

Wodonga Catholic Parish

Including Bethanga, Dederang, Mt Beauty, Tangambalanga, Tallangatta & Corryong Communities



April 12th -2020 - Easter Sunday-The Lord has Risen ~ YEAR A ~

WODONGA PARISH CENTRE

283 Beechworth Road

Wodonga Vic 3690:

Phone: 02 6024 3366

E-mail Address:

wodonga@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

[www.wodongacatholicparish.com](http://www.wodongacatholicparish.com.au)

.au

OFFICE HOURS

9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Monday to Friday

PRESBYTERY

55 High Street Wodonga Vic

PARISH PRIEST

Father Junjun Amaya

0459-356-917

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Father Shibu-

Pezhumthottathil

0432 591 551

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Sister Eileen Reardon

0458 327 554 (Mt Beauty)

WEEKEND MASSES

WODONGA

Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 6:00 pm.

Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am

4th Sunday of each month

Youth Mass 5:00 pm

TANGAMBALANGA

Our Lady Help of Christians

2nd & 4th Sunday 10:30 am

BETHANGA

St Francis No Masses

DEDERANG

St Joseph's

1st & 3rd Sunday 10:30 am

5th Sunday 10:30 am

Liturgy of The Word

and Communion

MT BEAUTY

St Joseph's

1st to 4th Sunday 8:30 am

5th Sunday 8:30 am

Liturgy of The Word

and Communion

WEEKDAY MASS:

Sacred Heart Church

Monday: Liturgy of the Word

9:15 am

Mass: Tuesday to Friday

9:15 am

Saturday 9:30 am

St Augustine's Church

RECONCILIATION:

Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 9:00 - 9:30 am

Country Churches



Pope Francis Easter Blessing 2020

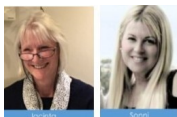
"When evening had come ..." (Mk 4:35-41). The Gospel passage begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have realised that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

The full text of his meditation is found on www.vaticannews.va/en.html

Looking at the Readings:

Easter is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth. © Dianne Bergant CSA



A Safe Parish Is a Shared Responsibility:

Wodonga Catholic Parish Safety Officers.

Our Parish safety officers are Jacinta Bartlett Ph: 0418470632 and

Sonia La Motte-Schubert Ph: 60243366 Towards Healing help line 1800 816 030 (free call) Lifeline is a non-profit Organisation FREE 24-hour: Crisis Support Phone: 13 11 14

An Easter Message From Fr Junjun:

CHRIST: OUR HOPE AND REASON TO HOPE

My dear People of God,

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear Parishioners of the Wodonga Catholic Parishes and Tallangatta and Corryong Parishes:

I missed seeing you all in person at our masses in the Churches.

But I promise you I have been thinking of you, praying for you and praying with you as I celebrate the Holy Mass live-streamed on Facebook as regularly as I could.

COVID-19 may have put us apart because of the social distancing rule, isolation, or stay-at-home directive from the authorities and rightly so for our safety's sake, but nevertheless in my prayers, I have you spiritually closer in my mind and in my heart.

I feel the pain that isolation brings to those who have been directly afflicted by the Coronavirus- the pain that even their families cannot be by their sides while they are in the hospital, or quarantined, or even worst when they succumbed to the virus.

I feel the pain for those who have lost their jobs because their workplaces had to be shutdown.

I feel the pain for those whose means of livelihood, businesses, and source of income have been cut off because of this pandemic.

I feel the pain and the anxieties for those many working in the frontlines and working hard to combat this virus- the pain of putting themselves in the forefront, thus putting their own lives at risk, just to keep others safe and provided with the essentials.

What keeps me going in this very challenging and extraordinary time in our lives despite the pain is the sense of hope.

HOPE is one great thing to combat the PAIN: We need to live in hope especially this time.

Hope means to (**H**old **O**n because **P**ain will **E**nd), to (**H**ang **O**n because this **P**andemic will **E**nd), to **H**old **O**n because this **P**anic-buying (*of food and toilet rolls*) will **E**nd).

I can see hope being sustained by the many people doing the best they can to continue serving our communities even in lockdown: those in the frontlines in this crisis. For them, I am grateful.

And there is more reason to hope here.

In the light of Easter, hope means that despite all the pain, the cross, the sufferings, the isolation, and the abandonment we may have experienced, these don't have the ultimate say of our lives.

This is the essence of the message of the angel to the first witnesses of the resurrection in the gospel of Matthew (Mt 28:1-10). The angel said to the scared witnesses:

'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen.'

We are in an extraordinary time. Our Easter has to be celebrated extraordinarily as well, with no crowds, no hanging out with families and friends. And as human as we are, we may be afraid, anxious, uncertain of what the future holds, but trust this, Jesus has risen from the dead to show us and to assure us that there is more to life than pain and suffering, there is crown beyond the cross, there is throne beyond the thorns, there is life even beyond death.

An Easter Message continues.

Pope Francis, in his Twitter the other day said: "Jesus experienced total abandonment in a situation he had never before experienced in order to be one with us in everything. He did it for me, for you, to say to us: "Do not be afraid, you are not alone. I experienced all your desolation in order to be ever close to you."

This is our God. And I hope and pray that we may grow even closer to him and to one another especially this time.

When we are in lockdown and only allowed to go out to do the essentials, it is worth asking ourselves: 'Is God one of the essentials in our lives?'

Is our deprivation of receiving Holy Communion or going to Mass creating a deeper hunger and longing on our part to get closer to Jesus in prayer? How's our communication with God? How's our faith?

When we are at home with only our own family, it is an opportunity to grow even closer together, knowing and understanding each other in a deeper level, and to grow more in trust and respect of each other. How's our communication with our families and friends?

Friends, the message of the risen Christ for us is hope. This crisis will eventually come to pass. Let us intensify our prayers for the end of this crisis.

God is here with us, assuring us that **Christ Overcomes Viruses, Infections and Diseases (COVID)**.

The many readings in the Church's liturgies this Holy Week also would assure us that God is always present in our lives even when we think or feel he is not there.

For instance, in Genesis, He is the Creator-God who breathes in all of us the gift of life and who showers us with many blessings. In Exodus, He is our Saviour God, who sets us free from the slavery and protects us from all our enemies.

In the Prophet Isaiah, He is our God who provides us with good things to eat and rich food to enjoy for free.

In the Letter of St Paul to the Romans, He is our God who has destroyed all power of sin and freed us from all slavery to sin.

In the gospels, especially of Matthew, we have the God who suffered, died, was buried and now risen as our hope of glory.

May the Risen Christ strengthen our hope I pray and motivate us to live in faith. May the resurrection of Christ reassure us that with Christ, death has not the final say, the Easter glory is.

I hope and pray, you are all well and safe, you have a grace-filled Easter season. I can't wait to see you all again in our communal celebration of faith in our Churches.

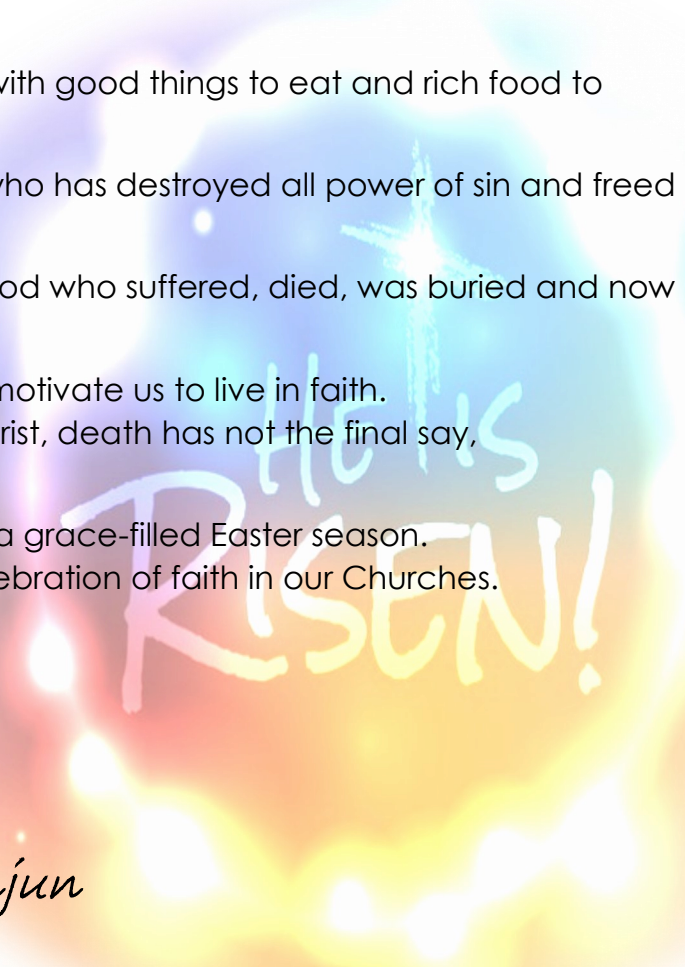
Hold

On

Pandemic

Ends.

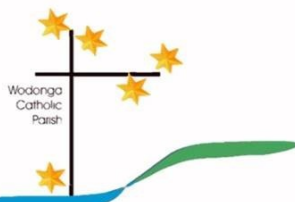
May you have a happy Easter dear friends! *Fr Junjun*



Recent Deaths: Louis Porta, Terrence Mahony, Brian Unthank

Anniversaries: Evette Bone (nee Black).

Sick Zak Oliver, Kath Twycross, Salome Ramirez, Ric Glavocih, Mary Shaddock, Ricky Ellul, John Radcliffe, Kit Ley, parishioners who are ill, their families & Carers



PARISH RENEWAL 2020

Ministries:

All information is now being collated. We thank all who have indicated their commitment to continue supporting our parish across all our needs. If you are new in offering to assist, the team leader of the group you have selected will contact you.

Planned Giving:

It is gratifying to receive your pledge of financial support. Letters of acknowledgement, including sets of envelopes where required, are being mailed out. Contributions via credit cards and direct debits will continue to be submitted as previously.

Due to the disruption to our weekend gatherings for Masses, we are not receiving any funds from the collections. If anyone is able to contribute online the Parish bank account details are: **BSB 083 971 Account number 51611 9811**. Please reference your contributions with your name and pledge number.

Other Contribution's:

We understand many have lost jobs and are in unknown circumstances at the moment however, if you are in a position to do so and would normally contribute cash to the plate during weekend Masses please use the bank account details above to continue your contributions using your name as a reference.



First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.' Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel: John 20:1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Readings this week

Acts 10:34, 37-43
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8
John 20:1-9 or Matt 28:1-10

Readings next week:

Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

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!

Prayer of the Faithful:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lockdown Reflection

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noiseYou can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet.....The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi People are singing to each other across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland Is offering free meals and
delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood, so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the
homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.
All over the world, people are waking up to a new reality.

To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear..... *But there does not have to be hate.*
Yes, there is isolation..... *But there does not have to be loneliness.*
Yes, there is panic buying.....*But there does not have to be meanness.*
Yes, there is sickness..... *But there does not have to be disease of the soul.*
Yes there is even death.....
But there can always be a rebirth of love. Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul. And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square...
Sing.

~ Fr. Richard Hendricks, OFM

PROJECT COMPASSION

GO FURTHER TOGETHER

CARITAS AUSTRALIA wishes you a blessed Easter in these times so difficult for all of us. Thank you to those who have already given their support to empower the world's poorest communities to lift themselves out of poverty. But their vulnerability is now so much greater as Coronavirus spreads through these impoverished places. May the hope that

Easter brings inspire us to share hope with our most vulnerable sisters and brothers.

Here in Australia, we are continually being reminded to wash our hands frequently with soap and water. Perhaps as we do this, we can spare a thought for those with no soap and only dirty water! **If you are in a position to do so, please support Caritas Australia. Your donation will truly save lives.**

If you have a **Project Compassion Box**, you can bank your coins in the Sandhurst Caritas Account and email caritasjustice@sandhurst.catholic.org.au for a receipt. Details are Name: RHayesKStone BSB: 083-760 Acc No: 66-451-1663

If you have **Project Compassion Envelopes**, you can post to PO Box 130 Numurkah 3636. **OR** you can **donate online at www.caritas.org.au**.



A Message from Bishop Long

Bishop Long, Chair of Caritas Australia's National Council, has made a short video for you, explaining why the world's most vulnerable need you now more than ever. Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoQ7ieIoQY8>



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

STATEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE, PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

The High Court of Australia has today announced that it has quashed Cardinal George Pell's convictions on historical sexual abuse charges. The Court has ordered that he be released from prison.

Today's outcome will be welcomed by many, including those who have believed in the Cardinal's innocence throughout this lengthy process.

We also recognise that the High Court's decision will be devastating for others. Many have suffered greatly through the process, which has now reached its conclusion.

The result today does not change the Church's unwavering commitment to child safety and to a just and compassionate response to survivors and victims of child sexual abuse. The safety of children remains supremely important not only for the bishops, but for the entire Catholic community. Any person with allegations of sexual abuse by Church personnel should go to the police.

April 7, 2020