



St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

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Most Reverend Danny J Meagher: Bishop in Residence, Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Region

Fr. John A Macdonald: Administrator

Fr. Nicola Falzun OP: Priest in Residence for the *Missio ad gentes* of the Neocatechumenal Way

HOLY WEEK/EASTER LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday: Mass of The Lord's Supper: 7:00pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross: 10:00am

Passion of the Lord: 3:00pm

Confession on Fri: 11:00am – 12noon

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass in the Holy Night – 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection: 10:00am

Octave of Easter: Mon – Sat (10 Apr – 15 Apr) – 10:00am

Second Sunday of Easter [or of Divine Mercy] (16 Apr): 9:00am & 10:30am

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Roy Child, Roslyn Furber, Nerissa Williams, Patrick Tomelty, Sophie Marden, Grace Moon, Josephine Finneran, Anna Seow, Ricardo Francisco, Adi Soediartha, Gerry Cassar, Makram Nammour, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Marija Barclay.

Our deceased: Ana Ofelia Sierra Bustamante (18/3, (Indi's mother)), Philomena Smith, John Rogers, Robert Azzopardi (First anniversary, 7/3, [Pauline Ciappara's nephew]), Martin Bonke, Luisa Medina Sanches (First anniversary, 5/2, [Rosa Bravo's mum]), Dannie Southee (23/1/23), Julian Ciappara (First anniversary of death 28/1/22), Miguel Trujillo, (23/3, (Teresa's father)), Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

Our house bound elderly: Bernadette Hailwood, Robert Pearce, Joyce Regoski, June Holt, Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Patricia Wells.

Partaking in the Eucharist commits us to others, especially the poor, teaching us to pass from the flesh of Christ to the flesh of our brothers and sisters, in whom he waits to be recognised, served, honoured and loved by us.

Pope Francis

Catechesis on the Mass 2018

So that we may all share fully in the life of Jesus Christ the Son of God during the Sacred Triduum, I encourage you all to participate in as many, as you are able, of the Liturgies at Saint Peter's on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday morning. Wishing you all the graces which this apex of the Church's year has to offer and the peace and joy of the Easter season,

Fr John

DONATIONS to **Caritas** can be made in the traditional way via cash in the Project Compassion boxes.

Many people now prefer to donate online via the **Support Us** button in the top right-hand corner of the parish website Homepage. On the second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) the parish will report the total amount of these donations, be they given in cash or electronically.

The Holy Father's Good Friday Collection for the holy places will be a cash collection. Donations to the Holy Places Collections can also be made by clicking on the **Support Us** button and following the prompts..

How the Easter Vigil can give us hope in our everyday lives, April 12, 2022

It is difficult to find hope when we see the darkness of the world and the challenges facing humanity, but the Easter Vigil reminds us that Jesus has conquered the darkness.

The entire liturgical year culminates in the celebration of the Easter Vigil, an ancient liturgy that takes place on the night before Easter Sunday. In the early Church, it was initially an all-night vigil and didn't end until the first rays of dawn when the celebration of Mass began.

For those early Christians, it was a way to welcome the rising of the Son of God, who **dispels the darkness of night.**

Our current liturgy can still remind us of this fundamental truth and give us hope in the darkness we see all around us.

The Easter Vigil begins with a church shrouded in darkness as a fire is lighted outside the church and the Easter candle is lit from it. The candle represents Jesus Christ, the light of the world. The deacon or priest processes into the dark church and stops three times, proclaiming "**Christ, our Light!**" By the time he reaches the sanctuary the entire church is blazing with candles that were lit from the Easter candle.



Pope Benedict XVI further explains the symbolism of this action.

"First there is the fire that becomes light. As the procession makes its way through the church, shrouded in the darkness of the night, the light of the Paschal Candle becomes a wave of lights, and it speaks to us of Christ as the true morning star that never sets – the Risen Lord in whom light has conquered darkness."

Each month Pope Francis marks out for us various challenges facing humanity and at times, it can seem like our prayers do nothing. Yet, the Easter Vigil reminds us that Jesus is the one who can dispel the darkness we see, and through him, his light will dawn upon the world.

There is still hope and despite how black the darkness gets, God will reign victorious.

Easter Sunday the Resurrection of Lord, Loyola Press

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-9

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection. Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. **Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus - through his appearances and through his gift to them of the Holy Spirit.**

Easter Reflection: Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ

So, what is new this Easter?

I heard something new in [today's Gospel](#), or perhaps I recognized it for the first time:

"Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed." John 20:1-9

He saw *and he believed* ... This simple declaration prompts in me this question: *What did the other disciple see that evoked his belief? Or even more to the point ... How did he see so that he believed?*

What are we *seeing* this Easter?

Perhaps praying with "the other disciple" offers us insight. Yes, he saw the empty tomb, but he saw beyond the surface, to the reality that Christ had risen just as He had said He would.

How did the "other disciple" see this truth? He saw with the eyes of faith. But what does that mean? My sense is that the other disciple saw with his heart. His perspective was shaped by his

relationship with Jesus, whom the disciple knew to be true to His word. Jesus had risen just as He said He would. The disciple recognized the truth of the Resurrection through the eyes of belief and of love.

The question for us in the face of these profoundly disconcerting times is: Can we see with the eyes of our hearts?

As Easter unfolds and we hear these words: Christ is risen, the light has dawned, and hope is born anew, can we allow ourselves to know this truth in a new way? How will we choose to emerge from Lent into the future?

Saint Madeleine Sophie often remarked that had she had her life to live again, she would live it more according to the Holy Spirit. For Sophie, being attuned to the Spirit dwelling deep within her very core was essential to living, to breathing, to being. Hers was a dual orientation – both inward and outward – towards both silence and action. This Easter, Sophie reminds us to be attentive to the Spirit dwelling deep within our very core. Her perspective was that of “the other disciple.” This dynamic dual orientation creates the energy that fuels our shared mission to reveal God’s love in the heart of reality. Sensitivity to the Spirit enables us to see our common humanity and our profound connection with all of Creation.

Let us pray that the Spirit inspires us. May our hearts help us know and proclaim the truth of Easter.

The Risen Christ is the all-embracing, loving incarnation of the Divine, extended without limit, totally inclusive, unconditionally welcoming.

Christ is risen, the light has dawned, and hope is born anew.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia!

