister Castillo

Even though you may not see photos of your priests and seminarians praying and celebrating Mass, be assured that we are holding you all in our hearts as we continue to pray the Divine Office and celebrate daily Mass here at Cotswold Ave.

Unfortunately, due to technological limitations, we cannot live-stream our Masses. Even though you may not see us celebrating Masses in the public forum, be assured that we are faithfully celebrating the great gift of the Eucharist for each and every one of you - God's faithful people who are united to us in the Mass spiritually. In the foyers of our churches, you may have seen brown envelopes titled '**Mass Intentions.**' This is one of the ways in which you are able to ask a priest to offer Mass for a particular intention, whether it is for someone who has died recently, an anniversary, someone's birthday, or perhaps for a particular person whom you feel needs prayer or a Mass offered.

Incidentally, one might ask the question, "**why should I ask a priest to offer Mass for a particular intention?**" The custom of requesting a priest to offer the Mass for a specific intention, even when one cannot be physically present at the Mass, is a longstanding tradition in the Church. This is because the Church considers the Mass as the greatest possible prayer of intercession insofar as it is the perfect offering of Christ to the Father by making present the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection. Because of the particular role of the priest as mediator between God and humanity, acting *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ) when offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass, it is typically considered that special graces may be obtained when he applies the Mass to a particular intention.

Whenever priests and bishops offer Mass, they have **three intentions: first**, to offer the Mass reverently and validly in accord with the norms of the Church; **second**, to offer the Mass in union with the whole Church and for the good of the whole Church; and **third**, to offer the Mass for a particular intention, such as the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Here are a couple of website that explain more what 'Mass Intentions' are:

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/mass-intentions-4936>

<https://catholicexchange.com/what-are-mass-intentions>

Even though you cannot be physically be present at Mass, please know that we are taking each one of you to the Eucharistic Sacrifice, especially in this season of Easter as we come to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. **So if you do have a specific intention that you want us to remember at Mass, please send an email to your parish secretary**, who will forward on these details to us.

Just make sure you have the following details emailed through:

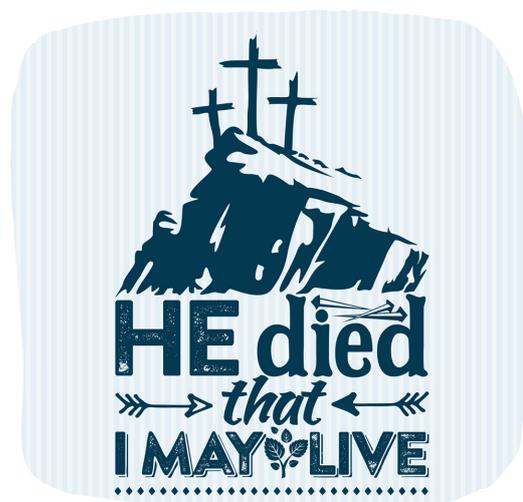
- **For:** (name of person if applicable)
- **Intention:** (Recently Died, Anniversary, Sick, Recovery, Birthday etc)
- **Requested by:** (if you want us to know).

(NB. If you put the date of the the Anniversary, Birthday etc. we'll do our best to celebrate it on that day - but it may be celebrated on a closer day due to prior intentions already promised.)

Praying that you and your loved ones have a Blessed and Holy Easter!

"THERE IS
NOTHING SO
GREAT AS THE
EUCHARIST.
IF GOD HAD
SOMETHING
MORE PRECIOUS,
HE WOULD HAVE
GIVEN IT TO
US."

St. John Vianney
(Patron Saint of
Parish Priests)



FROM THE CTK YOUTH DESK

Kaelyn Graham (Youth Coordinator, Christ the King)

Greetings to you all and your whānau during this Holy Week!

While this Lenten season is one which looks different to any before, we are able to still rejoice in the Passion and miracle of the resurrection of our Lord. As the celebration of the Easter Triduum is my favourite time of year, I found myself getting disappointed at being unable to enter into this time as I would normally due to this lockdown. However, while reading my Holy Week Magnificat devotional, I was struck by the words in the editorial, **“What we need to remember is that Our Lord has been there before us... no matter what the times look like, he has redeemed them.**

Absolutely nothing escapes the reach of his outstretched arms.” - Léonie Caldecott. This filled me with hope and reminded me that God is bigger than all the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in!

During this time of lockdown, we have been learning to adapt the way in which we reach out to our different ministry groups within our Parishes. For our Youth Ministry at Christ the King Parish, this has meant us starting to use Zoom to still have our weekly Senior Youth Group! This is a chance for our young people to stay connected with each other, share how their week has been, as well as offer suggestions for new things for others to try out. This week we shared the different ways that we are all doing in our own lives to enter more into Holy Week and encouraged each other to really use this unique situation to strengthen our spiritual lives!

Praying that God will continue to bless our parish whānau at this time!

Have a blessed and holy Easter!



CHRIST THE KING
YOUTH MINISTRY



*Christ the King
Senior Youth Group
(Yrs 9 - 13)
Monday Evenings during
School Terms*



*Senior Youth Group via
Zoom during the
lockdown period!*

HOLY TRINITY & CHRIST THE KING CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Sarah Strachan (Sacramental Coordinator, Holy Trinity)

Due to the amalgamation coming at the end of May the parishes of Holy Trinity and Christ the King have decided to combine our efforts for our Sacramental programs. Confirmation 2020 is progressing well, as we have moved from face to face meetings to running our program online. We hope to be able to celebrate our Confirmation and to participate in our Service Project sometime in the future.

This week we will be learning about the Fruits of the Holy Spirit including:

Love (Charity), Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control, Generosity, Modesty, and Chastity.

We ask that you keep the 31 candidates of the current programme in your prayers.



Come, Holy Spirit, come into my heart!
Fill me utterly with your joy, your peace, your divine power.
Come and live in me! Make me beautiful within.
Drive from my heart all evil thoughts, all unrest, all sadness and fear.
May you, O Holy Spirit, be my best friend and councillor.
Guide me, so that I never stray from God's ways.
May you fill me with thoughts of peace.
Comfort me when I am sad. Strengthen me when I am tempted.
Warm me when my love threatens to grow cold.
Make me shine out with your love and be a sign for others of God's love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN EASTER ACTIVITIES

Sarah Strachan (Liturgy of the Word with Children Coordinator, Holy Trinity)

There will be many children in our parishes that are missing being able to participate in our Children's Liturgy programme. We would like families as first teachers to take an active role in encouraging the children to extend their knowledge during their time away from Church.

www.catholicmom.com

This is a fantastic resource for readings and activities for anyone. It will be updated as more activities come online.

I have also updated my own Google Drive with a variety of Easter related activities for young and old. Please use the following link to access this.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12zIS6YhTdMu9108fX-DmARrHBGqLziGt?usp=sharing>

Should you have any trouble with the links contact me at sarah.holytrinityparish@hotmail.com



MORE RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

Here are some resources that may help with your children and young people during these times.

Life Teen

Life Teen is a Eucharist-centered movement within the Roman Catholic Church leading teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. This is the blog section of their website which has a number of articles written for young people to encourage you in your faith.

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/>

Catholic Youth Team Facebook Page

CYT are sharing different things each day of the week to help you stay creative and give you examples of different ways to pray

<https://www.facebook.com/CYTministries/>

SetFree

Set Free is an event held for young people facilitated by the Hamilton Diocese, and they have been hosting an 'off screen retreat' each day. This is a chance to encourage young people to pray and spend time off their screens (phones, tablets laptops etc). Along with this they have also been sharing playlists for praise and worship music!

<https://www.facebook.com/setfreez/>



LIFE TEEN

CYT

CATHOLIC YOUTH TEAM

SF

SET FREE

CONNECTING SPIRITUALLY ONLINE

Here are a few online websites that may help your spiritual wellbeing during this time.

Enjoy!



Christchurch Diocese Website:

chchcatholic.nz/spiritual-resources/

Spiritual Reflection on Suffering:

www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/bishops-statements/a-shoreless-ocean/

Free Virtual Online Conversations and Retreats for Holy Week:

<https://www.ltp.org/resources-during-crisis>

Stations of the Cross:

<https://www.fdm.org.nz/stations>

Magnificat (Daily Readings)

<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

PARISH STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Irene Maguire

Pastoral Associate, St Josephs

irenemaguire100@live.com

027 622 9415

Lauren Butler

Pastoral Associate, St Josephs

laurenbutler76@gmail.com

027 424 6045

Megan Stewart

Pastoral Associate, St Josephs

meganstjopapa@gmail.com

021 069 6233

Kaelyn Graham

(Youth Coordinator, CTK)

ctkyouthnz@gmail.com

Sarah Strachan

(Sacramental Coordinator, Holy Trinity)

sarah.holytrinityparish@hotmail.com



**FROM THE PRIESTS,
SEMINARIANS, AND STAFF
IN OUR THREE PARISHES**

*We pray that you have a
very Blessed and Holy
Easter!*



Please pray for the
following intentions

For Pope Francis and the Bishops of Aotearoa

For our Civil Leaders

For Those preparing for First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

For those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

For those who are sick:

Jill Lever (Papanui Parish); Bishop Basil Meeking;

For those who have died, especially during this time:

Brian Eccleton (Recently Deceased, Bryndwr Parish); Mary Lee (Recently Deceased, Papanui Parish)

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

We have a prayer team that can offer prayer for people at any time. We are inviting you to join the team.

So what is expected of you?

A prayer request will be forwarded to you by text message.

Upon receipt of the text you will pray for the intention. You do not have to go anywhere or make contact with anyone. Just pray where you are, then continue to pray for the intention in your regular prayer time.

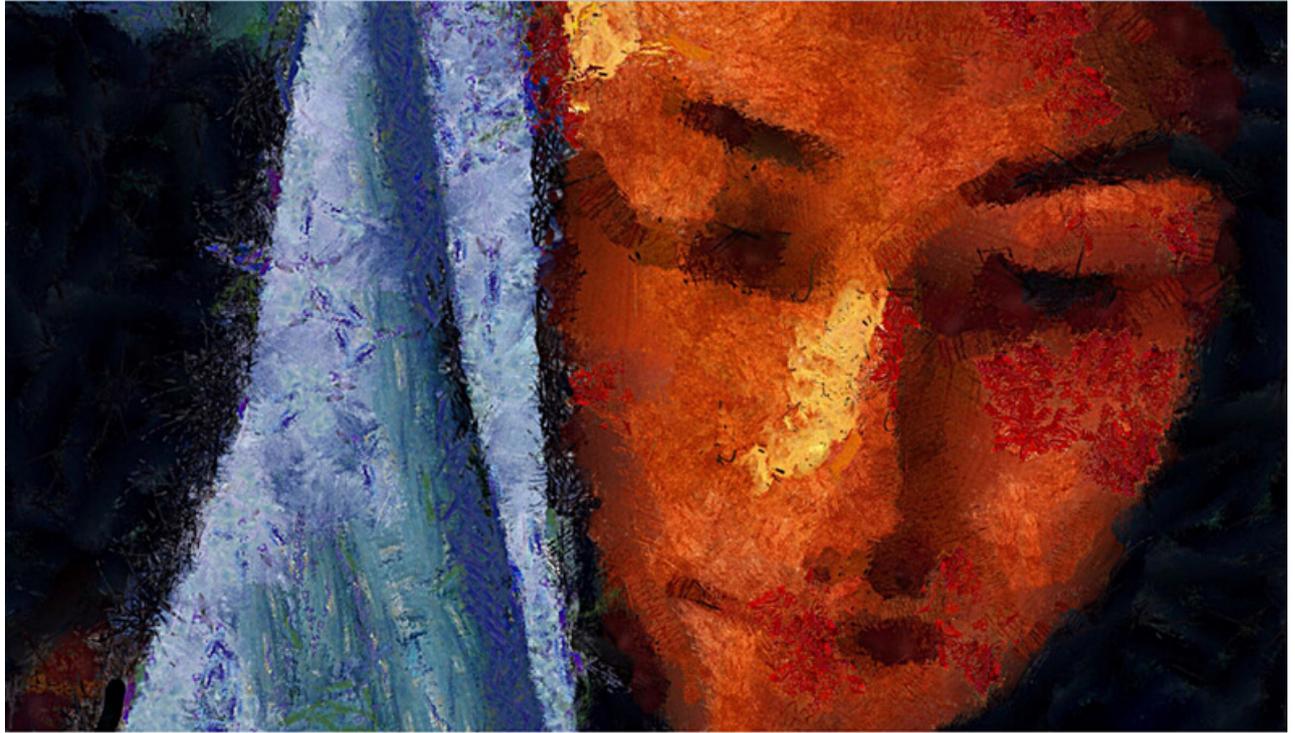
If you would like to be part of this ministry please send your name, cell phone number and email address to prayer@fdm.org.nz

If you would like more information, please ring Graeme Scott on **021 413 659**



To request prayer, text details to
021 413 659 or email prayer@fdm.org.nz

LET IT BE DONE UNTO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD



HOW MARY HELPS US TO BE FILLED WITH GOD

INSPIRATIONAL FIVE SESSION CaFE DVD COURSE

Who was Mary of Nazareth? Why was she chosen to be the Mother of God? How did her 'Yes' change our world? How did Mary grow in faith? What was her role at the foot of the Cross? Where is she now and what is she doing?

**"MARY ONCE GAVE US THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD, TODAY SHE HELPS US
TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD."**

ONLINE STREAMING LIVE

WEDNESDAYS - BEGINNING ON 15TH APRIL, 7:30 PM

FIVE ENGAGING SESSIONS FOLLOWED BY GROUP DISCUSSION

For more information, or to register visit
<https://www.fdm.org.nz/let-it-be-done-unto-me>

KNOW ANYONE IN NEED OF FOOD?

The St Vincent de Paul society have updated their way of distributing food parcels in light of the lockdown.

Due to the circumstances of COVID-19, we have ceased providing food parcels directly to people's homes. We have directed our Christchurch Vincentians to cease from direct food delivery. To minimize person to person contact, we have now established an electronic voucher system whereby those in need contact us through our welfare line.



To request a food grocery voucher from the St. Vincent de Paul Society Christchurch Area, please follow one of these **four ways** of communication:

- 1) Phone **03 389 7484**, extension 1 (please leave a message)
- 2) Text **027 358 9400** (text 'request voucher', name and address)
- 3) Visit www.svdpchch.co.nz/how-can-we-help-you.html (fill out the request form)
- 4) Email welfare@svdpchch.co.nz (with 'request voucher', name, address and contact number)

**Another contact number for if you need food:
0800 HUNGRY (0800 486 479)**

VINNIES NEED YOUR HELP!

We have had numerous requests from vulnerable families reaching out for food support and our team are working and networking to ensure that these families are being supported.

We anticipate that this is only going to increase as the lockdown continues.

We can't do this alone. We need your help!

Since our shops and churches are closed, monetary help is the best way for now.

Thank you for helping us to help others.

To donate, please visit:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/svdpchch> or via internet banking
03-0854-0706103-00 (SVDP Christchurch Westpac Account)



PARISH CONTACT DETAILS:



Parish Office Emails

Burnside: ctk.parishextra.co.nz

Papanui: pap.bish.rc@extra.co.nz

Bryndwr: holytrinitybryndwr@gmail.com



Website

christtheking.org.nz

stjosephspapanui.weebly.com/



Parish Secretaries' Phone Numbers

Burnside: 03 358 5795 or 021 334 683

Papanui: 03 352 9275 or 027 202 5950

Bryndwr: 351 5795 or 027 471 0245



Facebook

facebook.com/christchurchnorthparish