St Peter’s Parish, Surry Hills

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Calendar – **Easter Sunday**

The first 8 days of the Easter season, from Easter Sunday to Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday in Easter), we refer to as the Octave of Easter. These days have a special importance in the Church’s liturgical calendar.



**Easter Services televised on Channel 7 from St Mary’s Cathedral**

**Good Friday** - Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at **3:00pm** - **10 April**

**Easter Sunday Mass** at **10:30am - 12 April.**

For the other Holy Week services, also led by Archbishop Fisher, please see the above life streaming schedule <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/> and click on **“Holy Week Lifestreaming”.** At a time when Catholic churches across Australia are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a wonderful opportunity for people across all ages and no matter where they live to access in the Mass at the holiest time in our Church’s year. Please pass this message onto those who may not be aware.

**Archbishop Fisher’s latest Pastoral Letter on COVID-19**

The letter contains important information on the livestreaming and simplification of Holy Week services as well as updates to ensure that the Church’s pastoral care and support for the faithful is greater still during this time of pandemic. Read the full letter on the COVID-19 website by clicking [here](https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/)

**Persons in danger of death:** For any persons seriously ill or in danger of death please contact the parish for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum. There is also a fulltime Catholic chaplain at St. Vincent’s Hospital, should somebody be admitted to St. Vincent’s.

**Rest in Peace**request envelopes should be placed on the collection plate with the usual offering of *$10.00.* ***We pray for*** Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood (21/9), Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy and Henry Schmidt.

**Prayer for the Safety of Australia as a Christian Nation**

**To**

**Our Lady Help of Christians**



Almighty God, we Thy people cry out in our affliction.  Do not scorn us but for the glory of Thy name come to our rescue. Look mercifully upon us in our tribulation, and, though we have justly deserved punishment, turn away Thy wrath.  Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Help of Christians, bring succour and peace to Australia.

**A Special Prayer to St Joseph in this time of Covid-19**

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, do assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating thou and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near thy heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, patron of the dying and the suffering, pray for me. Amen. (Mention your Request)



**Palm Sunday** - Crosses have been

made from Palm Sunday blessed palms

for anyone to collect from the Parish office

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**Fr. John’s reflection for Sacred Triduum and the Octave of Easter**

The days of the Paschal Triduum begin this Holy Thursday evening and end on the evening of Easter Sunday.

Of course this year we will celebrate the liturgical events of this most holy time of the Church’s life in the context of the corona virus pandemic and via Channel 7 or live streaming from St. Mary’s Cathedral. (Please see the liturgical program and associated links in the attached parish bulletin).

Cardinal Pell spoke to the priests of the Archdiocese on Maundy Thursday morning via “zoom” and said that it is not easy to make sense of the story of an innocent young man who was unjustly condemned to suffering and death, but then rose from the tomb to new life because He was the Son of God.

On Monday in Holy Week, St. Augustine, in the Second Reading for the Office of Readings, says that “the passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ gives us the hope of glory and a lesson in patience.” Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, went through suffering and death to glory not because he needed to for his own sake. He did this for us, so that we might likewise defeat death and share in his divine glory forever.

St. Augustine explains a wonderful irony in all of this: The Son of God could not die for us. He could not die period. In order to die for us so that our sins could be atoned for, and so that we could become immortal, the Son needed to share in our mortal human nature. “This is the way,” says St. Augustine, “in which, though immortal, he was able to die.

“Of ourselves we had no power to live, nor did he of himself have the power to die. In other words, he performed the most wonderful exchange with us: **Through us, he died; Through him, we shall live.”**

We live in a culture which in so many ways pretends that his present life is all there is. The corona virus crisis has shattered that pretence. It is stating the obvious to say that what stands behind the numerous current restrictions on our normal way of life and the whole society’s preoccupation with the pandemic, is precisely the fear of death.

During the days of the Triduum and throughout the Octave of Easter let us live in solidarity with our brother and saviour Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and that triumphant verse in Sacred Scripture: “We have here no lasting city, but we look for one in the life to come.” (Heb. 13:14)

Your well-being in body, mind and soul comprises my regular Mass intention. I would even say that I am more deliberately conscious of your presence around me as I offer Holy Mass for you than in normal times. In my prayers before after and during Mass and at the various hours of the Prayer of the Church during the day, I am likewise especially focused on your needs at this time.

With every best wish, Masses and prayers for the Sacred Triduum and the Easter Octave.

(Fr.) John Macdonald

p.s Please feel free to contact me via phone or email. I am invariably in the parish office, Duffy Hall or the courtyard between noon and 6pm, Monday to Friday, excluding Easter Monday.