



The Abbey Church Epistle

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April May 2017

The month of April sees the great Festivals of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day, and we are once more shown in a very literal way through the services of Holy Week, that one must progress through the good times and the bad times, towards the Light.

We have Christ's example ever before us. His equanimity in both seeming failure and seeming success, illustrates that most extraordinary Truth that Love is stronger than Death, and shall 'reign eternal in the skies'.

We have journeyed through this Lenten time with a growing realization of God's Love for us, both in those desolate times when our soul seems bereft and alone, and in those times of renewed faith and joy, which become our mountain-top experiences.

And we have begun to recognize that both darkness and light are essential to the journey of our soul. Perhaps, quietly and gently, our awareness has grown without us being aware of it! For spiritual growth is invisible and silent, inevitably taking place regardless of the ups and downs of our lives.

The "contemplation in the wilderness" experience of this vast and infinite thing we call Life, which we have undertaken during Lent, shows us that there is a process and meaning to our existence.

And when we contemplate the centre and focus of it all—our loving God— we realise we are held within that Circle of Life, and are not alone, but are indeed enfolded and embraced in the arms of a loving God, at all times and in all places and in all situations.

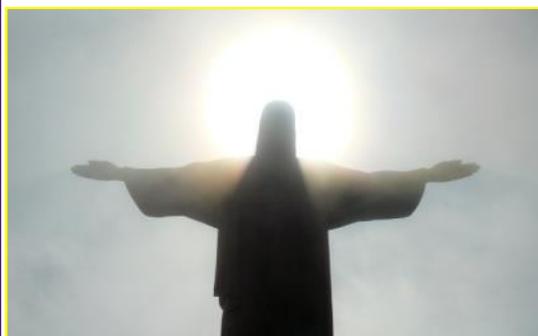
Happy Easter! Shalom! Fr George



APRIL



- 2 Sunday Services
- 5 Early Communion 5.30am
- 9 PALM SUNDAY
- 12 Service of Preparation 7.15pm
- 13 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.15pm
- 14 Good Friday 9.15am;11.50;7.15pm
- 15 Quiet Saturday Service 7.15pm
- 16 EASTER SUNDAY 6AM;9.30AM;6.45PM
- 17 Abbey Church Guild Meeting 7.15pm
- 20 Confraternity Meeting 7.15pm



- 22 AM Friends Floor Talk 2pm
- 25 ANZAC DAY
- 27 Benediction 7.15pm
- 30 Sunday Service 6pm Discussion 6.45

MAY

- 7 Church BBQ
- 10 Morning of Prayer
- 11 Benediction
- 13 Pot Luck Dinner & Trivia Night
- 14 MOTHER'S DAY



- 15 Abbey Church Guild Meeting 7.15pm
- 18 Confraternity Meeting 7.15pm
- 25 ASCENSION THURSDAY Early Communion
- 27 College Fair
- 28 Ascension Sunday

We should spend as much time in thanking God for his benefits, as we do in asking Him for them.

St Vincent de Paul

CHURCH NEWS

- **Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals** - For the month of Feb/ March we've had 15 Baptisms and 3 Funerals and 3 Weddings.
- **Church BBQ** Thanks to all those who attended our Church BBQ. It's a great opportunity to share time with each other and meet new congregation members. Next BBQ is on 8th May.
- Our **Discussion Evenings** this year will be held at 6.45pm after the Sunday Evening Service which will start at 6pm,. They will be held on the last Sunday of each month. Put these two dates in your diary—30th April and 28th May. See you there!

A Prayer for Inner Strength

Dear God,

Please give me the strength to endure this situation, and to find the blessings and lessons that it contains.

Please give me the endurance to continue ahead.

Please guide my thoughts, words and actions, so that I walk your path of peace and love.

Amen



Holy Week commences with a Palm Sunday procession at our Sunday Eucharist Service at 9.30am. All Services through Holy Week from Wednesday to Saturday evenings start at 7.15pm.

During this week we have our Early Communion Service on Holy Thursday morning at 5.30am and a Tenebris Service in the evening which is a very beautiful one leading into the Good Friday procession of the Cross at 9.30am.

The three hour Service starting just before mid-day is based on the seven last words of Christ on the Cross.

The Saturday evening Service is when the baptismal water is blest and Easter Day starts in a dark Church which is gradually lit by a Cross of candle light symbolically representing the Risen Christ. Why not come along the walk through Holy week with us?

Walking Through



Holy Week

All appears to change when we change

Henri Arneil



Do not resist or run from the difficulties in your life. These problems are not random mistakes; they are hand-tailored blessings designed for your benefit and growth. Embrace all the circumstances that I allow in your life, trusting Me to bring good out of them. View problems as opportunities to rely more fully on Me.

When you start to feel stressed, let those feelings alert you to your need for Me. Thus, your needs become doorways to deep dependence on Me and increasing intimacy between us. Although self-sufficiency is acclaimed in the world, reliance on Me produces abundant living in My kingdom. Remember to thank me for the difficulties in your life.



The more anger towards the past that you carry in your heart the less capable you are of loving in the present.

Quiet the mind and the soul will speak

We celebrated our annual Picnic day on Saturday 18th February in the picnic grounds along the Bribie Island passage at Kalmakuta Drive, off the Bribie Island Road . Although not a huge amount of people attended we enjoyed the feeling of relaxation and quietude whilst sharing lunch and great conversation. Why not come along next year and use this opportunity to share time together in a beautiful location by the sea.

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Prayers at this time particularly for those suffering in our congregation, especially Edie, Sr Catherine, and Sr Anne



We send our love, comfort and sympathy to all those families who have lost loved ones in the months of March and April and are especially remembering these anniversaries

Wally Short 6th April—2014

Sr Helena 30th April—2016

Ted Parker 7th May

Steve O'Connell 7th May

THE QUIETER YOU BECOME
THE MORE YOU ARE ABLE
TO HEAR.

~ RUMI



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Thanks to those of our congregation who attended the World Day of Prayer which was held at the Uniting Church on Bribie Island on Friday March 3rd at 9.30am.

This is an ecumenical event shared with the other Churches in our local area. Next year the World Day of Prayer will be hosted by the Transformational Church at Bribie. Put it in your diary for next year ..first Friday in March.

Some people come

in your life as

blessings.

Some come in your

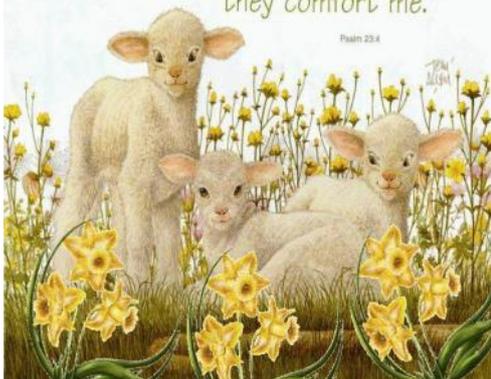
life as lessons.

- Mother Teresa



... thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4



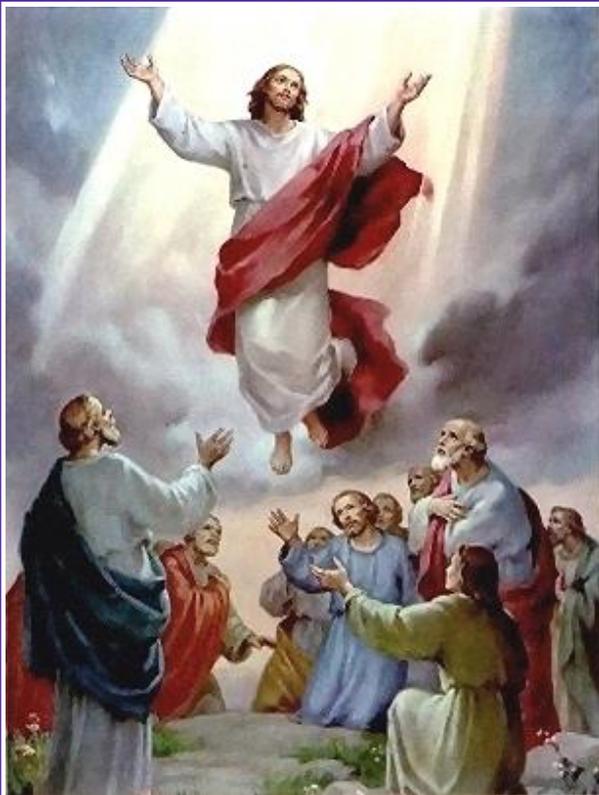
He
HAS
Risen!

MATTHEW 28:6

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We extend our well wishes to all the congregation members who celebrate their birthday in March, April and May.

Congratulations to Gelisah reaching her 70th Birthday and Cecilia on turning 80 on Anzac Day.



No doubt you have heard that Sr Anne has not been well. Just to let you know that she is currently back in Royal Brisbane Hospital after spending 3 weeks in Rehab in Dolphin House at the old Eventide Home, Beaconsfield Terrace just over the Hornibrook Bridge.

She has been diagnosed with [Guillain-Barré Syndrome](#) which is a *disorder* in which the body's immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system.

The first symptoms of this *disorder* include varying degrees of weakness or tingling sensations in the legs, which Sr Anne noticed nearly two months ago now. She spent three weeks initially at the Royal Brisbane Hospital receiving treatment.

She has attended regular physio and occupational therapy during the time and would love to see anyone who can spare some time to visit her. Please ring the Abbey just to check where she

James 1:2-4

When troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete.

During the Ascension Jesus made the priestly gesture of blessing, and the disciples certainly expressed their faith with prostration, they knelt with bowed heads.

Jesus is the one eternal High Priest who with his Passion passed through death and the tomb and ascended into heaven. He is with God the Father where he intercedes for ever in our favour (cf. Heb 9:24).

As St. John says in his First Letter, he is our Advocate: How beautiful it is to hear this! When someone is summoned by the judge or is involved in legal proceedings, the first thing he does is to seek a lawyer to defend him.

We have One who always defends us. Dear brothers and sisters, we have this Advocate; let us not be afraid to turn to him to ask forgiveness, to ask for a blessing, to ask for mercy!

The Ascension of Jesus into heaven acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey: In Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was taken to God.

Christ opened the path to us. He is like a roped guide climbing a mountain who, on reaching the summit, pulls us up to him and leads us to God.

If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Saviour, our Advocate. St Luke says that having seen Jesus ascending into heaven, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem "with great joy."

This seems to us a little odd. When we are separated from our relatives, from our friends, because of a definitive departure and, especially, death, there is usually a natural sadness in us since we will no longer see their face, no longer hear their voice, or enjoy their love, their presence.

The Evangelist instead emphasizes the profound joy of the Apostles. But how could this be?

Precisely because, with the gaze of faith they understand that although he has been removed from their sight, Jesus stays with them for ever, he does not abandon them and in the glory of the Father supports them, guides them and intercedes for them always.

Pope Francis