



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 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 the 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 recognised 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.**

EMMAUS IS OUR STORY

A feature of the resurrection stories in the Gospels is the way in which the risen Lord appears to people exactly as they are: to the disciples in their fear, to Mary Magdalene in her sorrow, to Thomas in his doubting. The encounter told in today's Gospel is no exception. Jesus appears to two disciples in their bitter disillusionment and loss of hope.

By not revealing himself to them immediately but simply accompanying them as a fellow traveller, the Lord respects their experience, letting them tell their story to the end. Only then does he pick it up and weave it into his own instruction. He shows them how the recent events in Jerusalem had followed the path indicated for the Messiah in the Scriptures, rather than that of Israel's political liberation that had been central to their own messianic hope.

Captivated by this companion, the disciples constrain him to be their guest. But once indoors, a reversal takes place: they, who had offered hospitality to him, find themselves guests at a table he provides. The Eucharistic gestures at the breaking of the bread reveal him at last as risen Lord.

Instantly, he vanishes from their sight, and they hurry back to Jerusalem to share with the other disciples their experience of the risen Lord.

This wonderful story perfectly models the life of the Church. Fortified by the Spirit, the Church continues through Word and Sacrament the mission of the Lord. It walks alongside disillusioned, hurt humanity, expounding the Scriptures, and in the Eucharist provides the hospitality of God.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

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FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 foreknowledge 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.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11. R. v. 11

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life. (or Alleluia!)

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. / I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.' / O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; / it is you yourself who are my prize. **R.**

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, / who even at night directs my heart. / I keep the Lord ever in my sight: / since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; / even my body shall rest in safety. / For you will not leave my soul among the dead, / nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

4. You will show me the path of life, / the fullness of joy in your presence, / at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

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

cf. Lk 24:32

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

GOSPEL

Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

26 April 2020
Easter Wk 3

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison

Administration: Ms Di Bolitho
Ms Anne Bowden
Sacristan Mrs Elaine Smyth

Presbytery 67658211
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Thur 10am-2pm
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St Joseph's School
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES NO WEEKEND OR WEEK DAY MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

WEEKDAY MASSES FEASTS THIS WEEK:
Wed: St Catherine of Siena Fri: St Joseph Sat: t Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

CONFESSIONS
By appointment

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Patricia Mary Holz.

Deceased: Dorothy O'Reilly, Kath Galloway, Gwedonline Moore, Mark Doyle, Anne Conroy, Angela Mapstone, Lola Parsons, Joy Morgan, Patricia Mary Holz, Mavis Day, Carrol Cavanagh (nee Koppman), Ruby O'Callaghan, Peter Lonergan, Rod Kelly, Gerard Wake, William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, William Grima, John Killen, Eibhlin Killen.

Sick: Margaret O'Callaghan, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kielty, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, Dudley Ryan, Trisha Aquino, Paul Steer, Baby Jack Smith, Fr Bernie Melville, Noel O'Brien, Bill Press, Karen Guillermo, David Owens, Yvonne Tarrant, Terry Lee, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Greentree, Janice Rizzi, Richard Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Judy Cumins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



CRACKERS TAILS:

Late one night a burglar broke into a house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say, "Jesus is watching you." He looked around and saw nothing. He kept on creeping and again heard, "Jesus is watching you." In a dark corner he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Was it you who said Jesus is watching me?". The parrot replied, "Yes". Relieved, the burglar asked, "What is your name?". The parrot proudly responded, "Clarence". The burglar haughtily commented "That's a stupid name for a parrot. Who on earth named you Clarence?" The parrot answered, "The same person who named the Rottweiler Jesus".

Having a birthday, anniversary or special event? Please let us know.

Fr Anthony would like to include you in his prayers of intention in masses he celebrates privately. He promises not to spread the word to anyone but Cracker. He can't guarantee that Cracker will keep the secret to himself though.

*Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.
Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial
but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*



COMING EVENTS: Anzac Day 25 March; 3 May - Good Shepherd Sunday. (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

All will be right with time and a little patience. (1873)

A MESSAGE FROM FR ANTHONY KOPPMAN: You will never walk alone. The Risen



Christ is with you.

May God Bless you my dear friend as you walk with Christ.

I miss seeing you in your church pew while we celebrate the Holy Mass. See Fr Anthony's full message attached to this email.

ANZAC DAY: On Saturday 25 April many of us will be especially feeling isolated as we are unable to attend regular Anzac Day services, perhaps the Dawn Service, Mass Service or other event. You are encouraged to attend via online streaming the service to be conducted by Bishop Michael Kenneday at 9 am on Saturday 25 April. The Mass will be livestreamed from Armidale Cathedral. Access the livestream via the Diocese of Armidale Facebook page: Diocese of Armidale: <https://www.facebook.com/Diocese-of-Armidale-103284721332959/>

LIVESTREAMING FROM THE CATHEDRAL: Sunday Mass at 10.00 am will continue to be livestreamed on the Cathedral Parish Facebook page. It is also available on demand via the Diocesan webpage, Facebook page and YouTube channel. Our Bishop has intentions to continue to use the Diocesan Facebook page and YouTube channel after our churches reopen. Please continue to connect with these.



KEEPING IN CONTACT: We are vigilantly waiting for advice regarding the re-opening of our church to celebrate mass. At this stage it is unknown as to when this might happen. In the meantime, if you require the Sacrament of Penance urgently please contact the Presbytery. Please remember to engage in the other suggested activities at this time: families and individuals undertaking suitable prayer and reflection to keep the Lord's day holy by following readings and reflections/discussing the Sunday readings and Gospel; praying the Rosary; following a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>); making a spiritual communion, creating and decorating a prayer space with a candle, crucifix, bible and holy images. There are readings and home-based activities from the Brisbane Liturgy Centre attached to this email. There are numerous online Masses and other prayer resources. The ACBC website <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus> is a good source, as is the Armidale Diocesan website <http://armidale.catholic.org.au/>

CONTINUING PLANNED GIVING: Letters have been sent to all Planned Givers and there has been some response from parishioners to take up the option of electronic transfer (using the bank account details below) or direct debit. A sincere thank you to those who have made these arrangements. It will assist enormously in helping the Parish to meet the ongoing operational costs we face. If you have not already done so, this may be an opportunity to set up electronic transfer for one or both of the 1st and 2nd collections. Please consider your own ability to give to the Parish at this time and make a decision which is comfortable for you. Please use your name and envelope number as a reference and contact the Presbytery office if you would like assistance.

FR DAVID TEGGINS: Fr Bernie Flood is gathering information about Fr Teggins' work in the Parish during the 1970s, and his healing trip to Lourdes. If you have any information please contact the Presbytery.



ANNUAL OBLIGATION TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION:

The Bishops of NSW/ACT Province have decided that they would all extend the annual obligation to receive Holy Communion (Canon 920) and by extension to Confess all grave sins (Canon 988) from Pentecost Sunday to Christmas Day 2020.

First Collection goes to the Diocese WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY 082105 Acc 001023642
Second Collection goes to St Patrick's: WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH 082105 Acc 001041198
No Collections due to closure of Church and No services.