

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

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3rd May 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

THE INDIVIDUAL: In a modern factory, raw materials are manufactured into a finished product by a process of mass production. Millions of articles are turned out exactly similar, according to a certain size, shape and content. When God makes a human person, he does not mass produce. He is not a manufacturer – he is an artist who does not repeat himself. Of all the countless millions of men and women that he has created there have never been two the same. It is true that they have a common nature and therefore to some extent are similar in appearance, but their difference lies in that divine spiritual quality in them which makes them unique. It is for the recognition of this fact that the Catholic Church has had to fight so often through the ages. Others make humans into cogs in some harsh mechanical system whose sole occupation is to serve their iron master until they are worn out and useless.

Christ emphasises the value of each person when he speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep and knows each of them by name. He loves each one to the extent that he will go after it when it is lost and will even go as far as dying of it. This then is the value of each human being that, not only are we a special creation of God, with all God's love centred on humanity, but also is the object of the death of God upon a cross. This gives us immense dignity. This should also give us great consolation. Whatever natural talents or make-up we have, however inferior in intellect or opportunity we may be in comparison with those about us, always we have the knowledge that we are the object of God's special love. Well might we pray with the psalmist exultantly *“The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me: your rod and your staff they comfort me.”*

Masses and Prayers: Doris Covick (ann.1/5),

Sunday Mass: 3rd May 2020.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
By the word of the Lord, the heavens were made, alleluia**

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
Sunday Mass

have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (See Bulletin Liturgy Sheet)

Profession of Faith

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us intercede for the needs
Of all God's flock through Jesus the Shepherd and guardian of our souls.*

1. That the Good Shepherd may raise up in the Church those who will lead with courage and serve with love. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That the Good Shepherd and Lord of the Harvest will increase vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life, especially in places where they are most needed. *Let us pray to the Lord*
3. That our isolation, social distancing and the sacrifices we are making at present, will keep us all safe and protect the more vulnerable members of our community from fresh outbreaks of the Coronavirus. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That men and women who struggle for human rights, may never follow false leaders, or ways of violence. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That those who are being called by our Good Shepherd may have courage to follow and openness to welcome all others who hear his call. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That we may entrust our beloved dead to the One who judges justly, so that they may have life, and have it abundantly. *Let us pray to the Lord*
7. That we may continually rejoice with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Priests, that the Lord is risen indeed. **HAIL MARY**

Most gentle Father, you guide us along the right path and your son the Good Shepherd is always there, beside us. Comfort us by granting these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pope Francis Prayer for protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you. Health of the sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, our Salvation, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the Joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Our Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come and untie myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be *etc.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

May Almighty God bless us all, the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord and glorify him in our lives. Thanks be to God

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