



# St Mary's Parish



*A community where we bring together our gifts and talents*

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26th April, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has spread globally and its impact is amplified for those who are in communities already vulnerable to poverty, malnutrition and without access to adequate health care. According to the World Health Organisation, only 1 in 4 people in low-income countries have handwashing facilities with soap and water at home.

Caritas Australia is already on the ground, working with local partners to quickly assist those at greatest risk. We are perfectly placed to deliver lifesaving hygiene messages, clean water, soap and health supplies to those in immediate need.

**Please donate today to help fight the spread of the virus and save lives.** With your donation to the **COVID-19 Crisis Appeal**, we can expand our capacity to assist communities at serious risk of infection and to help contain the spread of the virus.

**Below is a snapshot of Caritas Australia's response to COVID-19 in some of the countries we work in:**

In **Cambodia**, we are working with relevant health authorities, including health centres in project areas to disseminate information on the prevention of COVID-19 among local communities. As well as installing prevention banners and posters in villages, health centres and schools, providing hygiene kits to vulnerable families and distributing food kits to those at risk of food insecurity.

In **Timor-Leste**, we are preparing communities by providing hygiene kits, increasing community knowledge of the risk of infection and raising awareness of preventative measures at village level.

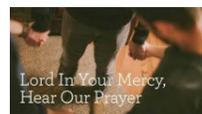
In **India**, our Community-Led Governance and Development program works with in-country partners on the ground to support some of the most vulnerable families with food kits, hygiene supplies and educational material on COVID-19 to increase awareness and help prevent infections.

The Caritas Australia community thrives when it comes together for our global community. In the spirit of Project Compassion, now more than ever, we can Go Further, Together.

**Please make a donation today to help communities living in poverty to access the health supplies, running water and soap that will save their lives.**

<https://www.caritas.org.au/give>

## IN OUR PRAYERS



We pray for, Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Barrie Poulton, Bridget Walsh, Cathryn Walsh.

## RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES



We pray for Harry Bunting, Richard Stone, (Fr.) Cyril Blake, Daniela Panzera, Antonio Pecora, Agnes Schobben, Bridget Fagan, Francis Xavier Borg, Jack O'Neill, John Fitzgerald, Nicola Nardo, Ann Brydon, Tessie Zahra, Cecilia Dalton, Maree Beaton, Hilda Lloyd, Josephine Dimeck, Marianne Gerada, Ernie Clare, Mary Sweet, Rene Hynes, May Sinclair, Lucia Scalia, Des Moore, Francis O'Loughlin, Matilda Luczyc, Annie Broadfoot, Jack Cronin, Miles McGrath, Rita Consolandi, Giselda Darmanin, Tess Hannebery, Lyn Trojkovic, Stella Costa, Natalino and Angelina Meilak, Blondina and Lawrence Sammut, Michael Meilak, Joan Spiteri, Ersilia Portelli, Sheila Easdon, Carmela Sammut, Rosaria Laudato; Emmanuelle and Annie Taliana, Luigi and Lorenza Micallef, Paulo and Elvira Taliana, Sergio and Lucia Gelicrisio, Rita Mulak and Charlie Tabone, whose anniversaries are at this time.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR A

### FIRST READING:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 2:14, 22-33

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

### SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Peter. 1:17-21

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us; make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

### GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it



happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" .....



And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

### Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall  
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[greg.trythall@cam.org.au](mailto:greg.trythall@cam.org.au)

### Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian  
0450 789 951  
Monday, Tuesday  
9am - 3.30pm

### Parish Office Manager-Secretary

Heidi Zahra  
Tuesday 8:30am - 4pm  
Thursday 8:30am - 4pm  
Friday 8:30am - 4pm

### Wednesday Secretary

Kylie Skinner  
8.30am—3.30pm

### St. Mary's School

Principal  
Anthony Hockey

### Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes.  
Saturday at 6:30pm  
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am  
Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

### Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

### Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm - 3:30pm  
Wednesday

### Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly  
7.00pm at Parish Centre.  
Baptism must be booked prior to attending Preparation Night.

Dear Parishioners,  
We are still waiting patiently or impatiently to get back to normal Mass worship and seeing each other again. For my part, it will be nice to see parishioners again and resume normal life-giving activities. In the meantime please find below my sermon for the third Sunday of Easter Year A – I hope you like it - otherwise throw it in the bin!!

### SERMON EASTER 3A

In the late 1990's I had just come out of the local corner milk bar in Grovedale, and a man outside said to me: "I believe you were a former National Service man?" I informed him that was correct, and that **I was in the Australian army as a conscripted National Service man for two years.** He then said that they were in need of a part time Chaplain for his National Service group and would I consider it? I did agree to the request, but with some trepidation as I thought this may not go down well with the Protestant



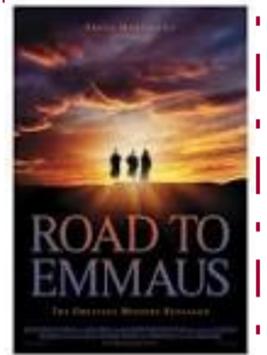
members of that National Service group, not to mention the agnostics and atheists! Well, the **Geelong sub-branch turned out to be the biggest national service membership in the State of Victoria,** as there were 200 paid up members, who regularly went to the meetings. It was a really thriving group

under great leadership. And to my great surprise, **not once in 10 years as chaplain to these various men of different religious backgrounds did they ever criticize me for something I said or did – not once.**

Likewise, we often feel peace from being in **a group that accepts us for who we are and not our inadequacies!** It could be the movie group, drama group, dancing, singing, croquet or any group of people we spend time with doing things we enjoy. Then, with that same group we usually find that we derive great enjoyment from shared fellowship and laughter, and the joy of sharing a meal together. **Acceptance is a lovely thing.** Yet, for part of our lives we can be almost semi-blind pilgrims – we do not realize – the opportunities and the lovely people in our midst who can be very much Jesus to us in our lives. This was the same with the two apostles this week on the road to Emmaus. They did not feel the complete acceptance of the group.

Continued.....

**They had almost lost hope** and were confused as they walked the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus, before **the stranger, namely Jesus himself, walked softly beside them.** It wasn't until they had shared hospitality and Jesus gave them special food, did their eyes fully open and then Jesus disappeared from their midst.



**Indeed we meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus each time we attend the celebration of the Eucharist:** this is the most special food we will ever receive in our whole lives. I know most of you are deprived of it at the moment but it won't be for much longer.

We firstly assemble as one body where we hear the word of God, and only then is the body and blood shared within our small community. Our eyes are then re-opened and we are **called to go forth to spread the saving word in our world: every week, week in, week out.** We are reminded again and again until we fully understand it, that **we are the eyes, the ears and hands of Jesus.** When we meet strangers we are always the face of Jesus to them – even within our own different personalities. **We don't need to put on someone else's personality as God wants us to be our own best self – to thine own self be true!** Thus, we are called to be Jesus and to do Jesus' work in not only community, but as individuals.

In our own time we are disciples on the road to Emmaus each time we gather in his name, and **a peace comes from sharing with and loving our sister and brother who walk among us, are with us, and are a part of us;** just as Jesus walked with his disciples on the road initially as a stranger on the road to Emmaus. **He is real and he is among us.**



Thus, in conclusion, we are part of an unfinished story that unfolds daily in our lives. **Jesus is with us on the journey and exists in faith** and through the gift of new eyes. The road to Emmaus continues through us.

Fr. Greg 25/4/2020 – Anzac Day – Lest we forget.

