



To be on earth the Heart of God



Time out for reflection

Do not be Afraid

After Jesus' crucifixion, fear ran rampant among his followers. Joseph of Arimathea, owner of the tomb, asked Pilate for Jesus' body "secretly, for fear of the Jews." Nicodemus came with spices to help prepare the body for burial, but only under the safe cover of night. And the inner circle of Jesus' disciples, who had abandoned, and in Peter's case even denied, their Lord, remained hidden behind closed doors.

Even the authorities who had put him to death were fearful. Great care was taken to securely seal the tomb. And when the news reached the chief priests that Jesus had risen, they devised a cover-up, offering money to the tomb guards to spread the story that Jesus' disciples had come and stolen the body.

Against this fear and fraud was the simple faithfulness of the women, who had stood at the cross, watched as the stone was rolled over the tomb, and come at dawn to anoint the body. Their reward was the gift of being witnesses to the Resurrection.

"Do not be afraid" were Jesus' first words to them. This message "do not be afraid" attended Jesus' birth, his ministry, his death and resurrection. And it comes to us today with the same gentle and compelling clarity with which it was offered on that first Easter morning.

Mary and Mary Magdalene were among the first to know the truth that John later put into words:

**"There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts our fear"**

(1 John 4:18)



Editor's Note

April has been a busy month. Easter services celebrated over the weekend of 14-17 April were truly graced filled and full of the hope of the resurrection.

For me, there was a thread through the Easter Liturgy homilies connecting the Triduum into one celebration.

On Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Fr. Kimi spoke of **awe and wonder** and how it is experienced in a Godly moment. We can lose our sense of awe and wonder when things are too good, when we need things to be perfect and exact, when we are too busy. We often lose our sense of God in the busyness of life.

In his Good Friday homily Fr. Michael reminded us of the healing nature of Jesus' wounds. Jesus bears our scars and reminds us that he knows our physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual pain, because he has experienced everything that we experience. In being one with Jesus in this pain we have the courage not to give up.

We are stardust. At the Saturday Easter Vigil mass, Fr. Kimi connected a quote from the American astrophysicist, Neil Degrasse Tyson and the creation story in Genesis. Tyson says, "We are stardust brought to life, then empowered by the universe to figure itself out – and we have only just begun." Paraphrasing this quote Fr. Kimi said as people of faith we can say "We are dust brought to life, then empowered by God to figure ourselves out – and we have only just begun".

All of the Easter homilies resonated with me and the thread woven through them all, was awe and wonder – a gift of the Holy Spirit. Every moment of my life is open to the possibility of awe and wonder, even the painful, anxious moments if I am conscious of God in those moments. In this Easter Season may we become more conscious of God in every moment of our lives.

Marian

Awe & Wonder

One in Spirit

Stardust

PALM SUNDAY



HOLY THURSDAY



I must leave you now only, for a moment.
I must go to my Father to make you
a home.
On the day of my return,
I will come to take you with me
to the place I have promised
where your joy will have no end.



GOOD FRIDAY



THE PASSION



EASTER SATURDAY



Easter

I want to rise before the dawn
and watch the dancing sun perform
its joy at the risen Lord
this blessed morn.

He came
and taught us everything;
He died for us
and rose again.
His love
has made us free
forevermore ...

So let us sing a happy song
with lively air and gentle tone,
the joy and love and freedom
to last our whole life long.

EAMONN MURTAGH





Congratulations to Sharon & Geoff Greaves

Who On Thursday 21 April 2022 celebrated the Convalidation of their marriage.

The celebration was a joyous and beautiful occasion.

It was a blessing for Sharon and Geoff to share this occasion with their family, friends, and parishioners.

In response to Sharon & Geoff's renewal of their marriage vows' Fr. Kimi led the assembly in a pledge to support them.



What Is a Convalidation Ceremony?

A convalidation ceremony is a type of marriage ceremony where a couple who have married outside of the Catholic Church now want their marriage validated in the Catholic Church.

A convalidation is not simply a renewal of previously made promises, but the creation of a valid marriage in the eyes of the Church.

It is the same as a wedding ceremony, but usually less lavish and more low key.



MY VISIT TO darwin



I would like to share some of my experiences of my visit to Darwin. I have been planning to visit Darwin ever since I came to Canberra because my Indian friend who came with me to Australia was working there. I had planned to visit but could not travel due to COVID lockdown. This year I had an opportunity to visit Darwin after Easter. I was so excited because I was going to take my second airplane flight which made me both nervous and happy.

I arrived at Darwin airport at 1.30am and felt the warmth and humidity immediately which made me want to take off my jacket and shoes. I couldn't sleep and had a shower four times that first day. However, it really felt like my country of India because of the weather, people and place. I enjoyed visiting with the Darwin Indian community.



I took a walk everyday near the beach where I was staying and visited a few places like St Mary's Cathedral, Casuarina, Berry Springs, Darwin Harbour, Litchfield and parks. My visit to Darwin was short but enjoyable. If I get the chance to go to Darwin again I would like to explore more of the Northern Territory.

Whilst I did not have any plans to sightsee I managed to visit a few places during my short visit which I would like to share with you in photos.

Michael Stephan msc



my STORY

It can only happen in Canberra

Bert Broekhuysen

My name is Bert Broekhuysen and for the better part of 25 years owned and operated "Anytime Electrical Services". In that time I was honoured and privileged to become the preferred electrical contractor for "The Lodge", the prime minister's residence, and "Government House, Yarralumla" the governor general's residence. Which gives some context to the following story.

While living in Scullin, the three boys attended Daramalan College. Colin the oldest of our sons, came home from school one day and stated that he had an assignment and had undertaken to write an essay about Lake Baikal USSR. Please help!!!

Our knowledge in this matter was very limited and all we knew was that the lake was big and had sturgeon fish in it that produced caviar. End of know-how. The World Book Encyclopaedia was not much help and Google was not yet invented.

Clare came up with a brilliant solution and volunteered to contact the Russian Embassy and get all the information from the horse's mouth, so to speak.

She rang and after some short discussion was able to make an appointment for an information talk in two days-time.

That was a great beginning and solution to Col's task. On the appointed day, Clare went to the Embassy, opposite Tobin Brothers Funerals, Canberra Avenue, Kingston.

She was kept waiting for some time in a completely bare room, but after

some time a friendly person came with all the information about the lake in question and Clare went happily home, having accomplished what she intended to achieve.

Col completed his assignment and received reasonable marks for it.

However, what Clare was not aware of, was the fact that the 1st floor of Tobin Brothers was permanently leased out to ASIO and that all people entering and leaving the Russian Embassy were photographed and identified.

Clare, not being on ASIO's files an in-depth investigation was instigated and discovered:

- a) She was a naturalised alien
- b) Her husband – same, same.
- c) Also her husband has unrestricted access to the Lodge and Government House.

Not another Mr and Mrs Rosenberg? (convicted for being Russian spies in the USA in the 1950's. Julius Rosenberg was also an electrician)

So, for about 4 days, Clare and I were thoroughly investigated as the unknown master spies, all without our knowledge, but all was later quietly revealed to me.

As I said, "It can only happen in Canberra"!

Oh, about caviar – do not develop a taste for it, at \$ 100 + per 50 gram it is not "Bon Appetite".

It was and still is lovely to know you all!

EASTER 2022

A quiet time to hang out and then celebrate with Jesus

Holy Thursday – one of those beautiful Canberra autumn days!

Thursday afternoon I was at the Dickson shopping centre with a friend enjoying a cappuccino in the outdoor dining area; but the peace and ambience was just too good and couldn't last. All of a sudden there he was, the big scruffy unkempt fellow with a big ginger beard going from table to table on the cadge.

You know how it goes: you are sitting there and he is standing over you – immediately there is a big power imbalance in the situation.

Can you give me some money, I need to get a bed for the night, I need \$65!

Sorry mate, I don't carry cash anymore, it's all on the plastic these days, have you tried Vinnies? I'm sure they could find you a bed.

Nah, they're full!

OK – I'll buy you something to eat, do you want a pie?

Yes!

OK – come with me.

So, we go into the Coffee Lounge –
Excuse me, do you have any pies?

"Yes, we have chicken or beef?"

What would you like?

Chicken!

OK – one chicken pie, please.

And a vanilla thick shake!

OK – and a vanilla thick shake.

His eyes move quickly up and down the big display counter and he begins to salivate over the apple crumble pie.

No, not the chicken pie, I'll have the apple crumble pie instead!

OK – so one apple crumble pie and one vanilla thick shake please.

You stay here and wait to collect your food.

I present the plastic to the lady serving and then return to my friend outside.

Apparently I was not up with the Canberra begging protocols – while the lady in the shop was preparing his order, there was still time to put the bite on other hapless patrons.

Suddenly, as quickly as he had appeared, he was gone. And Jesus' words came flooding into my mind:

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these

Who are members of my family,
You did it to me.

Matt. 25:40

And remember, Jesus never wasted words!

We shook our heads and had a good chuckle over what had just happened, after all it was Holy Thursday.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!



John Hogan

There's a

BIG Wide World to Explore



Encounters with BIG were part of family outings. Dad made sure that his daughters visited BIG ships, BIG trains, and BIG aeroplanes.

There were annual visits to see the footy premiership colours on the BIG chimney on the West End Brewery. Birthdays involved picnics by the BIG caterpillar in the Parklands. There were night-time drives to gaze at the BIG fountain on the River Torrens, the BIG tree in Victoria Square, the BIG television towers atop Mount Lofty and BIG Santa on the John Martin's Building.

Longer road trips brought encounters with BIG trucks, BIG bridges, BIG haystacks, BIG dams, BIG towers, BIG lighthouses, BIG caves, BIG boulders, and BIG trees. Tiny towns had BIG silos. Day trips to Kadina, Loxton, Nuriootpa, Tailem Bend, and Kapunda resulted in rest stops in the shadows of BIG steam locomotives and lessons in Whyte notation – the method of classifying steam locomotives by wheel arrangement. The BIG skipping girl on the vinegar factory in Abbotsford signalled that the annual journey east still had five hours to go, and the BIG koala on the way home was just plain scary and just gave us nightmares.

In 2021, the 17metre tall, 40-year-old, BIG crayfish located at the sleepy coastal town Kingston S.E. in South Australia was crowned the king of Australia's BIG tourist attractions. Known locally as Larry the Lobster, this marvel of engineering was always a welcome sight during my early years of teaching, on the long drives between Adelaide and Mount Gambier. I watched Larry rise from the sandy ground to dominate the sky, a beacon for miles around. 'Larry' was the place to stop to have a cuppa, change drivers and prepare for the drive along the Currong towards the bright lights of Murray Bridge. Larry's notoriety got me thinking. Just how many BIG things are on the Australian tourism map? Wikipedia reports that there are over 150 big objects to visit around Australia.

Earlier this year, looking at my storm ravaged vegetable patch, I wondered if there were any vegetables included in the BIG catalogue. It appears that just one vegetable makes the grade. The potato is celebrated in Robertson. When it comes to BIG, it seems that BIG garden produce is all things fruity.

The BIG Fruit Salad road trip would be a wonderful journey. Beginning in Bilpin, the home of the BIG Fruit Bowl. One could take roads north, south, east, and west to gather BIG fruit. Travel to the BIG Apple (Stanthorpe), the BIG Banana (Coffs Harbour), the BIG Cherries (Young), the BIG Orange (Berri, Harvey, or Gayndah), the BIG Mandarin (Mundubbera), the BIG Watermelon (Gumlu), the BIG Peach (Anna Bay), the BIG Mango (Bowen), and the BIG Pineapple (Woombye or Gympie). One could pass through Orange, Berry, Banana and Figtree or take a rest in Lemon Tree, Gooseberry Hill, and Grapetree. The final stop on this delicious journey is so close to home, the BIG Pears at the National Gallery!

How many BIG encounters have you had lately?

Maryanne Ferguson

Treasures from the Archives

Blue is primarily associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the Renaissance and Baroque periods ultramarine, the deep-blue mineral pigment made from ground lapis lazuli and the most expensive paint on an artist's palette, was only used on the most precious objects and important figures in a painting so Mary, as the Mother of Jesus, was [and still is] almost always portrayed dressed in blue. Within liturgical art, blue, as the colour of the sky, is the symbol of heavenly love.

Blue is not one of the colours used in the liturgical seasons of the Church's calendar. Blue vestments, however, do exist but are rarely seen outside Spain or Spanish-speaking countries. Blue vestments can be worn on Feast Days celebrating the life of Mary. The Sale Diocesan Archives (Sale, Victoria) has a modern set of blue Marian vestments featuring the crowned AM (Ave Maria) monogram of Mary, and the Archdiocese of Hobart Archives and Heritage Collection preserves a set of blue vestments designed by the noted 19th century Gothic Revival designer Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin.

An image of the Pugin chasuble can be viewed at <https://inthosedayes.blogspot.com/2019/03/>

Some parishioners may remember the blue cloaks worn by members of the Children of Mary, a Marian devotional sodality founded in the 1830s for girls attending Catholic schools. On ceremonial occasions, for example the annual diocesan Marian Processions held to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary or parish processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Children of Mary wore blue cloaks and white veils. The photographic collection at the National Library of Australia holds many images of Children of Mary groups in their cloaks marching behind sodality banners in such ceremonial processions. Typing "Corpus Christi procession" into the TROVE images collection brings up a number of interesting photographs including <https://northernbeaches.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/40430> from 1920 and <https://northernbeaches.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/41261> from the mid 1930s. Membership of the sodality also entitled the girls to wear the Miraculous Medal suspended on a blue ribbon. The archives at the Sisters of Mercy Convent at Singleton NSW holds a particularly interesting example of a Child of Mary cloak. The light blue cloak is adult-sized and ankle-length. It was kept by the sisters for the use of brides on their wedding day. The convent archivist recalled that a former Child of Mary would wear the

Marian Blue



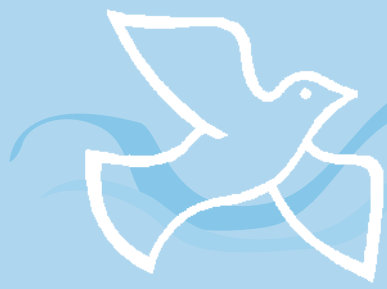
The monogram on the blue vestments from Sale, Victoria



The blue Children of Mary cloak kept by the Sisters of Mercy at Singleton, NSW

cloak over her wedding dress and be met at the door of the church by fellow members, who would then remove the cloak as she entered the church.

The Sale Diocesan Archives also holds several textiles associated with Mary and Marian devotions, including two early 20th century Marian devotional banners made by the nuns at the local Sion Convent. One banner depicts Mary as Queen of Heaven, wreathed in stars, and clothed in a blue cloak, the other incorporates ribbons featuring two Latin phrases "In Sion Firmata Sum" and "Monstra Te Esse Matrem" in a design of roses, a traditional floral symbol of Mary and of heavenly joy, and thorns representing earthly trials. The first phrase is the motto of the Sion order and translates as *I am roofed in Sion [Heaven]* while the second phrase also appears on the Miraculous Medal and translates as *Show thyself to be a mother*. It is from the mediaeval hymn Ave Stella Maris (Hail, Star of the Sea). Like the blue vestments these banners include the AM monogram. St Augustine's Church in Salisbury, South Australia occasionally displays a modern version of the Queen of Heaven banner – it depicts an image very similar to the Sion banner but Mary is clothed all in white against a blue background.



April Baptisms

We welcome into the SJA Community of the Body of Christ the following children baptised during the month of April.

Joseph Kiley

Son of Andrew and Antonette

Christian Gonsalves

Son of Nicholas and Christabel

Ernest Cox

Son of Nicholas and Eiri



Ashlea Starkey was Baptised, Confirmed and received Eucharist at the Saturday Vigil Mass on 23 April 2022.



MAY FEAST DAYS

SAINTS YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF



5 MAY St Hilary of Arles

Bishop of Arles, France, and friend and relative of St. Honoratus. He was born to a noble family in Lorraine and was successful, although he gave up his secular career to join St. Honoratus at Lerins Abbey. When Honoratus died after being named the bishop of Arles, Hilary was chosen as his successor in 429. He was known for his austerities, his aid to the poor, and for ransoming captives.

On two occasions Hilary became embroiled in controversies with Pope St. Leo I the Great, but they were reconciled, and Hilary's sanctity brought him great veneration. Following his death in 449, Hilary's name was introduced into the Roman martyrology.



7 MAY St Rosa Venerini

Born on 9 February 1656 Rosa Venerini, M.P.V. was a pioneer in the education of women and girls in 17th-century Italy and the foundress of the Religious Teachers Venerini, a Roman Catholic religious institute of women, often simply called the Venerini Sisters. The first objective of this foundress was to give poor girls a complete Christian formation and to prepare them for life in society. Without great pretence, Rose opened the first public school for girls in Italy. She died 7 May 1728.

12 MAY St Pancras – Martyr



He suffered martyrdom at Rome probably in the persecution of Diocletian and was buried on the Via Aurelia.

Pope Symmachus built a church over his tomb.

12 MAY St Nereus and Achilles – Martyrs



These martyrs were Roman soldiers who were converted to the faith and refused to serve as soldiers any longer. Because of this they were put to death, probably in the time of Diocletian. Their tomb is in the cemetery on the Via Ardeatina, where a basilica was erected in their honour.

APRIL Death notices



Dorothy May Murray

24 JANUARY 1944 –
5 MARCH 2022



Una Luff

23 JANUARY 1922 –
29 MARCH 2022



Joseph Pisciotta

28 OCTOBER 1939 –
8 APRIL 2022



Patrick Ward

13 AUGUST 1939 –
14 APRIL 2022

Farewell

JOSEPH PISCIOTTA

How do we sum up the life that was Joe Pisciotta?

Joe was not a great mover and shaker, he was a man who lived life in the Spirit.

St Paul tells us that:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control.

(Gal 5:22)

Joe had these qualities in spades. He wasn't just a member of the parish he was part of the fabric of the parish. Everybody knew Joe and he, in turn, knew just about everybody. He always had a cheerful greeting, a kind word. While the hole he has left will gradually be filled, he will always be part of the history of St John's, the history that has forged the community that we are. May he rest in peace.

Thoughts supplied by Joe Otts

A little tree

After the ground
zero of war,
an orphan girl
found solace wandering
through the recovery
ward of nature.

There she inhaled
a pine forest's scent,
listened to some birds,
and stopped before
a little tree.

To it, she spoke
as to her mother,
watering it with
a sea of grief
and her heartfelt words.
And it stretched out its limbs
as though to hold her
and to set her free!

SHANE MURTAGH

MAY 2022



1	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Easter Year C	
2	Monday		
3	Tuesday		
4	Wednesday		
5	Thursday	Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm – 8:30pm	
6	Friday	Meditation – 5:15pm – Parish Library	
7 & 8	Saturday Sunday	4th Sunday of Easter Year C	
9	Monday		
10	Tuesday		
11	Wednesday		
12	Thursday	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 7:30pm	
13	Friday	Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library	
14 & 15	Saturday Sunday	5th Sunday of Easter Year C Sunday Afternoon Bookclub – 3:00pm Parish Library	
16	Monday	Achdiocesan Clergy Assembly 16-19 MAY	Pins & Needles – 7:15pm Parish Library
17	Tuesday		
18	Wednesday		
19	Thursday		Contemplative Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament 7:30pm – 8:30pm
20	Friday	Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library Men's Group 6:30pm – Parish Centre	
21	Saturday		
22	Sunday	6th Sunday of Easter Year C Baptism 10:00am mass	
23	Monday		
24	Tuesday	Women's Breakfast @7:30am – Bean Origin Belconnen	
25	Wednesday	SJA Friendship Group – Mass 9:30am followed by morning tea	
26	Thursday	Liturgy Meeting – 7:30am	
27	Friday	Anointing of the sick within 11:00am Mass followed by Lunch Meditation @ 5:15pm – Parish Library Film Night – 7:30pm Parish Library	
28 & 29	Saturday Sunday	The Ascension of the Lord Year C	
30	Monday		
31	Tuesday		

