



If ever you get the chance to travel to Turkey make sure you go to the Roman ruins at Ephesus. The trip is instructive for all sorts of reasons, not least because two thousand years ago Ephesus was a seaport and now you have to drive inland for over an hour to get there. I wonder what our cities will look like in another two thousand years? But Ephesus is worth the trip. The Roman ruins there, especially the library, are extraordinary. For Christians, however, three other places there capture the imagination. It's the place to which the great letter in the New Testament was addressed. There are the ruins of the hall in which the important Council of Ephesus met, and there are ruins of a monastery built over what is claimed to be the final home of St John, the Beloved Disciple. There is also the much more dubious claim that Mary's final house, and the site of her Assumption, is on top of the mountain overlooking the ancient city.

There are good reasons to believe that the Gospel of John, from which we have just read, was written in Ephesus, 70 years after Jesus' death. I like to think about the context in which the Scriptures were written, not just because it helps me understand some things in the text, but also to appreciate that our Scriptures were inspired by the experience of a flesh and blood community.

Ephesus was a centre of learning, trade, government and religion in the ancient world. We also know that the early Christians were greatly persecuted and martyred there. The early church was filled with stories of betrayal, torture, death and heroic witness to the faith. The stakes for believing in Jesus were very high. And it was the heroic witness of these martyrs that eventually led to the conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity. It should come as no surprise to us then that John's Gospel should have a special focus on sharing in the sufferings of Jesus and the glory to come.

The words of Jesus in today's Gospel must have been very important to a community that was awash with the blood of their fellow believers. Our foremothers and forefathers in the faith counted themselves blessed to die as Jesus died, alive in the faith of God's love for the world. Just imagine how that community of martyrs first heard these words, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.'

By comparison we have it easy today, but martyrdom comes to all believers in different ways. In the broadest sense a martyr is one who is prepared to pay the price for holding true to Christ. For us now this might mean making serious choices about the company we keep, the business ventures we enter into, the non-violent protests we mount, foregoing luxuries so that others in our world might have necessities, and even remaining faithful to the vows and promises we have made. Christian faith sometimes bites hard, and when it does we know we are sharing in the martyr's lot.

And what should be our response when our faith in Christ costs us something big? Jesus models it for us in today's Gospel, '...what should I say? "Father, save me from this hour." No, it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.'

May this final week of Lent, then, see this flesh and blood community be like our forebears in Ephesus and actively seek out ways of sharing in the martyr's lot by letting go of what is not essential and focusing on the One who loved us to the end.

Richard Leonard SJ

PARISH CONTACTS

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Priests of the Parish

Fr. Gerard McMorro (PP)

Fr Stephen Camiolo
*(Parish Ministry
& Hospital Chaplaincy)*

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SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC
PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE**
[https://www.facebook.com/
southportcatholicparish](https://www.facebook.com/southportcatholicparish)



Bookings for Sunday Mass essential to register on line <https://scp.org.au/>

St. Joseph the Worker Church
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Masses
7:00am & 8:30am
(Please book on line)

Weekday Masses
Monday & Wednesday
7:00am
**(No need to book for weekday
Mass)**

Gold Coast University Hospital
Friday Rosary 10.00am

Guardian Angels' Church
99 Scarborough St., Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation : 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30 pm
Sunday 7:00am & 9:00am
(Please book on line)

Prayers & Adoration
Wednesday 12.00noon -1.00pm

Weekday Mass
Friday 12:30pm

Mary Immaculate Church
31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses
Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm
Sunday 9:00am & 5.30pm, including
the Korean Mass
(Please book on line)

Weekday Masses
Tuesday 9:00am
Thursday 9:00am
No need to book for weekday Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

ANGELS KITCHEN

Angels Kitchen would like to update our kind donors and supporters of what has been happening with Angels Kitchen over the last few months.

Firstly COVID 19 has affected us in that we currently still cannot provide a sit down meal and must now hand out takeaway meals. Angles Kitchen was one of the few Charity Groups that continued providing a meal service all through the early days of COVID 19.

Our statistics for 2020 include - 3313 people supported, 3654 meals provided (Sit down until March 2020 then take-away) and 936 breakfast packs. We also provided fruit and vegetables, bakery products, cakes, clothing, toiletries, household items and non-perishable food.

Thus far in 2021 we have expanded our services to include additional food items, such as Up and Go's and boiled eggs, which are incredibly popular items with those who attend.

We have refined our data collection, and as of the 28th of February 2021 have supported 668 people, provided 944 takeaway meals, 210 breakfast packs, 666 Up and Go Milk Poppers, 320 deserts, 648 two pack hard boiled eggs, an estimated amount of estimate 305 kg fruit and vegetables and clothing, toiletries, household utensils estimated at 700 items. Most Sundays we are supporting approximately 100 people, and have had many new faces this year.

We are overwhelmingly grateful to our supporters, including Sister Liz, all our volunteer cooks, Kate Sullivan, Hair Aid, Oz Harvest, Orange Sky Laundry, Guardian Angels Primary School, Harbourn town Fruit and Vegetable Markert, Southport Park Coles, and all our passionate Volunteers.

Currently we are preparing for winter and are calling for donations of: money, warm clothing especially men's jeans, track pants, waterproof jackets, sleeping bags and tents, to ensure that our most vulnerable in our community do not suffer in the coming colder months. Collection tins are available at all three Parishes.

Thank You

SPECIAL OFFER
Easter SALE
SAT. 27th & SUN. 28th MARCH
FROM 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

ANGELS ON SCARBOROUGH
SHOP 2/115 SCARBOROUGH ST. SOUTHPORT Gift Shop

50% OFF for ALL the
De Rosa/Riconada Collectable Items!

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED ON A FRIDAY.**

Registrations for Mass will close on the Thursday at 12.30pm

HELP is Needed to Set up - with Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday Night, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday approaching we are looking for teams of people to assist at Guardian Angels, and Mary Immaculate, to help with the Liturgies for this Weekend there are many roles available, this is a great opportunity to get involved in one of the Church's beautiful Liturgies. Phone 5510 2222

PLEASE NOTE

There are clip boards on the table at the entrance of each church. Please sign your name next to the position that you are interested in helping with. Thank you

EASTER MASS TIMES

HOLY THURSDAY - 1st April 2021

Guardian Angels Church - 6pm
Mary Immaculate Church - 6pm

GOOD FRIDAY - 2nd April 2021 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Guardian Angles Church - 10am
Mary Immaculate Church - 10am

Good Friday - Passion of Christ

Guardian Angels Church - 3pm
Mary Immaculate Church - 3pm

Easter Vigil - Saturday 3rd April 2021

Guardian Angels Church - 6pm
Mary Immaculate - 6pm

Easter Sunday - 4th April 2021

St Joseph the Worker - 7am & 8.30am
Guardian Angels - 7am & 9am
Mary Immaculate - 9am

No 5.30pm Mass at Mary Immaculate Church

Easter Monday

St Joseph the Worker Church- 9am

Please note it is essential to register on line
<https://scp.org.au/>

**THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT THE GOLD COAST
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ON GOOD FRIDAY BUT WE
WILL HAVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 10:30 A.M.
IN THE CHAPEL.**

ALL ARE WELCOME. THANK YOU.

**Liturgy of the Word for Next Sunday Year B/1
1st Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7- 2nd Reading - Philipians 2:6-11
Gospel - Mark 14: 1-015:47**

**STOPLINE RECEIVES INFORMATION ABOUT SUSPECTED ABUSE,
MISCONDUCT & SERIOUS POLICY BREACHES BY ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY, EMPLOYEES OR VOLUNTEERS.**

PHONE: 1300 304 550 EMAIL: AOB@stoline.com.au ONLINE: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)

Guardian Angels Church
Rebecca - 0414 994 928

Mary Immaculate Church
Raphaelle - 0414 915 047

St Joseph the Worker Church
Cathy - 0414 982 749 (Chinese)

*Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy.
We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers
and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.*



Recently Deceased:

Kathleen Fisher, Isabell Wren

*The names of our sick and
deceased family & friends
Will be recorded in these books*



Continued from last week..



The Sacredness of the Present Moment

A Dark Presence

Sometimes we feel immersed in the presence of God, we feel loved, at peace. We see glimpses of the face of God and know there is an abiding presence that unites all things in love. At other times, however, we are all too aware that 'no one can see the face of God and live' (Exodus 33:20).

In times of suffering, we can feel de-centered, dis-eased, dis-tracted and feel that God has abandoned us. Today the world seems anything but immersed in divine Presence. There is an impending darkness that threatens to blind us to the Presence.

Thunder-clouds of insoluble problems, existential despair, radical breakdown of structures, terrorism, war, and the irrevocable destruction of the earth loom. The choice between life or death lies before us in a way not envisaged before. In these times when we feel helpless, powerless, all we can do is name our fear, cry out in pain, not knowing if our lament is being heard.

If we risk trusting, move beyond our limits of comfort, detach from all that brings easy security, if we have the courage to speak personally to the Presence that seems absent, as Rahner says, to address God as You:

...to speak your You into the darkness in hope and trust, When we call into the deep darkness again and again, entrust all to the silent inclusive mystery, Presence reveals itself to us unveiled as everlasting love. In the soft and silent presence of mystery we experience the intimacy of knowing that we are permeated in love that transcends the depths of our deepest personal and cosmic wound.

We experience the eternal and endlessly personal, You to You. In the darkness, when all we have is a cry screamed opaquely in a dark hope and trust, the experience that Paul describes becomes ours: 'We, with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the brightness of the Lord, all grow brighter and brighter as we are turned into the image that we reflect.' (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Taking the risk of losing all, of being abandoned, of becoming nothing, begins the process of unveiling our face layer by layer, until we begin to reflect more completely the eternal You. We begin to mirror the Presence we seek. We begin to really live in the Presence.



A VOCATION VIEW: Unless a seed first dries out and dies, it cannot be planted in the earth to grow. Unless we first dry out and die to our selfish ways, we can never expect to be people who will 'lay down their lives for their friends.'

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Reconciliation (1st Rite)

Last week on the 15th, 16th, and 19th of March 2021, **37 children** celebrated the First Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the individual Confession. **CONGRATULATIONS** to all the candidates and many thanks to Fr Gerard & Fr Stephen for conducting the 1st Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation 2021.



The online Registration for the Sacrament of the First Holy Communion will be available on Wednesday, 24th of March 2021.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered in **Term 3, 2021** and will be available to those candidates who are 8 years of age (Year 3) or older.

Please contact Maria Blanca on 5510 2222 for further information in regards to Sacramental Program.

WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR AT GUARDIAN ANGELS

Special Lenten program 12noon - 1pm every Wednesday.

During Lent we will be praying the Way of the Cross with mediations by 'Venerable Fulton J Sheen and Saint John Henry Newman' and sung Stabat Mater commencing at 12 Noon. Confession available during this time. Immediately following the Way of the Cross, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed followed by time for silent prayer and Benediction concluding at 1pm.

Please join us for an hour with Our Lord in preparation for Easter. No bookings required.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

From Ashes to the Living Font

From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord
baptised in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.

Through fasting,
prayer, and charity,
your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.

Our graves split open,
bring us back,
your promise to proclaim,
to darkened tombs
call out, "Arise!"

and glorify your name.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM- SUNG

A Trusting Psalm

Refrain

**Lord, let your mercy be on us
as we place our trust in you.**

The Word of the Lord
is faithfulness and love.
This love can never be measured.
God's beauty is like
nothing we have ever seen,
so let us place our trust in God. **R**

The Word of the Lord
means a patient, gentle God,
whose love can never grow weary.
God's mercy is as though
our sins have never been,
if we can place our trust in God. **R**

The word of the Lord
is fire burning strong
and love that never grows weary.
God will seek and save the lost
until we all return,
so let us place our trust in God.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise and honour to you,
Lord Jesus, praise and honour Lord
Jesus Christ**

If you serve me follow me,
says the Lord, and where I am
my servant will also be.

**Praise and honour to you,
Lord Jesus, praise and honour Lord
Jesus Christ.**

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GIFTS PROCESSION

Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain:

**You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd
calls his sheep
they know and heed his voice,
so when you call your family, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. **R**

With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude,
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. **R**

Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ out poured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? **R**

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Philadelphia

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this bread and drink
this cup we proclaim your death, O
Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

Unless a Grain of Wheat

Refrain

**Unless a grain of wheat shall fall
upon the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain
with no life.**

If we have died with him,
then we shall live with him,
if we hold firm,
we shall reign with him. **R**

If anyone serves me,
then they must follow me.
Where ever I am,
my servants will be. **R**

Make your home in me
as I make mine in you,
those who remain in me
bear much fruit. **R**

If you remain in me
and my word lives in you,
then you will be my disciples. **R**

Those who love me
are loved by my Father.
We shall be with them
and dwell in them. **R**

Peace I leave with you,
my peace I give to you.
Peace which the world cannot give
is my gift. **R**

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

Tree of Life

Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn.
Though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn.
Still you rise with every morn.

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close
through each tomorrow,
love as near as every breath,
love as near as every breath.

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Marty Haugen,b,1950 ©1984 GIA Publications

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible
and invisible.**

**I believe in one
Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all
ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were
made.**

**For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was
buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the
Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead
and his
kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the
Father
and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the**



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