

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A, 23RD & 24TH OF MAY 2020

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE STAND. WE WALK ON A LAND ONCE OCCUPIED BY THE GADIGAL PEOPLE OF THE EORA NATION, WHO LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR OVER 30,000 YEARS.
MAY WE CONTINUE TO LOVE AND RESPECT THE LAND AS THEY HAVE.



ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH



Parish Details:

📍 213 Elswick St, North Leichhardt 2040

☎ (02) 9569 2267

📠 (02) 9569 5381



Find us at

www.facebook.com/stcolumbasleichhardt/

✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

🌐 www.stcolumba.org.au

Office Hours:

9:30am-2:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

All bulletin notices to be in by 12pm Wednesday

(Please email or leave under office door and write your message clearly).

Parish Priest:

Fr Peter Smith.....✉ pp@stcolumba.org.au

Parish Office Administrator

Marcia Droguett.....✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Nicola Connors.....✉ pa@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Council

Secretary.....✉ secretary@stcolumba.org.au

St Columba's School

Principal: Bernard Ryan.....☎ 9569 1270

If you would like to contribute to the Parish Planned Giving please email the Parish Office and a form will be emailed to you.

**Keep your eye out on our website
and Face Book page for weekly
Pod casts from Fr Peter**



From Fr Peter's Desk....

We are born in exile and die there too.

*As soon as we set sail on the great
voyage of life, we begin our return.*

*We spend our lives dreaming of a homeland
we have never seen.*

*Like homing birds that are released in a
strange country, and know no rest until they
return home, so it is with us.*

*When we die, we do not so much go
to God as return to him. You have made
us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts will
never rest until they rest in you.*



**In response to the government
regulations on COVID- 19, ALL MASSES
AND PARISH EVENTS ARE
CANCELLED until further notice.**

**This also means Baptisms and
Sacramental programs are suspended
until further notice.**

**Please keep up to date on our
website and Face Book page**

**Live Masses can be found on
www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/**

TODAY'S LITURGY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *Psalm 67:33, 35*

*You kingdoms of the earth,
sing to God: praise the Lord,
who ascends above the highest heavens:
his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.*

1ST READING: *Acts 1:1-11*

*Why are you standing here
looking into the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9*

*God mounts his throne
to shouts of joy: a blare
of trumpets for the Lord.*

2ND READING: *Ephesians 1:17-23*

*He made Jesus to sit at
his right hand in heaven.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Matthew 28:19, 20*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always,
until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Matthew 28:16-20*

*All authority in heaven and
on earth has been given to me.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Cf. Hebrews 10:12*

Christ, offering a single sacrifice
for sins, is seated for ever at
God's right hand, alleluia

Please note:

*Names will be removed from the sick list
after 2 months, unless parish office is notified.*

We pray for all those who are sick, including:

Carmella Scarpellino, Jirka Hendrich, Dot New, Mabel Winter, Sylvia Gallagher, Cecila Bryant, Mary-Terez Dowlings, Milada Pecnikova, Kim Rowels, Mirko Popovic, Connie Kennedy, Monika Doktorova, Peter McCann, Bill Leis, William Francis O'Connor, Fr George Carrol, Mary Gleeson, Steve Bates, Bill Patterson, Cienna Psaila, Patricia O'Toole, Ida Pavelka, Joan Windsor, Raquel Bailey, and all those at The Marion Aged Care and Lewisham Nursing Home



*We remember and pray for all our deceased,
Relatives and Friends*

Anniversary: *Sr Joan Harrison RSJ, Mirek Hamrla,
Jan Hong, Suzanne Agius*

**Livestreaming of Parish Masses can be found on
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/>
Homilies can be found towards the bottom of the
landing page of the Sydney Archdiocese website.
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/>**

As updates come through, and we will communicate as effectively as we can on our website and Facebook page with direction from the Archdiocese of Sydney.



With the relaxation of isolation measures and the approach of winter, an increase in cases is expected. Clergy and faithful are therefore encouraged to download the CovidSafe App and abide by the latest public health advisories.



The Archdiocese of Sydney recognises that staying safe online is something many adults, children and young people are concerned about. Technology is changing now more than ever, it is important that we can remain aware of potential online challenges and equip ourselves with the tools we need to protect not only ourselves online but children and young people. In light of the current situation, more research has been conducted about the risks and challenges that children and young people face online, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, ninety-seven per cent of households with children aged under 15 years have access to the internet, with an average number of seven devices per household, ninety-nine per cent of young people aged 15 - 17 years are online averaging 18 hours per week of online activity.

The Safeguarding Office wants to develop resources that will provide adults, children and young people with the knowledge and skills to help keep them safe online. We are turning towards our parish communities for help to roll out this great initiative, we have developed a **5 minute CyberSafety Survey for adults and children to complete** that will enable us to gain a better understanding about the knowledge adults, children and young people have about eSafety as well as develop resources that are targeted the needs of our Archdiocese community.

The survey is anonymous and **will only take 5 minutes to complete, very quick and easy. We are encouraging as many people as possible to get involved, you don't have to have children in order to participate in the survey.** The questions have been designed to be fun and gauge an individuals basic understanding of eSafety. We have also asked what specific resources adults, children and young people would like the Safeguarding Office to develop to help them better understand eSafety. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/>



Social Justice - St Columba's

Supporting the Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)

Last Tuesday Fay and I delivered baby goods to the JRS centre at Westmead. It was heartening to see there the amount of support for people seeking asylum and refugees, the group that is perhaps doing it toughest at this time. We saw food donations being dropped off by the Inner West Council bus. We saw food parcels lining the passageways. We saw volunteer delivery drivers loading the food parcels into their cars. Craig Foster, prominent refugee advocate, SBS sports personality and former Socceroo, helped unload our vehicle.

At a time when government support for people seeking asylum is minimal or non-existent, it was great to see that we at St Columba's are part of the community support for our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Foodbank stocks urgently needed: Basmati rice, cooking oil, long life milk, tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chick peas, canned tomatoes, oats and cereal, and toiletry items such as soap and toothpaste.



Please leave donations at the Parish Office on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 10:00am – 2:00pm. One of our team will make sure they get to the JRS Centre at Westmead.

We know it's hard to shop at the moment, so **cash donations** might be easier.

\$40 feeds a single adult for one week

\$70 feeds one family for a week

\$350 - \$500 pays for a week's rent

To donate to **the JRS Australia's Emergency cash appeal**, please call 9356 3888 or email jrsreception@jrs.org.au

Volunteers are urgently needed to pack and deliver food packages from Westmead. If you can help, please email Jane Turner:

jane.turner@jrs.org.au Many volunteers are over 70 or are in other groups of people most vulnerable to COVID-19, and are no longer able to help.

Wishlist

***Laptop** - Single man studying English at TAFE. Needs a laptop so he can participate in virtual classes.

***Computer** - Single Mum in Community Detention. Having trouble home schooling without a computer.

***Adult Bike** - Ali's e-bike was stolen and he is now unable to work for Uber Eats. Up till now he has been borrowing money from friends to pay rent, but they can no longer lend him money.



*** URGENT APPEAL ***

JRS is trying to get in touch with food and toiletries companies to see if they are able to donate or give bulk buy discounts. Do you know anyone who has a connection to food and toiletries businesses? If you can help, please contact Zoe Grant: zoe.grant@jrs.org.au or Amelia Savage: amelia.savage@jrs.org.au

Spotlight on Aboriginal issues:

With this upcoming week being significant for Indigenous Issues, we thought we would have a more detailed look at **National Sorry Day**, which is to be held on May 26th. National Sorry Day is a day that commemorates the loss and suffering endured by the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children whom were separated from their families. May 26, 1998 was exactly one year after the *Bringing Them Home Report* was tabled in the Federal Parliament. This report investigated and exposed the injustices encountered by the stolen generations and set a path towards reconciliation between the broader Australian community and its Indigenous citizens. For this reason, National Sorry Day is commemorated on this date annually. For more information about National Sorry Day or the Bringing Them Home Report, visit <https://humanrights.gov.au/about/get-involved/events/national-sorry-day>.

Laudato Si Week

This Sunday is the anniversary of the release of the encyclical, *Laudato Si*, about care for our common home. The day marks the end of Laudato Si Week. It is a worldwide day of prayer for the environment when Catholics everywhere are invited to pray for a better future together for all of us. (This includes, of course, a just economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19). Let's all join in with our own prayers! Care for our earth is twofold – It's taking practical action, but it's also appreciating our earth and all that's in it as gift from God Creator. It's good to stop and wonder at the beauty of our world!

You might appreciate this reflection, *The sky is my prayer*, from *A Daily Cuppa with Mary and Julian* (p144):

"For a short time each day, we should walk outside, stand there in silence, look up at the sky and contemplate how amazing life is. This might be an antidote to the consumerism that surrounds us. We weigh ourselves down with things, and they can become a load for us to carry. Yet we know that the more lightly we walk on this earth, the more she gives to us. Thomas Merton prayed for the gift of insight, such that...everything I touch is turned into a prayer; where the sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my

prayer, for God is all in all.

And as St Mary MacKillop once wrote: *Living in a simple humble way, we want for nothing.*

Let's stay connected!

COVID-19...a grandmother's view

So, it looks for the moment that we're on top of containing this virus. Restrictions are lifting and we can now visit our families. How do I feel? Excited – a kind of heart racing excitement as I think of coming face to face with the kids and grandkids. But, anxious too. Will it be safe? What if...? Up until last week we had lots of Facetime calls and Zoom meetings with the kids and grandkids. With Zoom we've done all sorts of things together – we've celebrated birthdays, we've read a chapter book to one of the grandkids, I've helped with homework and Dave's doing a Lego challenge with another one of the grandkids. That's all been fun. In some ways we've had more contact with the grandkids than usual.

But face to face contact is so much better. I'm looking forward to more of it, even with some trepidation. What's been happening in your households? Do you have any stories, that you'd like to share via the Bulletin. Please send your contributions to Marcia... We'd love to hear from you!



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CONTACT: SECRETARY@STCOLUMBA.ORG.AU

VISION STATEMENT

To witness to the Gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to the eternal love of Christ; by building and sustaining an open, welcoming and friendly community in which people grow in their relationships with God, each other and the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St Columba's Parish Pastoral Council is to:

- welcome and embrace new parishioners;
- support and direct the work of the Parish Priest, Pastoral Associate, and parish groups;
- support and encourage the people of St Columba's parish;
- provide vision and direction to the people of St Columba's parish;
- collaborate with the parish school;
- give members of our parish community a voice; and
- empower people to lead and make positive contributions to our parish and the wider community.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- see;
- judge;
- act; and
- review.

WE, AS A GROUP, ARE FUNDAMENTALLY COMMITTED TO:

- prayer and reflection;
- our shared Catholic faith;
- bringing Christ's love and grace to Leichhardt and the broader community;
- acting co-operatively as a group based on participation and consensus, not factions or parties; and
- facilitating the spiritual growth of all under



MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL ARE:

Fr Peter Smith *Parish Priest*
Bernard Ryan *Principal*
Nicola Connors *Family Ed.*
Renata Popovic-Tomac
Chairperson
Vasile Tian *Secretary*

David Hair
Jennifer Cheal
Therese Pacey
Adrian Overs
Tino Mian



Petition by Catholics to ask that No One Is Left Behind

As the COVID-19

pandemic tightens its grip, people seeking protection and migrants in vulnerable situations have been left with no safety net. Please join us by signing and sharing the Catholic petition to leave no one behind during the COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://www.change.org/nooneleftbehind>



Call out for Magazines & Books for Women in a Refuge.

I am in search of books and magazines that might be of interest for women in a Refuge.

If you can assist, please drop off to the Parish office (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays between 10am-2pm) OR email emmwisa@gmail.com, and I'll arrange to collect them, or to share my address. They not only want things to read, but also for collage etc. Thank you for your kindness. Elizabeth

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Sunday 24th May 2020
Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Celebrant: My sisters and brothers, our salvation history continues to pass from one generation to the next by the telling of the story of Jesus and his people. On this World Communication Sunday, we honour how memory and storytelling in the family is integral to the spread of the Good News.

1. May this week of Prayer for Christian Unity be marked by sincere prayer and good works as we seek that unity of faith and love, which is the will of Christ. *(Pause 1, 2, 3) Lord hear us*
2. May we the Church, the Body of Christ, value the opportunities within our families and beyond, by which we can pass on, from one generation to the next, the grace, truth and peace of Jesus Christ. *(Pause 1, 2, 3) Lord hear us*
3. May those places which, in the distress of poverty and hunger, now face the presence of the Covid 19 pandemic, not be forgotten by the world, but receive the urgent help which they need. *(Pause 1, 2, 3) Lord hear us*
4. May we mark this 5th anniversary of the encyclical of Pope Francis on the environment, by respecting this planet, 'our common home', so that avoiding waste, we make this a better place for everyone. *(Pause 1, 2, 3) Lord hear us*
5. May our departed parishioners, family members and friends find their peace in the everlasting mercy and joy of the Ascended Christ. We also remember Sr Joan Harrison RSJ, Mirek Hamrla, Jan Hong, Suzanne Agius . . . *(Pause 1, 2, 3) Lord hear us*

Celebrant: Father, we sing your praises
for you have taken your Son Jesus
into your glory
and given to him a Name above all names.
May we reverence him,
who lives and reigns forever and ever.