



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2020

Dear families,

I hope you are healthy and safe during these uncertain times. This year, we know, our normal celebrations that would occur for Holy Week and Easter cannot happen in the same way as they would have previously.

I have included a Holy Week prayer and reflection below which has been developed by the Diocese of Parramatta. Feel free to use the prayer in your homes with your families. You can break it up and use each day's prayer on that particular day.

Our teachers have also been given a resource called 'We Remember' developed by religious singer Andrew Chinn, which is a collection of slides and music to use with children. Keep a look out for these resources which will appear on your child's Google Classroom or Seesaw account. Again, this resource intentionally ends with Easter Sunday immediately following Holy Week. We thought it would be fitting during these uncertain times to end with a sense of hope. Furthermore, families can choose to move through different parts of the reflection over the separate days.

I am also including some links to video recordings of different parts of the Easter story:

Palm Sunday https://drive.google.com/open?id=1gEV9h2_HdUnVpdcnbwqILUARKUUkNBBK

Holy Thursday <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ug9kZmlGw0FIJS2EiHDEwWchm3jc-W3c>

Good Friday <https://drive.google.com/open?id=13jQGOKLov2GifEAMb0WGe3qiqED86Y2>

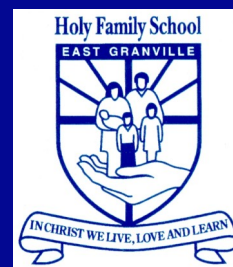
Easter Sunday https://drive.google.com/open?id=1gEV9h2_HdUnVpdcnbwqILUARKUUkNBBK

Have a blessed Easter and enjoy spending time with your families over the holiday break. I pray that God watches over every family from our community and I look forward to reconnecting with you as soon as we can.

Mr Andrew Baker

Religious Education Coordinator





This is my body given for you

Holy Week

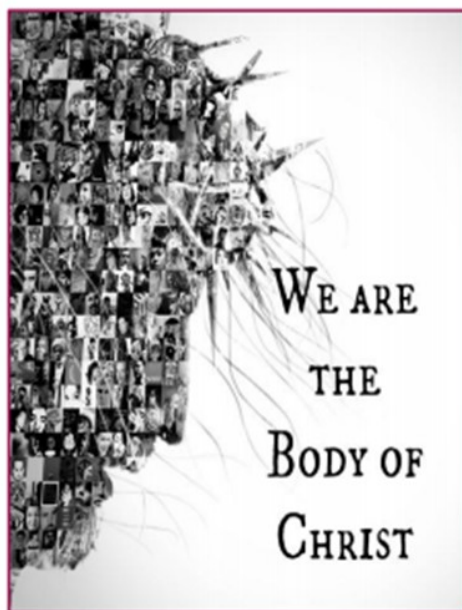
2020 CEDP EASTER REFLECTION



Introduction

Living the Easter Message 2020

This year we prepare to commemorate the central mystery of our Christian faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus within the context of a wounded and vulnerable global community. Presently, we are being awakened to the reality of our human connectedness which transcends national and global boundaries. The paradox "we are one, but we are many", is understood and realised as we witness the spread of the life-threatening Covid-19 virus.



From the earliest days of our Christian faith, the human community was referred to as the **Body of Christ**. This image was first documented in St. Paul's letter to the Christians living in the Greek city of Corinth. Throughout the centuries the concept of the living body of Christ has come to be front and centre as we realise the presence of Christ alive in the midst of all that is.

This reflection and prayer focuses on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, the one who animates the Body of Christ. It offers us a way to find meaning at this time of the global pandemic in the context of our Christian faith founded on and in God who is LOVE.

Our opening prayer is adapted from one of the published texts of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. It was written during Easter Week of 1916 amidst the terrible battles of the First World

Flowingfaith.com

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, you truly contain within your gentleness, your humanity all the unyielding immensity and grandeur of our universe. We love you, Lord Jesus because of the multitude who shelter within you and whom, if one clings closely to you, we can hear with all other beings murmuring, praying and weeping. We pray that as we enter into the remembrance of these Easter mysteries, we may deepen our awareness of your embodied presence in all that is. We make our prayer through the power of your spirit alive in us. Amen.

From Isolation to Contemplation - From Isolation to Contemplation



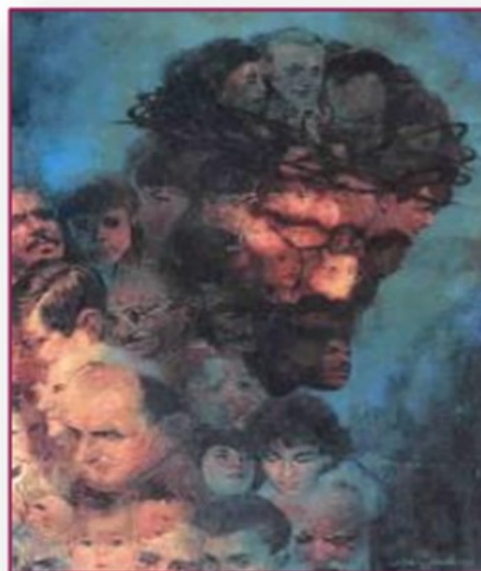
Holy Thursday

This day remembers Jesus sharing his last meal with his friends, his disciples. During this gathering Jesus said the words which Christians down through the centuries proclaim and live:

'This is my Body given for you.'

You are invited to follow this prayer through the link below. It is titled The Eucharistic Prayer of the Cosmos written by Fr. Sean O'Laoire. As you enter into this prayer allow yourself to be awakened to the presence of Christ's body in all that is.

[Eucharistic Prayer of the Cosmos](#)



In His image by William Zdinak

Let us pray

We call to mind all in our community, our world who at this moment are working to bring healing to the deeply wounded Body of Christ.

1. For Pope Francis as he brings words of hope, comfort and support to all those who are experiencing suffering and loss at this time. May he be strengthened in his work of inspiring others to reach out in love and compassion to the sick, the vulnerable and those isolated in our world. Lord hear us.

Lord hear our prayer

2. For our National and State leaders who are working hard to encourage the human community to collectively embrace the task of saving lives and livelihoods. May they be sustained with all the energy and vision that is required at this critical time. Lord hear us.

Lord hear our prayer

3. We remember at this time all those throughout the world who are working in the front line of the Covid -19 pandemic. In the care of the sick they risk their bodies for the sake of the lives of others. May they receive the strength and insight needed to minister with skill and compassion. Lord hear us.

Lord hear our prayer



Last Supper by Phillip Smeeton

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Good Friday

Our hearts are bruised by the brutality of this day. To read about or watch a Good Friday re-enactment can even be difficult. Imagine standing on the sidelines and witnessing these actual events unfold before you. Did any of the onlookers, the disciples, Simon of Cyrene, Veronica (source Acta Sanctorum) or the Women from Jerusalem contemplate the gift that was being offered for them by Jesus?

Within this suffering Jesus had been almost completely isolated from those he cared about. Standing at the foot of the cross was the disciple John, 'Jesus' mother Mary and his mother's sister, Mary wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene.' (John 19:25). Everyone else responded by staying away. Mary must have had feelings of helplessness at not being able to stop her son's suffering.

Watching someone we love follow a path that can lead to hurt and suffering is very difficult. Letting go can also be painful but sometimes we have to trust that God holds us close even when we feel isolated and alone.

Edward Sri in his book, 'Walking with Mary', reminds us that throughout her life, Mary had been called to abandon herself to God's plan on many occasions. Here was a journey that saw Mary face humiliation, poverty and on Good Friday the rejection and torturous death of her beloved son. Like the Yes of Mary, the Yes that we are called to give to God is answered in both the challenging and the ordinary moments of our life. As you reflect upon the Stations of the Cross, recognise the gift that Jesus gave for us on this day. Like Mary, welcome into your hearts the song of love that God brings to all of us. **Stations of the Cross**

Let us pray

My soul magnifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God,
the source of my becoming.
He invites me to a
place of contemplation so that
I may learn a new song.
Behold, I will seek and celebrate
His Word in all that lays before me.
My heart is content knowing that
the cross was given in our name.
He calls my hands to be filled with
love and compassion,
Holy be His name.
His strength abounds within me as
I walk a path that will always
dance to His will.
His mercy and peace lives within me.
I will sing His song.
Amen



Station IV Jesus meets his Mother

Based on a photo of a mother at vigil outside the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq

From Isolation to Contemplation - From Isolation to Contemplation



Holy Saturday

This is a day or a time of waiting. Our time of self-isolation in staying at home is akin to the "Holy Saturday Time." It is an "in between" space as we all wait for the corona virus to lessen its power of contagion within our communities. We all wait for healing, for a restoration of the body of humanity which we, as people of faith, honour as the body of Christ.

We wait, as did the apostles and the first disciples of Jesus, in silence. However, because we are people of hope we wait in an empowering silence. It is a silence that will generate new life. Jesus described this waiting in silence and darkness in the parable of the wheat grain falling into the ground and dying – buried so that new life can generate from it (John 12:24).

Noel Davis assists our reflection at this time in his verse:



The Christ of Silence
by Odilon Redon

Empowering Silence

As we enter into the silence
and surrender to its embrace
the silence strengthens us
quietens our doubting
lifts our confidence
opens our hearts
and loosens our attachment
to the pursuits of ego.

In time the silence draws us deeper
deep into the stillness
into the spirit of our integrating self
to be one with the heart of Life.

It enables us to hold fast
in our pain, anxiety, times of onslaught
to remain present with another
in life's woundings and the breakdown
of control.

Empowering silence motivates us to
move forward
with renewed vigour and trust
to live a life of freedom, courage and
fulfilment
in choosing the Way of the Spirit.

Noel Davis – Heart Coming Home

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Easter Sunday

The stone is rolled away, the tomb is opened. We are invited into this space to embrace new life. How do we do this?



The Empty Tomb of Jesus' (Shutterstock)

We do this as a Eucharistic community in an unfolding universe. We remember the words of Jesus recorded in St. Matthew's gospel: "Where two or more are gathered in my name, in my Love, there I am in the midst of them." (Mathew 18:20).

The bringing together of diverse elements, people, ideas, values, traditions, in the breaking of bread and the sharing of wine, tasting together to the fullness of life, Jesus is present in our midst as life itself. We rise up together beyond the resistant forces around us and within us: this is the Body of Christ. "Christ has no body now but yours." Listen now to the Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila who calls us all to be the Body of Christ using the Video link below.

[St Teresa's Prayer](#)

Final Prayer

At present we are all struggling to breathe life into our wounded, contagious world. We ask you Lord to gather all peoples, all creatures, all that exists, into a new unity which respects the interconnectedness of all of life. May we become a new earth community founded in love and built on love, as we seek your ever abiding presence.

Glory to God source of all being, eternal Word, Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen



*Allegory of the Resurrection
of Jesus Christ
by Patrick Devonas*

From Isolation to Contemplation - From Isolation to Contemplation



Holy Family Primary School

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn !

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER ● Wednesday 1 April 2020 Term ● 1 Week 10



Dear Parents and Friends,

This is definitely a different end of term newsletter than I expected to be writing. How are you? How are your children? How are you coping with helping your children with their learning, social distancing and staying at home? If there is one thing I've come to realise over the past fortnight is the support and vibrance that you and your family add to our community. Holy Family School is not the same without all the students present each day. While our dedicated staff either work from home or come to school to continue organising valuable learning experiences for your children we are all feeling a sense of loneliness.

Many of us are having to suddenly be parent, teacher, coach and playmate while still fulfilling the tasks asked of us by our work so that we can get a paycheck. I can vouch for how difficult it is to try to balance work for the school and all of those other tasks at the same time.

None of this is made easier by the fact that we are stressed to the hilt, all of us, as a world. Fear of the unknown is a very real anxiety, and every day our news is filled with stories that make it all too clear that this virus is a risk that we might have to face. So we have to process that fear while also pretending that we aren't afraid. Process our fear while helping our kids process theirs. Process our fear while doing all of the things we were before and then piling more responsibilities on top. This is hard.

But many of us at the school understand, because we are just like you. We are trying to find the balance as well. Trying to make sure our kids learn while also staying sane.

Here are some tips for you:

- Aim for some learning takes place every day. Don't stress having every box checked off. I know that some things can be pushed, and some things might not happen every day. But if your kids did some math, some reading, some writing, or something off the teacher's list to the best of their ability, it has been a good day.
- Let the schedule be flexible. There are times that your kids are into learning, and you can do it for long chunks of time. But there are other times that they are happily playing together, off screens, and that play is important too, so let it go. They can learn later, or the next day, because their happiness is important too.

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn

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199 The Trongate Granville East 2142 Ph: 8633 8200

Email: HolyFamilyEGranville@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website: <http://www.hfgranville.catholic.edu.au>

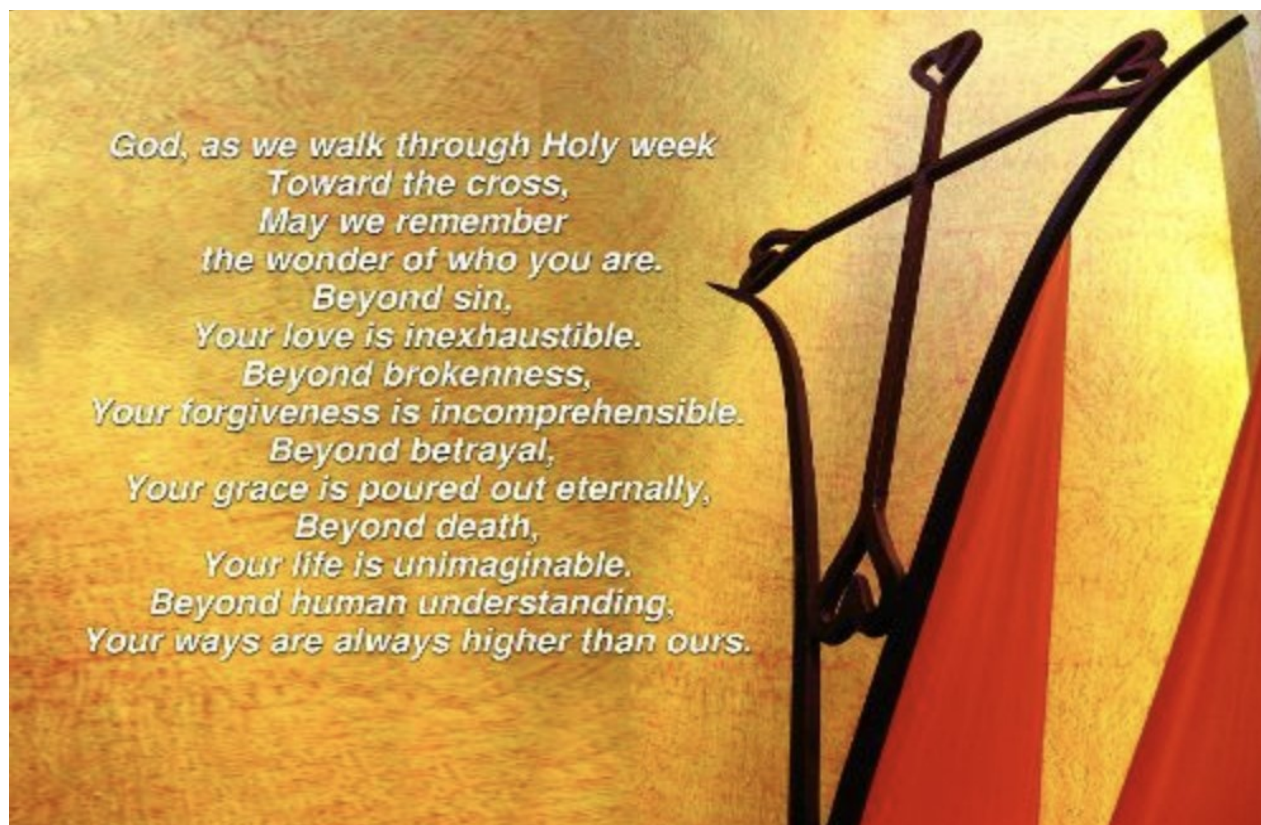




It's important to find space for you, as a parent, to relax as well. If you are so mentally burnt from being a parent, teacher, coach, friend and worker all day that you never get a chance to recuperate and refresh, you won't make it out of quarantine time with our sanity in place.

The teachers aren't trying to make your job harder, but we are trying to come alongside you, and give your children work that you guide them through, and try to ensure that we can come back from this and still be able to finish the year strong.

It's hard not knowing what tomorrow will bring, or how long it will take before life is back to something like it was before. But that time will come. As a community we need to work together, listen and follow government initiatives and as a faith community pray for all those in the frontlines battling this destructive virus. Next week we have those most critical and poignant events that led to Jesus' death and resurrection. Walk, remember and pray these events with your children next week, create a space where you can do this quietly and reverently. If at no other time have you done this with your children now would be the time!



*God, as we walk through Holy week
Toward the cross,
May we remember
the wonder of who you are.
Beyond sin,
Your love is inexhaustible.
Beyond brokenness,
Your forgiveness is incomprehensible.
Beyond betrayal,
Your grace is poured out eternally,
Beyond death,
Your life is unimaginable.
Beyond human understanding,
Your ways are always higher than ours.*



Holy Family Primary School

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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER ● Wednesday 1 April 2020 Term ● 1 Week 10



Asking for Help is not a sign of weakness but a sign of STRENGTH

In the current situation of uncertainty in our world, isolation, added worries about health, employment and finances can be extremely stressful. There is no shame in asking for help when we need it either for ourselves or particularly for our children. Below are some places that you will find that help:

Lifeline 13 11 14

Kids Help line 1800 551 800

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/get-help/webchat-counselling>

<https://headspace.org.au/>

Keeping in Touch

We are trying to keep in touch with every family through our usual platforms of Skoolbag, Facebook, phone calls and we will also try to keep families up to date via email.

Kind regards,

Let us remember that as many hands build a house, so many hearts make this school.

Mrs Cheryl Fortini

Principal





Attendance Notification as we move to Remote—IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Parents/Carers are advised that the absenteeism notification continues to be a mandatory requirement as we move to online learning.

We ask that parents understand the following:-

1. If your child attends school in person they will be marked PRESENT by their Teacher.
2. If your child is participating in remote learning at home as a precautionary measure due to COVID-19, Teachers will mark them as absent, **you MUST notify us**, if you haven't already, that they will be completing their learning from home. The best way to officially notify us is through the **Skoolbag app**, click on the school's logo then click on '**eforms**'. There is an absentee form you can fill in and submit to the school. You can include all children on the one form. Please include the date they started remote learning and state REMOTE LEARNING UNTIL 09/04/2020.
3. If your child is not participating in Remote Learning at home or at school, e.g. they are unwell or on planned leave, please respond promptly with the reason for the absence.

The instructions for getting the **Skoolbag app** is on the next page.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate new procedures at this unprecedented time. We will continue to update you should this process need to change.

Keep safe

Any students leaving in 2020 must give 10 weeks written notice, a form is available from the office.

School Photo Day has been moved to Term 4 Week 2





Stay informed with the SkoolBag App



The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and **all** school communications.

1

Download the app

Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store

2

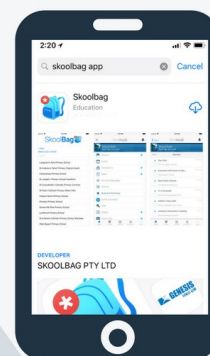
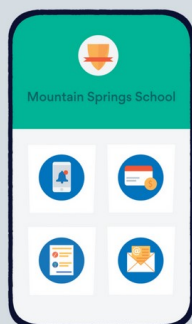
Create an account

Sign up in seconds with your email address

3

Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups



SkoolBag





BIRTHDAY WISHES !

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday in April



Alana Achi	Jason Achi
Lauren Callao	Tim Chen
Derek Custodio	Daniel De Grazia
Liana El Katrib	Tyrell Firmin
Bernadette Georges	Patrick Halabi
Gabriel Isaac	Amilia Jalloh
Andy Kayrouz	Louis Lu
Isabella Nakhoul	Aarya Pandey
Thelma Pearce	Shivam Ram
Maria Takai	Anchit Tiwari
Angus White	Gabriella Zappia



Holy Family Primary School

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn !

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER ● Wednesday 1 April 2020 Term ● 1 Week 10



HFS Parent Calendar - Term 1, 2020

Week	Date	Event
10	Thursday 2/4	Canceled —Student Led Conferences
	Friday 3/4	CANCELED —Whole School Assembly
11	Tuesday 7/4	School Photos moved to 23 October
	Wednesday 8/4	<u>Last Day</u> for Students for Term 1
	Thursday 9/4	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

HOLY FAMILY

Primary Granville

Open Days

4 March 2:00pm-5:00pm | 23 March 9:00am-10:00am
5 May 9:00am-10:00am | 21 May 2:00pm-3:00pm | 12 June 2:00pm-3:00pm

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn

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