

'JESUS IS RISEN - WE LEAVE OUR TOMBS BEHIND' – HOMILY 1 APRIL 2018  
EASTER SUNDAY

We have celebrated Our Holy Easter ceremonies,

- The gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. And the call to service – HOLY THURSDAY
- The journey of Jesus to the cross – GOOD FRIDAY
- The burial of Jesus in the tomb – GOOD FRIDAY
- The resurrection of Jesus – EASTER SUNDAY
- And Jesus risen in our lives – EVERYDAY

This Easter we especially pray at all ceremonies for the young people.

**TODAY'S GOSPEL OF JOHN 20:1-9**

We listen to today's Gospel.

*“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’”*

We pause and identify with Mary Magdalene.

Already grieving deeply at the death of Jesus.

She is now concerned that the authorities have stolen his body.

She seeks out another two of the disciples.

She shows initiative once more.

In their grief, the other two disciples RUN to the tomb.

The sense of urgency.

**WHAT ARE THEIR THOUGHTS?**

**WHAT ARE THEIR FEELINGS?**

The gospel passage tells us of their journey, their entry into the tomb.

Peter enters first. Then the other disciple.

Let us now continue from where today's passage ends.

Two of the disciples return home.

Mary again shows initiative, an initiative to grieve at the tomb.

Weeping, she looks into the tomb and encounters the angels sent by God.

*“As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ “*

## WHEN WE LOOK INTO THE EMPTINESS, WHAT DO WE SEE?

**She encounters Jesus outside the tomb** but thinks he must be the gardener.

## HOW MANY TIMES IN OUR LIVES DOES JESUS ASK US - FOR WHOM ARE YOU LOOKING?

*“Jesus said to her,  
‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’  
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,  
‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him,  
and I will take him away.’ “*

Jesus calls her by name. She recognizes him.

*“Jesus said to her,  
‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew,  
‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher).  
Jesus said to her,  
‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.  
But go to my brothers and say to them,  
“I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’  
Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’;  
and she told them that he had said these things to her.”*

## INVITATION TO PLACE YOUR CONCERNS AND ISSUES BEFORE JESUS

You are invited this weekend to place your concerns and issues before Jesus.  
But don't leave them buried afterwards in the tomb.

The injustice, trauma, ridicule and incredible pain that Jesus faced for us.  
We can, in solidarity, remember those suffering here and elsewhere.  
But not in a pessimistic way.  
Jesus is risen from the dead. Alleluia.

We face the pain in our world, in our families, in our community, **with hope.**  
**We don't bury our concerns in the tomb.**  
**We place them before Jesus – with open hearts.**  
More on this near the end of the homily.

## EASTER PRAYERS – INVITATION TO PRAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

In our prayers this Easter, in this 'YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE',  
you are invited to recognize and pray for the young people of our world pray

- For the young in a disadvantaged community
- for the homeless
- for the young who couch surf
- for those young people traumatized by cyber-bullying
- for the welcome of recent Iraqi and Syrian young people in our schools.

## CHERBOURG – THE MOST DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY

In the South Burnett region of our Brisbane Archdiocese, is the Catholic parish of Murgon. One of the council areas there is Cherbourg community. According to socio-economic indexes derived from the 2016 Census data, the most disadvantaged area in Australia is Cherbourg. <http://bit.ly/ABSSEIFA2016> We pray in solidarity this Easter for the young people in the Cherbourg community.

## HOMELESSNESS

According to 2016 Census data, There were over 116,000 people homeless at Census time. This is a 4.6% increase in a five-year period.

- We pray in solidarity this Easter for people who are homeless of all ages, and for the young in particular

## COUCH SURFING OF THE YOUNG AND THE CROSS

Homeless young people finding temporary room with friends or family, sometimes on the couch. As couch surfing is often not recognized as a type of homelessness, young people can miss out on many services and support programs that could make a big difference in their lives.

- We pray in solidarity this Easter for the young who have no home

## CYBER-BULLYING AND THE CROSS

For the **2018 Good Friday Way of the Cross** at the Colosseum in Rome, 15 young people between the ages of 16 and 27 wrote the meditations. On Good Friday morning Phil, Margaret and Emma led our Parish Stations of the Cross with this same text from young people in Italy.

There are some wonderful achievements with the internet. It can do some much good. And so much harm.

## PART OF THE ELEVENTH STATION BY GRETA SANDRI TO JESUS SAYS:

*"You had the strength to bear the weight of the cross, to meet with disbelief, to be condemned for your provocative words.  
Today we can barely swallow a critical comment, as if every word was meant to hurt us.  
You did not stop even before death.  
You believed deeply in your mission and you put your trust in your Father.*

*Today, in the world of Internet,  
we are so conditioned by everything that circulates on the web;  
there are times when I doubt even my own words.  
But your words are different; they are powerful in your weakness.  
You have forgiven us, you held no grudge,  
you taught us to offer the other cheek and you kept going,*

*even to the total sacrifice of your self.*

*I look all around and I see eyes glued to telephone screens,  
people trolling the social networks in order to nail others for their every mistake,  
with no possibility of forgiveness.*

*People ruled by anger, screaming their hatred of one another for the most futile  
reasons.*

*I look at your wounds and I realize, now, that I would not have had your strength.  
But I am seated here at your feet, and I strip myself of all hesitation.  
I get up in order to be closer to you, even if by a fraction of an inch."*

- We pray in solidarity this Easter for those young people who have been bullied in the social media and pray for their healing and wholeness

## WELCOMING IRAQI and SYRIAN YOUNG FAMILIES

### GOOD NEWS

A recent report to UNHCR stated that,

*"Since 2016 Brisbane Catholic Education schools have enrolled  
**247 students from Syria and Iraq.***

*The students have settled into 21 BCE schools within the **Brisbane and Logan areas.**"*

- We remember our newer young families in solidarity this Easter

### BREAK OPEN THE TOMB

Jesus is Risen. Alleluia.

We face the pain in our world, in our families, in our community, **with hope.**

**We don't bury our concerns in the tomb.**

As we pray, we need to free our resolve, our energy, our love, our trust.

Jesus empowers us to make a difference.

Jesus reaches out to us, wanting us to journey with him.

Jesus does not ask us to bury ourselves in the tomb.

Jesus does not ask us to remain entombed.

**Jesus wants us to be liberated, to be free to journey in love with Him.**

We remember our earlier prayers for those young people who are struggling,  
and our prayer for people in our lives, in our nation and in our world.

Let us pray to Jesus.

### CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES PRAYER – 'BREAK OPEN THE TOMB'

Catholic Relief Services has a prayer about this.

It reminds us not to bury

our compassion and mercy and humility and humanity

and love and joy and willingness to forgive.

This Easter through the grace of God, may we be more liberated, more in love.

## break open the tomb

Lord of Easter's Promise,

I live in faith of the Resurrection,  
but such is the nature of my faith  
that so much of me remains entombed.  
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my compassion, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of mercy, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humility, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humanity, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my love for my Heavenly Father, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of joy, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my willingness to forgive, break open the tomb.

Lord, in you I've found a Savior no grave can withstand.  
Help me to roll away this stone  
And find the miracle of new life  
That I may live more fully in your saving grace.

Amen



Happy Easter.

You are now invited to greet those around you with the message:  
**JESUS IS RISEN. ALLELUIA.**

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/033118.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook01042018>]

The Way of the Cross Meditations 2018:

Break Open the Tomb – Catholic Relief Services

Australian Bureau Of Statistics 2016 – most disadvantaged/most advantaged

GOSPEL OF MARK 16:6

HE HAS BEEN RAISED;  
HE IS NOT HERE.

"Jesus wants us to be liberated, to be free to journey in love with Him." Fr. Gerry

HOMILY: 'JESUS IS RISEN - WE LEAVE OUR TOMBS BEHIND'

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