Don’t be a loser, be a success

There were many very intelligent students in my school, along with many who had to work hard to get through their exams. The teachers were more or less sure that these intelligent kids would be great success stories later and did not have much hope for the struggling ones. Now, nearly four decades later, I see more success stories from the struggling ones and not that many from the more intelligent ones. Our skills and scholarship are good to some extent. But after a certain level, it is our attitude and commitment that counts, not the skills. Humility and total commitment helps much more than arrogance and pride. An other-centred life bears much more fruit than a self-centred one. To lead a life of love, giving and receiving it, we need to take up self-sacrifices. The more we love, the more willing we are to take up self-sacrifices.

The life of Jesus Christ was a sacrifice and he was prepared even to die on the cross for us. He neither fled from the cross nor fought to avoid it. Like a good mother who would endure the kicks and punches of a little child in a tantrum, Jesus endured the suffering and cross for us. That was the extent of the love he had for us. Through his death, he paved the way for the greatest success that history could ever produce, Resurrection to new life. On this Palm Sunday, as we commemorate the suffering of Jesus, the best we can do is to commit ourselves fully to self-sacrifice, and live an other-centred life. This attitude and the faith in God’s mercy will bring us a success in life which nothing else can provide.

People are too busy cramming too many things into their daily lives, with the hope that the more things they accommodate in their life, the greater will be their success. A person with such an attitude allocates only a limited time for religion. Faith practices become one of the many things to do in life because they are time poor. The mistake they make there is that they plan their life with what they have in their pocket. Forget about what is in your pocket, plan your life with what is in God’s pocket. That is called total commitment to God’s mercy. Once you do it, you will not miss out on the fruits of religious life. Self-sacrifice is not a burden, but a gate way to greater achievement in life. Sacrificing self for Christ’s sake will profit with the greatest achievement one can have, the resurrection into new life with God. May the joy with which you wave palms today transform into a joy that nothing on earth can dim. Don’t be a loser. Be a success story.
**Antiphon Mt 21:9 – Sung**

**Hosanna**

Hosanna to the Son of David;  
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
The King of Israel.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**Entrance Hymn**

**All Glory Praise and Honour**

All glory, praise, and honour  
To you redeemer, King!  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring  
You are the King of Israel,  
And David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's Name coming.  
Our King and Blessed One.

The company of angels  
Are praising you on high;  
And mortals joined with all things,  
Created make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before you went:  
Our praise and prayers and anthems  
Before you we present.

To you before your passion  
They sang their hymns of praise:  
To you, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.  
Their praises you accepted,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
Great source of love and goodness,  
Our Saviour and our King

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**New Deanary and New Regions**

Parish 2020 is an Evangelisation Program  
Archbishop Anthony Fisher launched for the Sydney Archdiocese. As part of it he was directed to look at making the organisation of parishes in the Archdiocese more efficient in their mission.  
Consequently the parishes of the Archdiocese have been reconfigured to create 9 Deaneries. Three Deaneries make up a region with an Episcopal Vicar in charge. Our Deanery used to be Auburn - Bankstown and Fr Ray Farrell was the Dean. Now our Deanery is called Central Deanery and Fr Richard Gates from Punchbowl is the new Dean.  
Other parishes in our Deanery are Auburn, Bankstown, Belfield, Belmore, Campsie, Central Bankstown, Greenacre, Bass Hill, Lakemba, Lidcombe, Punchbowl, Strathfield South, Strathfield, Sefton, and Flemington. Our deanery and two more deaneries west of us together make the Western Episcopal Region and Very Rev Fr Paul Monkerud is in charge.

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**Collection for the Holy Lands - Good Friday**

On Good Friday afternoon, at the Veneration of Cross, you will have opportunity to make a donation to the annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land. This annual collection supports welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Please also pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the “Prince of Peace”. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Polish Pews at SPC
The next stage of maintenance is to paint the interior of SPC Church. The painting of the ceiling will commence after Easter. Along with that the timber floor also will be polished. I think it is time to polish the pews too. It is a time consuming job to strip the pews before it is polished again. 

Therefore please let me know if you can volunteer 2 hours on one Saturday after Easter to help with sanding the pews. Your involvement and support are signs of your appreciation for your parish. A sheet is provided at the church entrance for your to sign your name.
A Holy Week Reflection from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

I write today to thank you all for the thousands of prayers and expressions of concern for me, that have come by email and letters, with gifts and cards, in so many different ways since I got sick at Christmas time.

As you know, I have had a serious sickness, Guillain-Barré Syndrome, which left me paralysed from the neck down. I’ve made significant progress but I still have some way to go. This will require continued patience and courage and hope from me, and also from the priests and faithful of Sydney.

That I have come so far in three months already is undoubtedly due to the wonderful care I have received but also due to the prayers of so many. We Christians believe in the power of prayer and I have been enormously buoyed up by the knowledge of your love and prayers for me.

One of my friends suggested to me that there was nothing I could do to so unite the archdiocese in prayer as to get seriously sick: he thought that I should perhaps do this on an annual basis! Of course, he and I would never have wished this for me but there is a providence in such things. I have great confidence that God will bring great fruit from what I have suffered and from the unity of the people of Sydney in their care for me.

What sense do we Christians make of pain and suffering? The Holy Week ahead invites us to reflect upon the mystery of God made man, willingly suffering for the salvation of humanity, if at the hands of others. This was cruel suffering, lethal suffering. When we compare our own little trials with what Jesus endured and what many others endure, we quickly realise that many are worse off than us - but why should anyone suffer? As we reflect further on this mystery we realise that a world without suffering would be an anaesthetised world, a world without feeling or failure and, therefore, a world without choice.

It would be a world in which we were all puppets or robots, incapable of knowing or caring about the pain or diminishment of our bodies, or of the failure of our projects, or of the dashing of our hopes and ideals, or of the destruction of our relationships.

To be human - free and intelligent and feeling creatures - is to be vulnerable to suffering in this life. Until we attain the New Heaven and the New Earth, when we will be glorified, it is our lot to have our comfort frustrated or endangered from time to time. Yet God gave a great gift to us in giving us freedom - the freedom to make choices, the intelligence to make good choices, and the emotions with which to love Him and each other. This great gift was also a great gamble for God, for the same freedom allows us to sin - to hurt ourselves or each other. Much of the pain in our world is to be explained by such bad choices. But even making good choices requires that we live in a world with a certain predictability, with certain 'laws of nature' which, more often than not, constrain us and are the context of our choices.

Those laws of nature mean that there will be some bad storms, some terrible viruses, some disability after accidents and many other examples of 'natural evils'. We can't expect every negative experience or bad choice to be corrected by some miracle, some divine intervention: if they were, we would not bother taking care of ourselves and each other.

So, suffering is in some ways an inevitable part of being the kinds of creatures that we are. What's more, we know that we can make this situation worse. Human beings can make terrible choices, choices that end in genocide, war and destruction, in starvation or terror, in domestic violence and family breakdown, in abuse of little children or our world.

So if some suffering is inevitable for creatures like us in a natural universe, it is sadly the case that we all too often bring suffering on ourselves or our neighbours.

Can anything good come from such suffering? Clearly, pain itself is a proper part of being sensate creatures: without such feelings we might leave our hands in the fire or take terrible risks with our bodies or minds. So pain is instructive - it teaches us things. In these past few months I believe I have learnt a lot about myself and about the human condition and about my need for God through my own experience of pain and diminishment.

But helpful or unhelpful we will all suffer at one time or another. What are we going to do when our turn comes? Christ, we know, suffered for the salvation of all. He suffered so that our own pains, failures, and sins might somehow be redeemed, purified, and raised up with Him to glory. He suffered so that we might one day enjoy a life without suffering, an eternity of bliss with God and the Saints and in the meantime be able to make some sense of the trials of this world.

Christ willingly endured the cross. We, in our little way, can join our sufferings to His, can suffer as best we can in good spirit, making it an occasion of our growth in wisdom, virtue, patience, courage, hope.

I have prayed for the grace to suffer in such a way myself, as I know many of you have prayed for me.

Once more I thank you.
God bless you in the Holy Week ahead.
Why don’t Catholics & Orthodox celebrate Easter on same day?

There is a very interesting history to your question. In the early Church in some places, especially the Roman province of Asia, the date of Easter was determined in conjunction with the Jewish feast of Passover, which was celebrated on the 14th day of the lunar month of Nisan, the day of the full moon. Easter was celebrated on that day so that it could fall on any day of the week. In other places, especially Rome and Alexandria, Easter was always celebrated on the Sunday following the Jewish Passover.

In the second century several synods were held to resolve the matter and, according to the early historian Eusebius, they all ruled in favour of celebrating Easter on a Sunday. The Council of Nicaea in 325 determined, among other things, that the Church would no longer follow the Jewish calendar and that Easter was to be celebrated on a common day throughout the world. The council did not say what that day was to be but at the time Easter was celebrated on a Sunday virtually everywhere.

In 725AD the English monk St Bede wrote that Easter was to be celebrated on the Sunday following the full moon which falls on or after the Spring equinox. This is the formula that is now followed. The equinox is the day twice a year on which the sun passes over the equator and so there are equal periods of day and night all over the world, hence the name equinox, or equal night. While this day in the northern Spring can fall on 19, 20 or 21 March, to facilitate in advance the determination of the date of Easter the Church fixed it as 21 March and so Easter was always celebrated after that. Since different formulas were used in different places to calculate the exact date of the full moon, it took some centuries before East and West were finally able to agree on a common date for Easter. By the end of the eighth century the Christian world was united in its celebration, with Easter falling anytime between March 22 and April 25.

In 1582 that was to change. Until then the whole Roman world was following the Julian calendar, which had been introduced by the Emperor Julius Caesar in 46BC. That calendar had a year of 365 days divided into 12 months, with an extra day added in February every four years. A year therefore had 365.25 days.

The calendar did not allow for the fact that the real astronomical year is a few minutes shorter than 365.25 days, even though this had been known since the time of the Greek astronomer Hipparchus, who died around 120BC. As a result the calendar gained about three days every four centuries compared to what was observed astronomically. To correct this, Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 reformed the calendar, removing ten days, so that Thursday, 4 October, in the Julian calendar was followed by Friday, 15 October, in the new Gregorian calendar.

While the West on the whole adopted the Gregorian calendar, the Orthodox Christian Churches continued after 1582 to follow the Julian calendar. As a result their dates were initially 10 days later than those of the Gregorian calendar and at present they are 13 days later.

Another important difference between the Churches is that while the Catholic Church determines the day of the full moon and of the equinox by definition, not astronomically, most of the Eastern Churches follow the astronomical full moon and equinox as they occur in Jerusalem. As a result, even though the Orthodox Easter is usually after the Western one, in some years it may coincide.

To agree on a common date, in recent years there has been dialogue between the Catholic Church, the Coptic Orthodox Pope, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the Archbishop of Canterbury. They have expressed the hope that a common date can be agreed upon relatively soon. We can pray for this to come about, as a gesture of good will and as a step towards eventual reunion of at least some of these Churches with Rome.

Fr John Flader wrote in Catholic Weekly last weekend

New items in the Church Shop

Now available in the Church Shop is a beautiful range of gifts from Italy. They would make a great alternative to chocolate as Easter gifts. With so many children in our Parish preparing for Sacraments, these items would also make a beautiful keepsake of a very special day.

Our Church Shop also stocks a good range of religious items including prayer cards, rosary beads, Baptism candles and memorabilia. The store is open 15 minutes before each weekend Mass at St Peter Chanel Church.
Project Compassion: Dhaniram's story - India

Dhaniram is driven to help create change in his village. Through the grass-roots Hamara Haq (‘Our Rights’)project, run by Caritas India and supported by Caritas Australia, he’s gained the skills to help his community claim what’s rightfully theirs and develop their plan for a better future.

Dhaniram lives with his family in a region of Central India known locally as the Tribal Belt. For generations, the tribes people have been marginalised and discriminated against. Today, they’re amongst the poorest of the poor in India.

Until recently, people in Dhaniram’s village were unaware of the Government’s social security schemes that are offered to support India’s most vulnerable communities. “There is a low rate of literacy in my village and a low level of awareness of our own rights and entitlements,” he explains.

So when Dhaniram heard about the Hamara Haq (‘Our Rights’) project, he saw the potential to create real change.

Through this project, run by Caritas India and supported by Caritas Australia, Dhaniram learnt about Human Rights, local governance and leadership. He was so inspired by his learnings he persuaded many community members to join local government planning meetings, so they can direct the development of their own communities.

Already, Dhaniram has helped to bring electricity to his village and restart a stalled government housing project that will deliver 84 new homes for his village.

“I am passionate because I feel that this village is mine and we all should live a good life,” Dhaniram tells. “We are now empowered to speak up and ask.
### Parish Diary This Week!

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>St Peter Chanel</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.45am Mass &amp; 9.15am Mass</td>
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<td>9.45am Holy Week Reflection &amp; Reconciliation</td>
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<td>7.00pm Legion of Mary (SJW Hall)</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10.30am Chrism Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral</td>
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<td>7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>10.00am Stations of the Cross</td>
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<td>3.00pm Passion of the Lord</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9.00am Morning Prayer &amp; Blessing of Food</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.00pm Mass Easter Vigil followed by supper in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10.00am Mass Easter</td>
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</tbody>
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### Mass Intentions

**Anniversaries:** Carmela Nobile, Jack Thorpe  
**Deceased:** Mirijana Lisica, Mary & Joseph Mamo, Aleksander Jarczewski, Victoria Mata Simon, Jaime F Abraham, Dionesia & Lifardo Abraham, Mary Corriente  
**Deceased members and friends of:** Ross & Mitchell Family, Erwin & O’Dwyer Families,  
May their Souls Rest In Peace

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### Easter Triduum: The Three Great Days.

For all Catholics, this coming week is the busiest of the church year. On four consecutive days the church will be filled for important services of worship starting with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Thursday and ending on Easter Sunday.

With people leading such busy lives and looking forward to Easter holidays, many may be tempted to choose to attend just one of the big liturgies of the Triduum – perhaps Good Friday because of the moving veneration of the cross or the Easter Vigil because it’s the main celebration of the period – though it starts later than the normal Saturday evening Mass and lasts much longer!

But to miss any of the three liturgies of the Easter Triduum is like missing one act of a three-act play. The Triduum is best understood as one three-day-long liturgy, or as one liturgy with three different moments. This is illustrated clearly when we consider how the liturgies of this period begin and end.

The Mass on Holy Thursday evening begins in the usual way but there is no blessing or dismissal at the end. Instead there is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the place of reservation. People depart in silence. The Good Friday liturgy begins with a silent procession, a period of silent prayer, and the opening prayer. It finishes with the prayer over the people. Again there is no final blessing or dismissal. Again people depart in silence.

The liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday give the sense of being unfinished. They leave us up in the air, waiting for something more. And there is more!

At the Easter Vigil we gather around a fire in silent darkness for the blessing of the fire and the lighting of the paschal candle. The liturgy concludes with the joyful paschal dismissal: “Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alleluia” as we process out to the sounds of the triumphant Easter hymn.

The three-day liturgy, which began with the entrance and greeting on Holy Thursday evening, has moved us from suffering through death to resurrection. The whole Easter mystery is celebrated from a different point of view on each of the three days. The Triduum is not a re-enactment of past events separated into neat historical or liturgical compartments. The death and resurrection we celebrate is our dying and rising in Christ today.
**Antiphons & Readings**

**Entrance Antiphon:**
Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.

**Responsorial Psalm:**
R My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
‘He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.’ R.
Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. R.
They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! R.

**Gospel Acclamation:**
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Communion Antiphon:**
Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

**Today’s Readings**
Is 50:4-7
Phil 2:6-11
Lk 22:14-23:56

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**St Peter Chanel & St Joseph the Worker Rosters - Next Week**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASS</th>
<th>27 March 2016</th>
<th>Easter</th>
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**Special Roster for Easter Services**

Please direct all queries to Jenny Michael

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“Family that pray together stay together”

**PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel** at the Flores home, 23 The Boulevarde, Lidcombe. Please join any evening at 7.30pm for the Rosary. To host the Pilgrim Statue from St Peter Chanel contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

**ROSARY STATUE from St Joseph the Worker**

To host the Rosary Statue from St Joseph the Worker contact the Legion of Mary.

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**Holy Mass at Beralta:** Monday to Friday 6.45AM, Wednesday to Friday 9.15 AM
Saturday 8.00AM, 9.00AM Adoration & Novena. **Lord’s Day Mass:** Saturday 5.00PM (Vigil), Sunday 10.00AM.

**Holy Mass at Auburn South:** Tues 9.00 AM (During school term only) **Lord’s Day Mass:** Sunday 8.00 AM

**Reconciliation at Beralta:** Saturday 9.00AM - 10.00AM.

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**Planned Giving Program Request Form**

Your contribution to the Planned Giving Program of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the Financial Year you will receive a Receipt for your contributions which will enable you to claim Tax deduction. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate.

Your Name: ......................................................... Telephone No: ________________________________ Email: .................................................................

[ ] Yes, please organise a set of envelopes. YES/NO Tax deduction (please circle)

[ ] Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent for completion)