



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



Third Sunday of Easter

5 May 2019

For the third time, Jesus appears after his rising from the dead. As usual, he appears in places particular to the people – and he comes to shores of our everyday lives, as he did to the poor and women and to people who betrayed him out of fear. Without waiting for them to come to him, or show up in the synagogue or church, he re-enters their diminished and diluted lives offering refreshment with overwhelming generosity.

Resurrection is not an idea or metaphor but is something concrete. Last week, I quoted from Fr. Eamonn Bredin *'For the early Christians, the resurrection was not a dogma to be believed but a daring, decisive, power-filled call to live as Jesus lived.'* Resurrection has hands and feet and hearts. It is about staying near Jesus, like the disciple Jesus loved, whose head rested on Jesus' chest/breast, in order to be close to the heart beat of Jesus, listening to his heart and words, and still looking out to the world.

Jesus' resurrection calls us to do things differently. It goes beyond mere kindness to understand that our voices need to be heard by those make decisions that often negatively impact on others. It is about enabling people to live with justice and dignity. Resurrection is not an abstract idea. It is about flesh and bones and wounds. It is what we do today and tomorrow about the world we live in. What often passes for Christianity is not genuine. This is so when we fail to speak truth to power as people are re-traumatised in immigration detention centres; when we collude with other countries to oppress or invade other countries; when we commemorate anniversaries of wars such as the invasion of Iraq and Turkey (1915) and justify our actions; when unfair workplace agreements are made; when racism, sexism, homophobia, corporate greed, the obscene accumulation of property and wealth continue.

Excerpted from homily notes prepared by Fr Claude Mostowik msc

New!!

**Early morning Mass 6:30am
Mondays & Tuesdays**



Appeal for Contributions towards the Purchase of Thurible

Donations to help with the purchase of a new Thurible, may be made via the [SUPPORT US](#) Link on our

website please use '1340454—Other' from the dropdown and use 'Thurible' for the Purpose of Payment, or if you would rather make your donation in cash please place an envelope marked 'Thurible' In the 2nd Collection at Mass.

The cost to the Parish is \$2,310.

Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

Want to make Donation to the Parish?

You can now make donations or payments via our parish website. Visit our website, www.stmaryserskineville.org.au and click on button at the top right of the screen and follow the prompts.

Listening Circle The Impact of the Church Abuse Crisis Last Tuesday of the month 7:30pm - 9pm Parish House

An opportunity for us to express how we have been impacted by any form of abuse 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. Come along and be part of this welcoming safe space.

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
Mon & Tue 6:30am
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

Easter	4th Sunday 12/5/19	5th Sunday 19/5/19	6th Sunday 26/5/19
Gospel	John 10:27-30	John 13:31-35	John 14:23-29
1st Reading	Acts 13:14, 43-52	Acts 14:21-27	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
2nd Reading	Revelation 7:9, 14-17	Revelation 21:1-5	Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

Parish Diary 2019

4 May	Liturgy Committee Meeting	3-5pm
4/5 May	Charitable Works Fund Appeal	All Masses
7 May	Pastoral Council Meeting	5:30pm
12 May	Mother's Day Mass celebrated by Fr Chris McPhee	9am
28 May	Church Locks Changed	
29 May	Applications for First Eucharist close	
3 Jun	First Eucharist Parent Information Night	7pm
21 Jun	First Eucharist Retreat Day	9am-3pm
23 Jun	First Eucharist Mass	9am

The Provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Fr Chris McPhee, will celebrate the 9am Mass on Sunday 12 May (Mother's Day)

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### Community Feedback: Holy Week/Easter Liturgies

The Liturgy Committee will gather on 28 May to evaluate and begin planning pastoral liturgical renewal for our community.

We would greatly appreciate any comments. Please contact Fr Peter, Libby, Pat or members of the committee.

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Church Security

The locks on the Church doors will be changed on 28 May. New keys are available for a non refundable charge of \$30 per key. Keys will need to be paid for and collected from the office on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 8:30am and 1pm, all keys must be signed for by each user and copy of a current photo ID must also be provided.

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### Charitable Works Fund 2019 Pastoral Appeal

The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal** is being held this weekend, our parish quota is \$5,600 per appeal (\$16,800 per annum), the shortfall is paid from Parish funds so we need your help. The work of CWF's benefiting agencies represents our Christian values of mercy, social justice and compassion (visit [www.cwf.org.au](http://www.cwf.org.au) to find out more), giving your gift the power to change lives for the better. Please use the special envelopes provided or alternatively, visit the CWF website to donate securely by credit card (please remember to include Erskineville as your nominated parish as this helps us too).

To find out more, phone **1800 753 959** or email [cwf@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:cwf@sydneycatholic.org). Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Thank you.

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**Take a look at our updated website
www.stmaryserskineville.org.au**

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.

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### Liturgical Ministry Roster

There are sign up sheets on the desk noticeboard. Please put your name down if you can help with reading, collections etc. Please complete a Volunteer Registration form and Code of Conduct Form and return to the office.

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Contemplative Candlelight Mass

Stay tuned for a 'contemplative' Mass one weeknight evening during our Easter Season. If you would like to be part of this organising group let Fr Peter know.

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### Work Health & Safety (WHS)

To comply with Archdiocesan WHS guidelines, at least 2 people must be present when setting up the church for Masses etc. **especially when working with ladders**. The Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) is available for review from the office if required.

*We welcome into our faith community this  
Sunday through the sacrament of Baptism*



*William David Bartrum,  
Remy Alexander Jenkins,  
Hamish Joel Turnbull &,  
Charlize June Ringrose-Pauline  
and we congratulate their parents.*



### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



## Medivac Missteps Rack Sick Refugees

Behrouz Boochani,

*The Saturday Paper, Edition No.250, April 27-May 3 2019*

Behrouz Boochani is the author of *No Friend But the Mountains*. He is being held on Manus Island.

*Refugees on Manus and Nauru were given hope by the passing of the medivac bill, but the reality is just another layer of bureaucracy added to their lives.*

After a lot of political tumult the medivac bill was eventually passed on February 12. According to this law, all sick refugees on Manus and Nauru now have the opportunity to be transferred to Australia for medical assistance. Although there was opposition, in the end it was a success for those refugees. In fact, this was the first time in six years that the Australian parliament passed a law that could be considered somewhat humane.

This law could have been passed two months earlier but the Liberal Party delayed it. Finally it was made law. This bill was a sign of hope for dozens of refugees who have been struggling for years with numerous mental health and physical conditions. But two-and-a-half months after the bill was passed it is clear that it is being used as an instrument of grief and torture.

On the day that the bill was passed, more than 20 sick refugees were lying on Pacific International Hospital (PIH) beds in Port Moresby. They were hopeful that they would soon be transferred to Australian hospitals. Not only have they not been transferred, many of them have been discharged from the hospital in Port Moresby without adequate treatment and put in the Granville Motel. They have been replaced in PIH by others from Manus.

During this time I have had the opportunity to visit this hospital. I was transferred to Port Moresby for an interview with United States authorities, so I had the chance to go to the hospital. I must admit that after all these years, after experiencing so many terrible incidents, and after visiting many sick refugees, I was still shocked by what I saw.

While I was shaken by their situation I was not surprised. In this medical system the main objective is not to cure anyone; the aim is to leverage the sick refugee's illness to torture him into submission.

There were many young men there, some of whom were in wheelchairs. Some of them were extremely skinny and malnourished, unable to speak, lying in bed. Some had harmed themselves to such an extent that their arms and legs were covered in wounds and scars. Some of them had been in that state for a period of more than six months – simply lying in bed and receiving very basic care, totally inadequate to their needs.

While I was shaken by their situation I was not surprised. In this medical system the main objective is not to cure anyone; the aim is to leverage the sick refugee's illness to torture him into submission. Now they have discharged many of these same people. Over the past few days, one of these sick patients was extremely worried and called me. He said he was starving, thirsty and roaming around homeless. I asked what had happened and he said the hospital managers wanted to discharge him and threatened to report him to the police unless he signed discharge papers. He ran away because he refused to sign.

This is one of the bizarre aspects of the system: sick refugees have no option but to surrender to the medical system, which itself tortures them. On the one hand, they know they will not receive adequate medical services; on the other hand, without this system they are completely on their own. I have written many times before of how the medical system seduces refugees and makes them dependent. The problem that sick refugees face is not limited to this hospital – the problems are just like those experienced on Manus Island. Self-harm, attempted suicide, chronic depression and paranoia are all rampant, and in a place

with almost no medical facilities or resources. The system just documents the sick people by placing them on waiting lists with the hope of them being transferred to the Pacific International Hospital in Port Moresby.

On Manus there are dozens of individuals who have been on the waiting list for months. During this time they are given nothing but basic medicine such as painkillers. In Manus there is no option for a sick refugee – they have to receive treatment from the local hospital, which has practically no resources to treat the sick. Just today, as I am writing this article, a 45-year-old man was taken to the local hospital on Manus with heart pain. But immigration and the other refugees know too well that it is impossible for this hospital to help him. Like many others, this man needs immediate assistance from a place with proper medical facilities; however, he must remain there in Manus hospital under the shadow of death.

The same problem applies to local people – despite the best intentions of the hospital's limited medical staff, the facility remains dangerously underequipped. So what has changed over the past two-and-a-half months? I can say for certain that practically nothing has changed. During this time only two people have been transferred to an Australian hospital as a result of the bill. One question comes to mind: why is it that the law has not been implemented after this period?

According to the bill, if two doctors confirm that a sick refugee needs to be transferred to Australia then the government must comply with their advice. However, a big problem with this bill is that a clear mechanism has not been designed so that a refugee can access two doctors. In fact, dozens of sick refugees either do not know how or have no way to apply for a transfer.

During this time a group of refugee supporters called the Medivac Group has been formed to help refugees enter this process. The Refugee Council of Australia, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Amnesty, National Justice Project and Human Rights Law Centre are all planning to assist refugees in relation to this. They have access to two doctors and have a list of sick refugees provided by refugees and advocates. However, after practically two-and-a-half months no more than two individuals have been transferred to Australia. The thing that has made this process excruciating is that these human rights organisations are following the same path the government has been carving out all these years regarding the treatment of sick refugees. This is nothing more than subjecting refugees to a bureaucratic game – a very drawn-out administrative process and complex structure.

At this point in time, a refugee has to sign many forms and send his documents and information to these groups. Then he has to wait for them to act on his behalf. But this is an extremely tortuous process. Many people signed papers months and months ago and are still waiting for attention. If we were to calculate the length of time necessary for all the sick refugees to leave this island, based on the rate of two people every two-and-a-half months, we can conclude that it would take about 128 years. You are right to laugh. You would be right, also, to conclude that the government has tried to exploit this bill for its own political purposes. They reopened the Christmas Island detention centre at a massive cost and then closed it again after a short period. Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton announced that hundreds of refugees would be transferred to Australia and would fill up hospital beds. Of course, that didn't happen. With all the political ruckus and propaganda this bill is a failure.

Just like the US refugee swap deal, it has absorbed refugees into another long and exhausting game. While all this takes place there are dozens who need to urgently be taken to Australia. It seems the point that is always forgotten is that we who are in Manus and Nauru are human beings. We have been held captive here for six years, stuck in an inhumane system. I ask that we all contemplate a man, someone who has no one and is alone, lying on a rotting bed, struggling to stay alive, longing for his children.

Translation: Omid Tofighian,  
American University in Cairo / University of Sydney.



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### 1st Reading:

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

*We are witnesses of these words, and so is the Holy Spirit.*

### Responsorial Psalm:

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

### 2nd Reading:

Revelation 5:11-14

*The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, wealth, glory, and blessing.*

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ is Risen, the Lord of all creation;  
he has shown pity on all people.

Alleluia!

### Gospel:

John 21:1-19

*Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them,  
and did the same with the fish.*

### 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.**

Arthur Haddfad, 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:

Robert Thomas Michelutti, George Hilton Bolt, Edith Hammond, Georgina Rachael Connell, Basil Francis McBrien, Pat Brown, Thora Annie Emmanuel

### Recently Deceased

Paul O'Prey

### Parish Team Contact List

|                                            |                    |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Parish Priest                              | Fr Peter Guy msc   | peterguymsc@gmail.com            |
| Priest in Residence                        | Fr Tru Nguyen msc  | truducnguyen@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                                | Ms Libby Denny        | elizabeth.denny@syd.catholic.edu.au  |
| Liturgy Coordinator                                    | Ms Patricia Thomas    | patriciat@catholiccemeteries.com.au  |
| Children's Liturgy Coordinator                         | Mary Dillon Pollinger | maryjpoll75@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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