



# St Mary's on Swanson

*(Our Lady of Perpetual Succour)*

An inner-city Catholic community  
In the care of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Welcoming all to celebrate with us.



**We acknowledge the  
traditional custodians of  
the land, The Gadigal  
people of the Eora Nation**

## 5th Sunday of Lent — Year C

7 April 2019

### *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Today's gospel presents us with another powerful image of God. Just after International Women's Day we are confronted with the prevalence of violence against women around the world. During Lent, we observe the Prophet of Peace also becoming a victim of violence like many people who refuse to look away. Last week, and again this week, religious leaders sought ways of getting at Jesus who was teaching and being with the 'undeserving' who listened to his word. Today, Jesus is with a woman who is accused of not having obeyed the law (hierarchical) and faces death.

Isaiah reassures us that God is still with us and doing new things. Jesus also shows us that God is something new. The new thing in today's story is less about the misuse of sex, sexual conduct or ethics per se, but the good news of God's mercy and the reality of God's love and mercy amidst injustice and abuse of power. Our relationship with God is not rule based. God looks for the goodness that resides (hides) in people's lives, for cohesiveness and whatever promotes reconciliation.

In a male dominated society, Jesus is not influenced by law or oppressive power. He does not hate or condemn. He used truth and justice (right relationship) to defend the vulnerable. We all need to acknowledge that we all carry a stone or stones of some kind: of jealousy, resentment, frustration, prejudice, and superiority towards others (women, Muslim people, asylum seekers, gay and lesbian people, people who are poor in any way). That stone that we hold may be the failure to acknowledge the injustices women suffer in society and in a male-dominated church. In many places, even our own country and in their own homes, women still cannot move freely without fear of harassment, assault and humiliation. By scribbling in the dust, he brought his questioners down to earth to remind them of the common origin of men and women. Both came from the same source – the dust. Both were created from dust and in God's image; equal in God's eyes. By scribbling in the dust, Jesus gently but strongly asserted that they had no ground to stand on. The victory of radical love in this story

connects with the debate that Pope Francis is having with his ecclesial critics who argue that too much mercy is wrecking the institution. Some 'sinners' need to be kept out and away from the table to distinguish them from proper members. They do not accept the fact that God calls us to come as we are; that God extends mercy and love to all even those whose sinfulness is not fully acknowledged. The pope's plea is that pastoral accompaniment which is needed to express the radical love Jesus preached. Where obstacles are raised to a closer relationship with God and others, a new path is opened through Jesus' teaching and example.

We are called to be in solidarity. Pointing fingers, judgmentalism and self-righteousness puts us outside that human circle. The 'new thing' is solidarity. The old is 'isolation'.

*(Excerpt from the homily prepared by Fr Claude Mostowik  
msc available at the church entrance)*



David Hayward *The Naked Pastor*

### Listening Circle

**The Impact of the Sexual Abuse Crisis  
Every Tuesday 7:30pm - 9pm Parish House**

An opportunity for us to express how we have been impacted by the sexual abuse crisis within the church and wounded in any way. All of us have been impacted in some way, especially victims, survivors and their families. We can support each other in the shock, trauma and confusion by gathering and speaking openly and listening empathetically.

This is a sharing, it is not a discussion nor debate. A space to talk and be heard and express our feelings in a safe place.

Need more information contact Patricia Thomas [0438 263 036](tel:0438263036)

## Mass Times

**Saturday**  
6pm  
**Sunday**  
9am & 6pm  
**Wed—Fri**  
9:15am

**Call2Mercy Mass**  
2nd Sunday of the month  
11:30am  
**Healing Mass**  
1st Tuesday of the month  
10:30am

**Individual Reconciliation**  
Sat 5:15pm—5:45pm  
Sun 8:15am—8:45am &  
5:15pm—5:45pm

**Baptisms (1st Sunday of the Month) Please register your enquiry online at:**

<http://www.stmaryserskineville.org.au/sacraments/baptism>

**Weddings By Appointment**

## Year C

Lent	Palm Sunday 14/3/19	Easter Sunday 21/4/19	2nd Sun Easter 28/4/19
Gospel	Luke 22:14-23:56	John 20:1-9	John 20:19-31
1st Reading	Isaiah 50:4-7	Acts 10:34, 37-43	Acts 5:12-16
2nd Reading	Philippians 2:6-11	Colossians 3:1-4	Revelation 1:-113, 17-19
<b>Kid's Church</b>			

### Parish Diary 2019

<b>9 Ap</b>	Applications for First Eucharist open	
<b>10 Apr</b>	Finance Committee Meeting	<b>5:30pm</b>
<b>14 Apr</b>	Palm Sunday (all Masses will commence in St Mary's Close)	
<b>15 Apr</b>	Communal Reconciliation	<b>7pm</b>
<b>18 Apr</b>	Holy Thursday	<b>7pm</b>
<b>19 Apr</b>	Stations of the Cross Celebration of the Lord's Passion	<b>10am</b> <b>3pm</b>
<b>20 Apr</b>	Easter Vigil Mass	<b>6pm</b>
<b>21 Apr</b>	Easter Sunday Masses	<b>9am &amp; 6pm</b>
<b>7 May</b>	Pastoral Council Meeting	<b>5:30pm</b>
<b>29 May</b>	Applications for First Eucharist close	
<b>3 Jun</b>	First Eucharist Parent Information Night	<b>7pm</b>
<b>21 Jun</b>	First Eucharist Retreat Day	<b>9am-3pm</b>
<b>23 Jun</b>	First Eucharist Mass	<b>9am</b>

### Lent and Holy Week

Our theme throughout Lent is "Living our lives with love".

Holy Week is fast approaching starting on Palm Sunday 14 April. See dates above for all the Holy Week services.

Volunteers will be needed for most services and you are warmly invited to take part. You will see listings in the foyer of the various services so please consider putting your name down. Taking part in one of these services can be very rewarding.

### Sacramental Program 2019

Registrations are now open for First Eucharist please see website for application form and full details.

Sacramental Programs are for baptised Catholic children only. Please contact the Parish Priest for further details.

### TUESDAY CHOIR PERFORMANCE

**Tues 9 April**

The choir that meets on Tuesday nights in St Mary's Church, warmly welcomes everyone to our concert on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30 - 8.15 pm.

We will be singing our latest repertoire of songs from around the world in different musical styles and languages. There is something new in Macedonian plus French, Tongan, Spanish and English.

Bring family and friends for harmonies in St Mary's Church on Tuesday night 9 April.

### Tribunal of the Catholic Church

Outreaching to all of those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and question the validity of their first marriage as understood by the Church.

Enquiries: Ph (02) 6239 9813

Email: [tribunal@cg.org.au](mailto:tribunal@cg.org.au)

### Positions Vacant

#### Housekeeper/Cleaner

St Mark's Parish Drummoyne. Part-time position, 3 days per week (9am-3pm Tues and Fri and 9am-1pm Wed). For further information please contact Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055. Applications close 23 April 2019

### Temporary, Paid Job Opportunity for Carers

Do you care for a family member or friend and enjoy connecting with others online?

We are seeking carers from diverse backgrounds and age groups for a few hours a week, for a 10 to 12 week period, to help us test a new online peer support community for carers.

If you are a carer, enjoy spending time on the computer or mobile device (for example, connecting with others on social media), and want to earn some extra income working from home, call CCareline on **13 18 19** or email us at [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)



**Gift of Bread**

### How to change lives in the Erko Community (in less than 25 minutes per week)

Gift of Bread meets each **Monday** in the Parish church foyer at 5pm. We pack the daily leftover bread from Bakers Delight (you won't believe how much bread is left over at the end of the day – absolutely insane!) and give it to disadvantaged families in Erskineville and Waterloo.

The transformation something as simple as fresh bread provides these families is hard to put into words. Come and see it for yourself. Don't miss out on your chance to help our disadvantaged neighbours in Erko.





## You Can't Copy Love: Why Other Politicians Fall Short of Jacinda Ardern

Ghassan Hage,  
*The Guardian*, 26 March 2018

*The New Zealand prime minister's politics can heal rather than entrench divisions 'Even when white nationalist racism it is not physically violent, it can shatter the psyche of the people it is directed to and it can shatter communities.'*

When doing my fieldwork with Christian Lebanese fighters in the middle of the Lebanese civil war, I witnessed a conversation concerning what to do with prisoners captured following a successful overrunning of a Palestinian camp.



Photograph:  
Kai Schwörer/Getty Images

The conversation was casually happening while the fighters were having dinner at a well-known precinct underneath a Maronite monastery in the hills to the north of Beirut.

There, a woman, Salma, who had a reputation as someone exceptionally loving and totally devoted to caring for the militiamen, opened a rest house where she cooked for them, served them and washed after them. During that conversation, one militiamen suggested it was perhaps best if they put the prisoners in trucks and offload them across the warzone's frontline as they had done before. At that moment Salma, who was putting a jug of water on the table, turned around and casually said: "Why? So that they'll come back and kill us? These are children of the devil, finish them, finish (*howdeh wlehd el sheetahn khlaso mennun khlaso*)". The moment remained with me ever since; it was impossible to forget how someone who oozed so much love and affection was also able to express such venomous exterminatory desires. It gave me a permanently disenchanted view, perhaps a too disenchanted and devalorising view, of the facile virtues of those who "love their own people".

To me the love that is worthy of our attention and admiration is the more difficult love, the love that is able to cross cultural boundaries and encompass multiplicity and difference rather than remain entrenched within the boundaries of oneself. I am reminded of this as I think of the many political actions and proposals by Jacinda Ardern in the wake of the Christchurch massacre. Like many I am watching her politics unfold full of admiration for its multidimensional restorative potential. But most of all I am full of admiration because the kind of love she has exhibited and that runs through everything she has done is precisely the kind of love I have come to valorise.

Most of us who work on white nationalist racism know that like all ethno-nationalist racism it works as a shattering force. Even when it is not physically violent, it can shatter the psyche of the people it is directed to and it can shatter communities. It is a centripetal force that works to fragment and disperse. There is no doubt that ethno-nationalist racists consciously use it as a weapon aimed at producing such fragmentation and dispersal. Racists aim to shatter the psyche and the social makeup of the people and the communities at which their racism is directed.

We Australians only have to look at colonial racism's effect on Indigenous Australians as individuals and as communities to recognise in this racism, not only a weapon of economic dispossession but also a weapon of mass psychosocial destruction and communal disintegration. This is why dealing with the effect of structural racism – a racism that has unleashed, and is continuing to unleash, its disintegrative effects on people and society – is such a difficult endeavour. It requires more than cosmetic notions of "closing gaps".

It requires a fundamental and sustained politics of restoration that unleashes all the possible economic, practical and affective centrifugal forces to counter the corrosive effects of the disintegrative politics that has prevailed for so long. But, as importantly, it also requires a special kind of love. While love on its own leads us nowhere, a restorative politics is not complete without it being permeated by a deeply felt love, a love that can cross rather than erect cultural boundaries and that can heal rather than entrench divisions.

It is in this regard that Jacinda Ardern's restorative politics is so crucial. At a time when politicians are moved by a soulless pragmatism that transforms even their demonstrations of affect into flat affectless pronouncements, it does provide a glimmer of hope that a politics that heals the shattering effects of white ethno-nationalist racism is possible. The problem is that such a politics is not easy to emulate if the love that moves it is not genuinely and deeply felt. Anthropology students across the world learn about "gift economies": societies predominantly structured by the exchange of gifts as opposed to the circulation of commodities.

They learn that in those gifts and offerings resides a *hau* (pronounced ho). A concept that anthropologists have taken, appropriately enough for us here, from Māori culture. The *hau* is the spirit of the giver present in the gift. It is here that we get to the reason why the politics of Ardern cannot be easily emulated. It cannot because at its heart it is a gift and an offering. As such it carries in it Ardern's spirit as a giver. If another politician tries to copy her but is not genuinely moved by a healing, cross-cultural love of the multiplicity, no matter what they give, the spirit with which they have given, their *hau*, will reveal itself in the undertone of what they offer.

As such, their gift will lack the healing, integrative effect that it should otherwise have. You only need to hear Scott Morrison speak about Indigenous Australians or about Muslims to understand what I am talking about. The *hau* that is present in what Ardern offers is not hers alone. It is also the spirit of the various social forces she has come to embody. If there is in her a desire and a capacity for healing, it is because she conjures what is best and healing in New Zealand society.

There is no doubt that there is in Australia a similar articulation of social forces, white and non-white, who together can offer a healing non-racist transformative force. Unfortunately, very few Australian politicians in positions of leadership have chosen to connect with such a space. For that reason very few have been able over the years to offer a politics that is remotely similar to that of Jacinda Ardern.

Even when they say all the right things, the spirit of what they say is present in their offering. And regrettably for all of us, this spirit remains the spirit of narcissistic love, the spirit of white Australian culture loving itself.

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

**5th Sunday of Lent  
7 April 2019**

**Caritas  
AUSTRALIA**

**Salma** featured in Project Compassion 2013. At the time she was pregnant with her first child, sick and terribly frightened. In distress, she sought the help of a midwife trained by Caritas' Safe Motherhood Program. Six years on, she's now a healthy mother of two strong, happy children. Salma is committed to giving her children the education they need to provide them with the future she hoped for.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help reduce infant mortality rates in countries like Bangladesh and proved hope to pregnant women in remote communities for happy and healthy families.**

**Lives change when we all give 100%.**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)





## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### 1st Reading:

Isaiah 43:16-21

*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

### Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

### 2nd Reading:

Philippians 3:8-14

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.*

### Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel:

John 8:1-11

*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

### Prayers of the Faithful:

Lord, hear our prayer.



### Please keep in your prayers:

**Please contact the office if you know of anyone who can come off this list.**

Nick Hurst, Nadia Kumar, Betty Brady, Bernie Newman, Graham Meyer, Gerard Cash, Trevor Wiencke, Mandy Hartas, Rosa Maria Santos, Barry Bamber, Colleen Bombaci, Ken Hogan, Sophia Gill, Lauren Learmoth, Basil Comely, Wendy Bridges, Keryn Wallace, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Joan McCormick, John Leahy, Val Hartas, Lee Tillam, Michael Dillon, Malcolm Skeritt, Margaret & Colin Farrugea, Ernie Anderson, Graham Sims.

### In Memoriam:

Mark Geringer, Josephine Stuart, Hilton Thomas McDonald, Beatrice Agnes Wilson, Pauline Ann Nowlan, Ramiro Correa, Miklos Gubacsi, Dorothy Muriel Rowley, Norma Jean Thompson, Robert Cornish

### Recently Deceased

#### Parish Team Contact List

Parish Priest	Fr Peter Guy msc	peterguymsc@gmail.com
Parish Administration	Mrs Debra Whaley	admin@stmaryserskineville.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator	Mr Michael Schiano	sc@stmaryserskineville.org.au
Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO)	Mr Damien Giurco	pssso@stmaryserskineville.org.au

#### Parish Ministries Contact List

Parish Pastoral Council Chair	Mr Jim O'Donnell	jimod012@gmail.com
Parish Finance & Maintenance Chair	Mr Paul de Botton	Paul.de.botton@macquarie.com
St Vincent de Paul (Erskineville Conference) President	Mr Andrew Adam	a.j.a.adam@gmail.com
Liturgy Committee Chair		
Liturgy Coordinator		
Children's Liturgy Coordinator	Mary Dillon Pollinger	maryjopoll75@gmail.com
Social Justice Coordinator	Ms Marita McInerney	maritaclare@gmail.com
St Mary's School Principal	Ms Anne Rees	info@stmerskineville.catholic.edu.au

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