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Novena notes



Easter Sunday
 Year A
 12th April 2020

Alleluia! Our Lord is Risen!

It is Holy Tuesday, and I am now 4 hours into the 24-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Cathedral). I decided to write this Reflection for Easter Sunday, and wondered how we are going to celebrate Easter.

Since February, I have been receiving the Holy Eucharist “spiritually”, and not “sacramentally” and via online Masses. For Palm Sunday last week, I waved a cut palm leaf at my television, singing ‘Hosanna’. Not sure whether there will be an enactment of the ‘Washing of the Feet’ at the Holy Thursday’s Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Unlikely. Good Friday Service will just be televised; with no individual veneration of the Cross. So that is how Lent 2020 will end. From no public Masses to churches closed and barricaded, and all graces via online only.

But in the evening of the Saturday Easter Vigil Mass, a small charcoal fire will be lit in the compound of the Cathedral, and the Easter Candle 2020 will be lit. His Grace, the Archbishop will carry the Easter Candle high, and His Grace will walk into the darkened Cathedral, intoning – *The Light of Christ*. I am so waiting for that moment -- to see that Light in the darkness!

Jesus’s Resurrection on Easter is the culmination of all the pain and suffering, and of death itself. Jesus rose from the dead 2000 years ago because He said He would: *He is not here; he has arisen just as he said.* (Matthew 28:6). His Resurrection is the Victory over Sin and the Victory over Death. Love won. His Love won.

*Arise, my Love.
 Sin, where is thy shackles?
 Death, where is thy sting?
 Hell has been defeated.
 The grave cannot hold the King.
 Arise, my Love!*

(from a Rock Art (author unknown))

In this time of fear and uncertainty, and of sickness and death, our Faith in Jesus’ Resurrection is our Hope. Jesus is the Saviour of the world. He is the Son of God. He is our King. He is the Light of the World. If Jesus was raised from the dead, so will we. His promise is the reason for our Joy and (inner) Peace: *This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.* (John 6:40).

But we must keep the Faith. We must pray unceasingly, and hold firm our belief that God in His mercy will respond. This COVID-19 pandemic will surely end, and our lives will return to normal. But hopefully a ‘new’ normal where we have come to realise on what matters most, and make those life-choices that define our new values and new perspective in life. For me, I am learning every day, small lessons in Faith, Courage, Resilience, Compassion and Generosity. It is no longer just about me and my family anymore.

***Churches are not being closed.
 Buildings are being closed. You are the Church! You are to remain open.***

Reflection by Ros

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 12 April Easter Sunday	Ac 10:34,37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9 This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.
Mon, 13 April	Ac 2:14,22-33; Mt 28:8-15 Preserve me, Lord, I take refuge in you.
Tue, 14 April	Ac 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18 The Lord fills the earth with his love.
Wed, 15 April	Ac 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35 Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Thu, 16 April	Ac 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48 How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!
Fri, 17 April	Ac 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14 The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
Sat, 18 April	Ac 4:13-21; Mk 16:9-15 I will thank you, Lord, for you have given answer.

All other services, including novenas and weekday masses remain suspended. The church will also remain closed during the week.