



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Year A — 12th April 2020

The community of the Cathedral of St. Stephen acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish stands.

Embracing
Villa Maria Centre
and
St Patrick's
Fortitude Valley



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Archbishop of Brisbane

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Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ Lives;
let us feast with joy in
our Risen Lord.
Alleluia!

Readings for today: Acts 10:34, 37-43; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Matthew 28:1-10

Dear friends,

Rarely has the cry of the Easter Alleluia been as strangely muffled and muzzled as it is today. Standing at the appropriate distance from one another, we will need to shout loudly to make the cries of "Alleluia" heard. While we celebrate Easter Sunday today, in some sense, it still feels like Holy Saturday: a time of waiting and stillness. This Easter, there are no grand liturgical celebrations, no festive family gatherings, and no relaxing get-togethers with friends; no beach or bush or bbqs. Instead, we must accept the hollowness of this Easter and set our hearts with eager longing for that day when things might be otherwise.

So on this day of muted celebration, let us consider three things: what gives us *joy*; how do we discover *hope*; and how do we share *love*? On a day that is usually bursting with joy, we can take some time to acknowledge those people and connections that give us joy. Joy is not in "things" but in us. Let us commit ourselves to not being deceived again by the falsehood that joy can be found in possessions, or in status, or in personal pursuit. Joy, real joy, is found in the gift of other people.

Let us pause also to consider the peace that only the gift of hope can bring. If today feels a little like Holy Saturday because of these current circumstances, let us keep in mind that the light of dawn brought forth a most unexpected turn of events. We are not without hope and we are not abandoned. As difficult as these days are, may we keep in mind that the God of Jesus Christ is a God of surprise and a God of life. The seeds of renewal are there in you and me and the whole world. Maybe these unexpected treasures of hope are what God wants us to discover in this time.

Finally, let us consider not so much who we love, but how we love. Perhaps this pause has exposed how much we have taken others for granted, how careless we can be with those whom we love, and how callous and cold we can be in our words and deeds. May God's Spirit resurrect our ability to "love" this Easter, for love is truly the only gift worth giving and receiving. Contemplate *joy, hope and love* today because even at a distance, we can still celebrate the nearness of Easter's great surprise. *Fr. Anthony*



**Cathedral of
St. Stephen**
249 Elizabeth St
Brisbane



St. Patrick's
58 Morgan St
Fortitude Valley



Villa Maria Chapel
171 St Pauls Tce
Spring Hill

Cathedral Parish Mass Times this week

Monday to Friday: 8.00am (live-streamed)
Saturday: 11.30am – Marian Devotions (live-streamed)

Sunday

Cathedral of St Stephen
Saturday: Suspended until further notice
Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am (live-streamed)

St Patrick's Suspended until further notice
Villa Maria Suspended until further notice

Reconciliation: **Monday to Friday** Suspended until further notice
Saturday

Exposition: Suspended until further notice **Benediction:** Suspended until further notice

Easter Reflection - 2020

Rather than a blasting cry of "Alleluia!"
this year Easter is more a niggling whisper.

Our lives are caught in almost suspended animation.
Hibernation they say.

Resurrection begins with the slightest glimmer of light;
the first break of dawn.
That's when Easter becomes a niggling whisper.

The Spirit of Resurrection, quietly and unnoticed, arises.
If the world is currently living in one long Lent,
the Easter whisper awakens in us the surprising invitation
to new ways of living.
Perhaps our world, our lives, have been sick all along
and we just haven't noticed.

Easter is healing.
Easter is the joy of one small victory
after countless efforts to try to change our ways.
Easter is the courage to make one final attempt to re-build a relationship.
Easter is the gift of resilience to start again. And again.
Easter is the unexpected confidence to take a risk.
Easter is the love that refuses to give up on another human being.
Easter is the freedom to let go of the past,
and walk towards another kind of future.
Easter is the Spirit-prompted hope that niggles away inside of all of us
and that won't let us go.
Easter is our sense of connection beyond all isolation;
our bonds of love across every distance.
And the greatest distance is death.
Easter is the first light of each new day, ending every darkness.

The story of the Resurrection of Christ is not just a story
about Jesus told for the sake of Christians.
The story of the Resurrection of Christ is also a story about us
told for the sake of the whole world.
It is Christ's Body that rises.
And who are we?
Even in our frailty and vulnerability,
we remain members of Christ's Body.
Let us arise.