

# *One Day at a Time*

Father Tim's Daily Reflections  
during the COVID-19 crisis

## **Sunday 12 April**

### **Easter Sunday**

**1.00pm** – After offering our parish Easter Sunday Mass at 8.00am, and then running the PowerPoint and cameras for the Ordinariate's Mass at 10.00am, I and **Fr David Watt** went to the driveway to administer Holy Communion to any who drove through.

To be honest, I was expecting only a trickle of cars. Was I wrong! There was a steady stream of cars, bumper to bumper, from 11.30 to noon. Then there was a two-minute break, and thereafter a number of cars came in dribs and drabs until 12.30pm, when the last car, driven by **Peter Keenan**, made it to the finish line! Peter was visiting his wife **Trish** who is in hospital; Peter said she's doing okay, but let's keep her in our prayers.

I was truly moved by the devotion of everyone who came to **Holy Communion** today. Thank you, my good people, for showing your love for Our Lord. Some neighbours down the street were standing in their driveway for some minutes, watching all the cars driving up. I prayed that they didn't do me in – I can't afford the \$50,000.00 fine! But I hope they were touched in some way to see how our Catholic people will go to some lengths to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Sorry I haven't written for a while – Good Friday and Holy Saturday really were a challenge this year. The **Holy Week ceremonies** are tricky at the best of times – many things to remember to do, many prayers that are particular to those days alone – but in this pandemic it was even more challenging. Nevertheless, we got through everything pretty well, and from the many comments I've received via e-mail, Facebook and also in person from those in their cars receiving Holy Communion, it seems that a lot of you have been watching our Holy Week liturgies and have appreciated the effort we have made.

Good Friday's **Stations of the Cross** in the morning, and the **Seven Last Words** in the evening, were probably the most spiritually fulfilling for me. I didn't have to officiate at the altar, but simply sat at the computer pushing buttons, while **Alessio**, **Theodore**, soprano **Eimear Foley**, and reader **Clare Moore** provided the music and readings. It was a prayerful experience for us all, I think.

The **Easter Vigil** was another kettle of fish – so much to do, and so much to remember. We weren't allowed to bless a fire or water, so no candles for the congregation and no sprinkling with Easter water. Then the **Paschal Candle** simply would not light – it took me three tries to get it going! And the absolute low point was when I read the opening text and sang the **Exsultet**, the solemn canticle of praise to God for the Easter light. I thought the language sounded a bit 'exalted', but as I started to sing, I suddenly realised that I was reading from the Ordinariate missal! Their altar server had failed to remove their missal from the missal stand, and when our acolyte **Wojciech Grzech** put the missal out for Mass, he failed to see that it was the wrong missal – they have identical red and gold covers! So I sang the absolutely worst Exsultet of my entire priestly life. But then some parishioners said how wonderful it was! And Ordinariate parishioners who were watching the live-streamed Mass thought that I had finally 'seen the light' and adopted their missal! Oh Lord, why me?

But that's over now – and we have certainly had a unique Holy Week, one that hopefully we will not have to repeat next year! In addition to those mentioned above, I'm also grateful to our readers **Tina Jack** and **Tom Parker**, our faithful IT team **Arkar** and **Xavier**, and Easter Sunday's acolyte **Jerry de Mello** – everyone played an important part in celebrating the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection so beautifully this year.

**6.30pm** – I just returned to the house from chatting with **David & Marina Murphy and their family** from across the street. They were amazed at all the cars that came to church today – **Fr Brian Limbourn** joined me and **Fr David Watt** this afternoon for the second hour of Communion. Again, there were those who had tears in their eyes as they received Our Lord this Easter Sunday; it's been very affirming for us priests to see the faith of our people. I estimate that about 10 to 15% of the people who came today were **non-parishioners**, and the rest were St Paul's family members. One lady heard about it and drove all the way from **Joondalup** to receive Holy Communion!

But it's back to 'normal' now: I just threw a load of whites into the washing machine, I'm preheating the oven to warm up some pork ribs that the **Yap Family** kindly gave me for my Easter dinner today (I haven't had breakfast or lunch yet, so I'm a bit hungry!). Between Communion rounds I started working on this week's daily PowerPoints – a new daily task for me. But it looks really nice on screen, doesn't it? – the pictures and texts add a lot to the whole filming presentation of the Mass.

BTW: if you happened to watch the Good Friday or Easter Sunday services on Channel 7 from St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, try to drop **Channel 7** a line of thanks – it would be great if they would do this again, whether or not we are in pandemic mode!

God bless all of you good people. Christ is risen – He is risen as He said: Alleluia!