



Holy Week



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Term 1 concludes:  
Thursday, 9th April

Term 2 commences:  
Monday, 27th April

Term 2 concludes:  
Friday, 3rd July

# Good Shepherd Primary School Newsletter

Term 1

Week 11

Tuesday, 7th April, 2020

Good Morning Parents & Guardians,

This is the first time I can ever remember that there were no Easter celebrations in Church for us to attend during Holy Week. I know through different parishes things will be televised but I thought I would share these Easter Reflections with you and your families.

We have shared with you two Easter Reflections for this week. This first one is for adults and children and the Powerpoint to follow is for children.

## Holy Thursday

This day remembers Jesus sharing his last meal with his friends, his disciples. During this gathering Jesus said the words which Christians down through the centuries proclaim and live: **'This is my Body given for you.'**

### Let us pray

We call to mind all in our community, our world who at this moment are working to bring healing to the deeply wounded Body of Christ.

1. For Pope Francis as he brings words of hope, comfort and support to all those who are experiencing suffering and loss at this time. May he be strengthened in his work of inspiring others to reach out in love and compassion to the sick, the vulnerable and those isolated in our world. Lord hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**
2. For our National and State leaders who are working hard to encourage the human community to collectively embrace the task of saving lives and livelihoods. May they be sustained with all the energy and vision that is required at this critical time. Lord hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**
3. We remember at this time all those throughout the world who are working in the front line of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the care of the sick they risk their bodies for the sake of the lives of others. May they receive the strength and insight needed to minister with skill and compassion. Lord hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**

## Good Friday

Our hearts are bruised by the brutality of this day. To read about or watch a Good Friday re-enactment can even be difficult. Imagine standing on the sidelines and witnessing these actual events unfold before you. Did any of the onlookers, the disciples, Simon of Cyrene, Veronica (*source Acta Sanctorum*) or the Women from Jerusalem contemplate the gift that was being offered for them by Jesus?

Within this suffering Jesus had been almost completely isolated from those he cared about. Standing at the foot of the cross was the disciple John, 'Jesus' mother Mary and his mother's sister, Mary wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene.' (John 19:25). Everyone else responded by staying away. Mary must have had feelings of helplessness at not being able to stop her son's suffering.

Watching someone we love follow a path that can lead to hurt and suffering is very difficult. Letting go can also be painful but sometimes we have to trust that God holds us close even when we feel isolated and alone.

Edward Sri in his book, 'Walking with Mary', reminds us that throughout her life, Mary had been called to abandon herself to God's plan on many occasions. Here was a journey that saw Mary face humiliation, poverty and on Good Friday the rejection and torturous death of her beloved son. Like the Yes of Mary, the Yes that we are called to give to God is answered in both the challenging and the ordinary moments of our life. As you reflect upon the Stations of the Cross, recognise the gift that Jesus gave for us on this day. Like Mary, welcome into your hearts the song of love that God brings to all of us. **(Cont'd over ....)**

## Good Friday (Cont'd)

### Let us pray

*“My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, the source of my becoming. He invites me to a place of contemplation so that I may learn a new song. Behold, I will seek and celebrate His Word in all that lays before me. My heart is content knowing that the cross was given in our name. He calls my hands to be filled with love and compassion, Holy be His name. His strength abounds within me as I walk a path that will always dance to His will. His mercy and peace lives within me. I will sing His song. Amen”*

## Holy Saturday

This is a day or a time of waiting. Our time of self-isolation in staying at home is akin to the “Holy Saturday Time.” It is an “in between” space as we all wait for the coronavirus to lessen its power of contagion within our communities. We all wait for healing, for a restoration of the body of humanity which we, as people of faith, honour as the body of Christ.

We wait, as did the apostles and the first disciples of Jesus, in silence. However, because we are people of hope we wait in an empowering silence. It is a silence that will generate new life. Jesus described this waiting in silence and darkness in the parable of the wheat grain falling into the ground and dying – buried so that new life can generate from it (John 12:24).

Noel Davis assists our reflection at this time in his verse:

### **Empowering Silence**

*“As we enter into the silence and surrender to its embrace the silence strengthens us quiets our doubting lifts our confidence opens our hearts and loosens our attachment to the pursuits of ego. In time the silence draws us deeper deep into the stillness into the spirit of our integrating self to be one with the heart of Life. It enables us to hold fast in our pain, anxiety, times of onslaught to remain present with another in life’s woundings and the breakdown of control. Empowering silence motivates us to move forward with renewed vigour and trust to live a life of freedom, courage and fulfilment in choosing the Way of the Spirit.”* **Noel Davis – Heart Coming Home**

## Easter Sunday

The stone is rolled away, the tomb is opened. We are invited into this space to embrace new life. How do we do this? We do this as a Eucharistic community in an unfolding universe. We remember the words of Jesus recorded in St. Matthew’s gospel: “Where two or more are gathered in my name, in my Love, there I am in the midst of them.” (Mathew 18:20). The bringing together of diverse elements, people, ideas, values, traditions, in the breaking of bread and the sharing of wine, tasting together to the fullness of life, Jesus is present in our midst as life itself. We rise up together beyond the resistant forces around us and within us: this is the Body of Christ. “Christ has no body now but yours.”

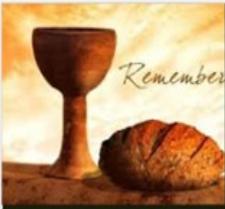
## Final Prayer

At present we are all struggling to breathe life into our wounded, contagious world. We ask you Lord to gather all peoples, all creatures, all that exists, into a new unity which respects the interconnectedness of all of life. May we become a new earth community founded in love and built on love, as we seek your ever abiding presence. Glory to God source of all being, eternal Word, Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



# Holy Week

Following is the power point the children might like to engage in at home choosing different members of the family to be readers or to lead the prayer.



## We Remember... Holy Thursday

- Reader:

Close your eyes and think of a favourite time when you shared a special meal...

Who was there?

Was there music?

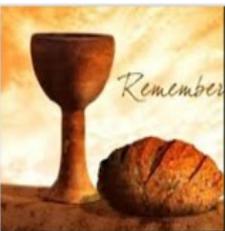
What did you eat?

What was so special about that meal?

Why do you think you remember that meal more than any other?



On Holy Thursday, Jesus gathered his closest friends together. He wanted to share not just a meal with them, something more. He wanted them to remember.....



## We Remember... Holy Thursday

- Reader: A reading from Matthew's Gospel:

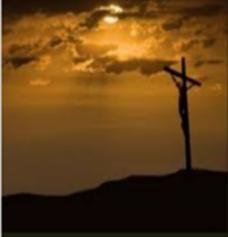
While they were eating Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples.

"Take and eat it," he said, "This is my body."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them.

"Drink it, all of you," he said, "This is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

## Good Friday



### We Remember... Good Friday

Reader: A reading from Matthew's Gospel

Jesus prays in the Garden

Then Jesus went with his followers to a place called Gethsemane.

He said to them, "Sit here while I go there and pray."

He told Peter and the two sons of Zebedee to come with him.

Then he began to be very sad and troubled.

Jesus said to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, "My heart is so heavy with grief, I feel as if I am dying. Wait here and stay awake with me."



### We Remember... Good Friday

• Reader:

A reading from John's Gospel:

Jesus went out, carrying his cross, and came to "The Place of the Skull".

There they crucified him and two other men, one either side of Jesus.

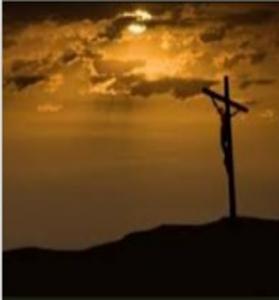
Pilate wrote a notice and had it put on the cross.

"Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews," is what he wrote.

The chief priests said to Pilate, "Do not write "the King of the Jews," but rather, "This man said, I am the King of the Jews".

Pilate answered, "What I have written stays written."

## Good Friday



### We Remember... Good Friday

- Reader:

A reading from Mark's Gospel:

Joseph of Arimathea brought a linen sheet, took the body down, wrapped it in the sheet, and placed it in a tomb which had been dug out of solid rock.

Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were watching and saw where the body of Jesus was placed.

## Easter Sunday



### We Remember... Easter Sunday

Reader: A reading from Matthew's Gospel:

Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you."

The women came up to him, took hold of his feet and worshipped him.

"Do not be afraid," Jesus said to them. "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

# Easter Sunday



## We Remember... Easter Sunday

### Rise Up!

Rise up! Roll the rock away now!  
Rise up! See the light of day now!  
Rise up! I will show the way  
Rise up, Rise up, Rise up!



Jesus had a friend called Lazarus, from the town of Bethany  
Mary and Martha they sent for him, Jesus, please come and see  
By the time that he arrived, they said Lazarus has died  
But Jesus said roll the rock away, your brother he will rise... he said

On Good Friday Jesus gave his life, on a cross, crucified.....  
They took him down and laid him in a tomb, the disciples they did hide  
On Sunday morning Mary went to the tomb, she could not find Him there  
Peter and John ran to the tomb and to all He did appear... he did

So this is how Jesus showed us the way, to come and live in the light  
If we live like him we will rise like him, follow him to new life



## We Remember... the Risen Jesus!

Concluding Prayer (Reader):

God of love, you listen with love to our prayers.

May we always remember the story of love that Jesus lived,  
so that we too may bring your love to the world.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name

Amen

May the blessings of God's peace be upon us all, bringing  
comfort and hope

**Let us finish by making the Sign of the Cross together**

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit,

Amen



Once again thank you for your support and cooperation during this very difficult time. I hope that the Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord will be with you and your families.

God Bless and keep safe.

*Patricia Carr*

Tricia Carr

