



Pius News

5th Sunday of Lent Year A

2nd April 2017

DOING VIOLENCE IN GOD'S NAME

Blaise Pascal once wrote: "Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from a religious conviction." How true! This has been going on since the beginning of time and is showing few signs of disappearing any time soon. We still do violence and evil and justify them in God's name.

We see countless examples of this in history. From the time that we first gained self-consciousness, we've done violence in God name. It began by sacrificing human persons to try to attain God's favour and it led to everything from actively persecuting others for religious reasons, to waging war in God's name, to burning people for heresy at the Inquisition, to practicing capital punishment for religious reasons, and, not least, at one point in history, to handing Jesus over to be crucified out of our misguided religious fervour.

These are some salient historical examples; sadly not much has changed. Today, in its most gross form, we see violence done in God's name by groups like *Al-Qaida* and *Isis* who, whatever else might be their motivation, believe that they are serving God and cleansing the world in God's name by brute terrorism and murder. The death of thousands of innocent people can be justified, they believe, by the fact that this is God's cause, so sacred and urgent that it allows for the bracketing of all basic standards of humanity, decency, and normal religion. When it's for God's cause, outright evil is rationalized.

Happily, it's impossible for most of us to justify this kind of violence and murder in our minds and hearts, but most of us still justify this kind of sacril violence in more subtle modes. Many of us, for instance, still justify capital punishment in the name of divine justice, believing that God's purposes demand that we kill someone. Many too justify abortion by an appeal to our God-given freedoms. Not least, virtually all of us justify certain violence in our language and discourse because we feel that our cause is so special and sacred that it gives us the right to bracket some of the fundamentals of Christian charity in our dealings with those who disagree with us, namely, respect and graciousness.

Our language, in both the circles of right and the left, is rife with a violence we justify in God's name. On the right, issues like abortion and the defense of dogma are deemed so important as to give us permission to demonize others. On the left, issues of economic and ecological injustice, because they so directly affect the poor, similarly give us permission to bracket respect and graciousness. Both sides like to justify themselves with an appeal to God's righteous anger.

There's a story in John's Gospel, delicious in its irony, which helps expose how we are so often blind to the violence we do in God's name. It's the famous incident of the woman who is caught in adultery. They bring her to Jesus and tell him that they caught her in the very act of committing adultery and that Moses commanded, in God's name, that women like this be stoned to death. Jesus, for his part, says nothing. He bends down and writes with his finger, twice, on the ground and then tells them the one among them who's without sin might cast the first stone. They understand the gesture: why he is writing on the ground, why he is writing twice, and what that means. What does it mean?

Moses went up a mountain and God, with his finger, wrote the Ten Commandments into two tablets of stone. As Moses approached the Israelite camp on his return, carrying the two tablets of stone, he caught the people in the very act of committing idolatry. What did he do? In a fit of religious fervour, he broke the Commandments, literally, physically, over the golden calf and then picked up the fragments and threw those stones at the people. (PTO)

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(Ron Rolheiser continued)

So here's the irony from which to draw a lesson: Moses was the first person to break the Ten Commandments. He broke them in God's name and then took the fragments and stoned the people. He did this violence in all sincerity, caught up in religious fervor. Of course, afterwards, he had to go back up the mountain and have the Commandments written a second time. However before giving Moses the Commandments a second time, God also gave him a lecture: Don't stone people with the Commandments! Don't do violence in my name!

We've been very slow to grasp this mandate and take it seriously. We still find every sort of moral and religious justification for doing violence in God's name. We are still, like Moses, smashing the Commandments on what we consider idolatrous and then stoning others with the fragments. This is evident everywhere in our religious and moral discourse, particularly in how we, as Pascal might put it, in God's name, "completely and cheerfully" bracket charity as it pertains to graciousness and respect.



Fifth Sunday of Lent 2nd April 2017



Jesus is getting near to Jerusalem — it's just over the hill. He has left the relative safety of his home in the Galilee to be with family and friends. He is late, they tell him. They ask him, why did you take so long? You could have saved Lazarus from dying!

Jesus, though, has another lesson for his disciples and followers. We are all 'Lazarus' and each of us is the one 'whom Jesus loved'. He comes to us and stands at the doorway of our lives and helps us to see that we need to be freed from the dark places in which we sometimes lose ourselves.

Jesus calls the friends of Lazarus to unbind him and set him free. Jesus calls on us to unbind those around us. We all need to be freed from the ties that bind us. We are at all times invited to give and receive the light and life of Christ's healing help and forgiveness.

This week Project Compassion calls us to help 'unbind' the issues for communities living in informal settlements around Fiji. Semiti, National Director of Caritas Australia's partner People's Community Network, addresses the sense of hopelessness in many of his people. He journeys with them as together they create new possibilities for better lives. Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can support this network of communities as they work in solidarity and grow in resilience and hope.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help vulnerable communities in Fiji to undertake training that will empower them to work towards lasting change in their neighbourhoods.

Pub Theology

Get to the Wakefield Hotel at 6:30pm to join us for dinner and music, with the talk starting around 7.30pm on the 3rd of April. It is a casual and relaxed forum where friends from all walks of life gather for straight talk, hard facts and real answers on our Catholic faith and how it applies to daily life. Deacon Tim Grauel on 'If we have a spirituality, do we need the Church?'

Easter Raffle tickets are still on sale.

Chrism Mass Mon 10th—street parking only, carpark in Cathedral is closed.

Marian Procession—May 21st 2pm Parklands

Palm Sun—9.30am Mass will start in Memorial garden weather permitting.

Diary Dates:

Fridays in Lent: Stations of the Cross 7.20pm

April 4th: Regional Reconciliation at Modbury Parish 7pm

April 10th: Chrism Mass Cathedral 6pm

April 13th: Holy Thurs Mass 7.30pm

April 14th: Good Friday Station of the Cross Church 9.30am

**Outdoor Stations Kildare 11am
Liturgy 3pm**

April 15th: Easter Vigil 7pm

April 16th: Masses Easter Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

Mass Times at St Pius X

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm
Tues & Wed 9.15am Mass
Thurs 9.30am
Fri 9.15am
3rd Sunday of the Month 12.30pm Indonesian Mass

Daily Morning Prayer: Tues, Wed, Fri 8.40am
Thurs, 8.55am

Rosary: Tues, Wed, Fri 8.55am. Thurs 9.10am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 11.30am-12noon

EXPOSITION: Fridays during school term time
10am—12 noon
6pm – 9pm



Next Week's Readings Palm Sunday Year

A: Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

Feast day of the Week

St John Baptiste de La Salle Friday April 7th

St John Baptist de La Salle was a French priest, educational reformer, and founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He is the patron saint of teachers. He is considered the founder of the first Catholic schools. After his parents died he had the responsibility of educating his four brothers and two sisters. He completed his theological studies and was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 26 on April 9, 1678. Two years later he received a Doctorate in Theology. De La Salle dedicated much of his life to the education of poor children in France; in doing so, he started many lasting educational practices.

Local Church Easter Times Delivery

Bundles are available in the main foyer for delivery in the Holden Hill / Windsor Gardens areas. The delivery streets are marked on the front of each bundle.

Thank you.

Easter Vigil Candles in the Church

Due to the excessive mess of wax on the carpet after the vigil and the many hours of volunteers on their knees with a hot iron cleaning up the wax, candles have been banned from the vigil. Instead battery operated flicker candles were available to purchase last year. Bring your candle with you to the vigil. If you don't have one or misplaced your candle they will be available to purchase a replacement for \$3. These can be purchased from the main foyer after Mass on Holy Thursday or before the Vigil. These candles have a battery life of approximately eight hours, so can be used over a number of years.

MINISTRY ROSTER 8/9 & 15/16 April 2017

Please check the notice board at the back of the Church for all ministries over Palm Sunday, the Triduum and Easter.

Church Cleaners: Team D: Griffith/Fameli/Laping/Winkler

Altar Linen: 9th April: Lucy

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH IN YOUR PRAYERS

Alan Birtles, Alan Hughes, Alex Stirrat, Alicia Prince, Alison Hellams, Anna Johnston, Anne McEvoy, Anthony Young, Anton Niemoeller, Ayette Ramos, Barbara Oliveira, Barbara Stirling, Bernadette Thornton, Bill Adcock, Charles Greeneklee, Charlotte Johnstone, Cherri Hyde, Christine Brassier, Christine Gordon, Claudia Rose, David Beaven, Damian Canavan, Elisabeth Burns, Emma Altin, Eva McCarthy, Fr Alfred Farrugia, Fr David Shelton OMI, Fr John O'Doherty OMI, Fran Lewis, Geoff Monteleone, Georgina Evans, Gill Chuachett, Graham Hellams, Granville Davies, Greg Cashmere, Helen Durkin, Hermy Ramos, Ian Roberts, Ian Wallace, Jackie Chin, Jason Luis, Jean Keanan, Jet Robinson, Josie Cinmino, Justin Rowe, Katie Correll, Kath Bradfield, Kathleen Duggan, Lara Luis, Lisa Johnstone, Margaret Baugham, Martin Cox, Maria Galinato, Maria Schinella, Marie Trainor, Marthese Cinelli, Mary Meatheringham, Maryrose Aquilina, Maureen Cunningham, May Green, Michael Frederick, Mollie Davidson, Moya Nussio, Murray Williams, Paddy McLean, Pat Durkin, Paul Halman, Peter Hale, Peter Kelly, Philip McKelliff, Ray Bragg, Renata Stirrat, Richard Walsh, Robert Kean, Roeben Johnstone, Ron Todd, Ros Venn, Stanley Sagucio, Tania Altin, Terry Bayldon, Theresa Sara, Tony Petrie, Tony Siciliano, Trish Hehir, Marie Kelly.

Recently Deceased: Mary Quinn



St Vincent de Paul Food Bank

This week—**WEETBIX, BREAKFAST CEREAL, RICE, FULL CREAM LONG LIFE MILK, PASTA, PASTA SAUCE,** Cans of Tomatoes, Jam, Milo, Vegemite.

Items for baby layettes: cotton vests, socks or booties, nappies, nappy pins, disposable nappies, cotton blankets, cotton sheets, towels, soap, wipes, wash cloths, baby shampoo, bibs, onesies, wool. Items can be left in foyer.

Thank You



Parish Prayer Network:

Prayers for any need.

All you need to do is call one of the following:
Marie 8264 9569, Maureen 8261 6906
or Beth 8396 2079

5th Sunday of Lent, Year A 2nd April

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129.

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. *(R.)*

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. *(R.)*

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.

*(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)*

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.