

St Michael's Catholic Church Hurstville

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Easter Sunday
Resurrection of the Lord

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night Year A
Saturday, 11 April 2020 at 6.00 pm



Parish Priest: Rev Dr Janusz Bieniek CSMA

Commentator: By most ancient tradition, this is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord, in which, following the Gospel admonition, the faithful, carrying lighted lamps in their hands, should be like those looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them sit at his table. (Pause) I invite you to come outside for the blessing of the fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle. Battery candles are available at the church foyer and from the greeters. Photos may only be taken during the Baptismal Liturgy. Please turn off your phones. Our celebrant is Fr Janusz.

The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium

THE BLESSING OF THE FIRE AND PREPARATION OF THE CANDLE

All lights should be turned off inside and outside the church, including the projector. A fire is prepared in a suitable place outside the church. The people assemble in front of the fire. The priest approaches with the acolytes, one of whom carries the Paschal Candle. Another acolyte carries holy water to bless the fire with.

Priest: ✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Dear brothers and sisters, on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

Then the priest blesses the fire, saying with hands extended:

Priest: Let us pray. O God, who through your Son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory, sanctify ✠ this new fire, we pray, and grant that, by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure we may attain festivities of unending splendour. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Paschal Candle is brought to the priest who cuts/traces the cross in the wax then traces the Greek letters alpha and omega and numerals of the current year while saying:

- Priest:**
1. Christ yesterday and today (cuts/traces vertical line on candle)
 2. The Beginning and the End (cuts/traces horizontal line on candle)
 3. The Alpha (cuts/traces the letter Alpha above the vertical line)
 4. and the Omega (cuts/traces the letter Omega below the vertical line)
 5. All time belongs to him (traces first numeral - upper left)
 6. and all the ages (traces second numeral - upper right)
 7. To him be glory and power (traces third numeral - lower left)
 8. through every age and for ever (traces fourth numeral - lower right)

All: Amen.

The priest inserts into or touches the grains of incense already inserted on the candle:

Priest:	1. By his holy				1
	2. and glorious wounds				
	3. may Christ the Lord	4	2	5	
	4. guard us				
	5. and protect us. Amen				3

The priest lights the Paschal Candle from the new fire.

Priest: May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

PROCESSION

Order: Acolyte with the thurifer with the smoking thurible; acolyte carrying the Paschal Candle, altar servers, priest, people. Greeters usher people into the church offering unlit battery candles as needed. An acolyte douses the fire completely and makes sure everything is safe outside before moving into the sanctuary via the sacristy. The priest with the Paschal Candle moves to the main entrance of the church, then raises the Paschal Candle chanting:

Priest: The Light of Christ!

All: Thanks be to God!

Commentator: Please turn your candles on.

The priest walks to the middle of the church, then raises the Paschal Candle chanting:

Priest: The Light of Christ!

All: Thanks be to God!

The priest walks to the bottom steps of the altar, turns around to face the people and then raises the Paschal Candle chanting:

Priest: The Light of Christ!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Paschal Candle is placed on the stand placed next to the ambo or in the middle of the sanctuary). All church lights are turned on except for the altar candles.

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET)

The cantor (if not a priest) for the Exsultet comes before the priest for blessing.

Priest: May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may proclaim his paschal praise worthily and well. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

Cantor: Amen.

The priest incenses the Paschal Candle and the liturgy book on the ambo from which the cantor proclaims the Exsultet. If a lay person sings the Exsultet, the **fourth verse** of the Exsultet and the greeting **The Lord be with you** is omitted. **If the Exsultet is not chanted then the priest (and not the cantor) will say it.** All stand with candles on.

Cantor:

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

Priest: Therefore, dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty,
that he, who has been pleased to number me, though unworthy, among the Levites,
may pour into me his light unshadowed, that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Cantor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Cantor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Cantor:

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service
of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!

O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,

worthy alone to know the time and hour when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night of which it is written:

The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,

accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,

which glowing fire ignites for God's honour,

a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,

for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle,

hallowed to the honour of your name,

may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night.

Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.

May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star:

the one Morning Star who never sets,

Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain,

has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Commentator: Please turn off your candles and take your seats.

The Liturgy of the Word

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

FIRST READING GENESIS 1:1 - 2:2

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night'. Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, 'Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two.' And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault 'heaven'. Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.' And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.' And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.' Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.' And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

God created man in the image of himself,
in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Ps 103:1-2. 5-6. 10. 12-14. 24. 35 R cf. v. 30

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord, God, how great you are,
Clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!

Response

You founded the earth on its base, to stand firm from age to age.
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

Response

You make springs gush forth in the valleys: they flow in between the hills.
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; from the branches they sing their song.

Response

From your dwelling you water the hills; earth drinks its fill of your gift.
You make the grass grow for the cattle and the plants to serve all our needs.

Response

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Response

Commentator: Please stand.

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works, may those you have redeemed understand that there exists nothing more marvellous than the world's creation in the beginning except that, at the end of the ages, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Commentator: Please sit.

SECOND READING EXODUS 14: 15-15:1

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.'

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his own horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and cloud and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried 'the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!' 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,' the Lord said to Moses 'that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

The choir takes up the Responsorial Psalm immediately.

CANTICLE Ex 15:1-6. 17-18. R v. 1

Response: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!

The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.

This is my God and I extol him, my father's God and I give him praise.

Response

The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

Response

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe.

Response

You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.

Response

Commentator: Please stand.

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, whose ancient wonders remain undimmed in splendour even in our day, for what you once bestowed on a single people, freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution by the power of your right hand now you bring about as the salvation of the nations through the waters of rebirth, grant, we pray, that the whole world may become children of Abraham and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Commentator: Please sit.

THIRD READING EZEKIEL 36: 16-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, the members of the House of Israel used to lie in their own land, but they defiled it by their conduct and actions. I then discharged my fury at them because of the blood they shed in their land and the idols with which they defiled it. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them in foreign countries. I sentenced them as their conduct and actions deserved. And now they have profaned my Holy Name among the nations where they have gone, so that people say of them, "These are the people of the Lord; they have been exiled from his land." But I have been concerned about my Holy Name, which the House of Israel has profaned among the nations where they have gone.

And so, say to the House of Israel, "The Lord says this: I am not doing this for my sake, House of Israel, but for the sake of my Holy Name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I mean to display the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord - it is the Lord who speaks - when I display my holiness for your sake before their eyes.

Then I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries and bring you home to your own land. I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols. I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Ps 50:12-15. 18. 19. R v. 12

Response: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A pure heart create for me, O God; put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Response

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

Response

For in sacrifice you take no delight, burnt offering from me you would refuse, my sacrifice, a contrite spirit. A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

Response

Commentator: Please stand.

Priest: Let us pray.

O God of unchanging power and eternal light, look with favour on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation, which you planned from all eternity; may the whole world know and see that what was cast down is raised up, what had become old is made new, and all things are restored to integrity through Christ, just as by him they came into being. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Two acolytes lift the purple cloth off the altar (the altar cloths beneath should have been secured prior). The altar candles are lit; bells are rung as all sing:

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, and we glorify you,

We give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, Heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

*You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us;
You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One; you alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, the
Father. Amen.*

Priest: Let us pray. (silence for a while)

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render your undivided service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Commentator: Please sit.

During the Epistle, two acolytes (with thurible and boat) accompany the priest to the main entrance of the church via the sacristy to collect the Gospel Book.

EPISTLE ROMANS 6:3-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection.

We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him anymore. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Commentator: Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Response: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say: "His love has no end."

Response

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

Response

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Response

During the Alleluia, the Gospel Book is processed to the altar and then incensed by the priest. For the reading of the Gospel, no altar servers needed.

GOSPEL MATTHEW 28:1-10 Year A

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Commentator: Please be seated.

HOMILY

The Liturgy of Baptism

Catechumens/candidates with their name tags on (with both common name and saint's name) sit in the front pews reserved for them on the right-hand side facing the sanctuary. They stand up and remain standing as their names are called out.

Commentator: Fr Janusz, may I present to you the following catechumens for baptism. Catechumens and their godparents please stand as your names are read out: Ying Chan CAI, Liu YANG, Shuang ZHANG, Yali WANG, Ting GUO, Yang JIANG, Fei Shen TAO, Sandra Pui Shan LEE, Yuen Man LAU, Wei Miao HUANG, Nichapa

JINDAPOL, Sisca EDDI, Selvie Wijaya EDDI, Joanne Jounghee HAM, Pathma SUBRAMANIAM, Kadirasan MUNISAMY, Gavin JAN.

Priest: (addressing the congregation) Dearly beloved, with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers come to the aid of these our brothers and sisters in their blessed hope, so that, as they approach the font of rebirth, the almighty Father may bestow on them all his merciful help.

Commentator: Please all kneel as we sing the Litany of the Saints.

LITANY OF THE SAINTS

While the Litany is being sung, two servers walk towards the main entrance picking up along the way two catechumens who will bring the two jugs of water to the altar.

Lord have mercy	Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy	Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy	Lord have mercy
Holy Mary, Mother of God	Pray for us
Saint Michael	Pray for us
Holy Angels of God	Pray for us
Saint John the Baptist	Pray for us
Saint Joseph	Pray for us
Saint Peter and Saint Paul	Pray for us
Saint Andrew	Pray for us
Saint John	Pray for us
Saint Mary Magdalene	Pray for us
Saint Stephen	Pray for us
Saint Ignatius of Antioch	Pray for us
Saint Lawrence	Pray for us
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity	Pray for us
Saint Agnes	Pray for us
Saint Gregory	Pray for us
Saint Augustine	Pray for us
Saint Athanasius	Pray for us
Saint Basil	Pray for us
Saint Martin	Pray for us
Saint Benedict	Pray for us
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic	Pray for us
Saint Francis Xavier	Pray for us
Saint John Vianney	Pray for us
Saint Catherine of Siena	Pray for us
Saint Teresa of Jesus	Pray for us
All holy men and women, Saints of God	Pray for us
Lord be merciful	Lord, deliver us, we pray
From all evil	Lord, deliver us, we pray
From all sin	Lord, deliver us, we pray
From everlasting death	Lord, deliver us, we pray

By your incarnation	Lord, deliver us, we pray
By your Death and Resurrection	Lord, deliver us, we pray
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit	Lord, deliver us, we pray
Be merciful to us sinners	Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer
Bring these chosen ones to new birth through the grace of Baptism	Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer

Priest: (at the end of the litany the celebrant gets up and prays with hands extended over the catechumens) Almighty ever-living God, be present by the mysteries of your great love and send forth the spirit of adoption to create the new peoples brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism, so that what is to be carried out by our humble service may be brought to fulfilment by your mighty power. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Commentator: Please all stand.

BLESSING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

Procession order: two altar servers followed by two catechumens with the water jugs. The priest takes the jugs from the catechumens and pour out the water into the font. The two servers will take the jugs from the celebrant and place them in the sacristy.

Priest: O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized;

O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: 'Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit', look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image, and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

The acolyte brings the Paschal Candle to the priest. The priest lowers the Paschal Candle into the water three times.

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, **The Paschal Candle is held down in the water** so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The priest lifts the Paschal Candle out of the water to be placed on the stand.

All acclaim: Springs of water, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all for ever.

Commentator: Please turn your candles on for the Profession of Faith.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. Catechumens and candidates, I invite you to join us in professing our Catholic Faith. And so, I ask you all:

Priest: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Priest: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ our Lord, for eternal life.

All: Amen.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Commentator: Please be seated and turn off your candles. The catechumens will now be baptised. Catechumens, with your godparents, please stand up and form a queue along the middle aisle.

Catechumens go up one by one to the baptismal font with their godparents. In turn, each godparent places his/her right hand on the shoulder of the catechumen as the priest pours water three times on the catechumen's head saying:

Priest: (Name), I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Catechumen: Amen.

An acolyte stands on the side with the washers and hands them to the newly-baptised. The newly-baptised stand in two groups on either side of the altar steps with their godparents. Godparents are given the white garments by RCIA team members.

CLOTHING WITH A BAPTISMAL GARMENT

Commentator: The catechumens now receive the white garment.

Priest: My dear friends, you have become new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment **godparents place the white garment on the newly-baptised** and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life.

Newly-baptised: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

Commentator: Godparents, please come forward to give to the newly-baptised the light of Christ.

RCIA team members distribute the baptismal candles to the godparents. The priest lights the candles from the Paschal Candle. The godparents then give the lighted candles to the newly-baptised. The newly-baptised then line up across the bottom of the sanctuary steps and face the congregation.

Priest: Receive the Light of Christ. You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

Newly-baptised: Amen.

The newly-baptised and their godparents return to their seats and the candles are blown out.

Commentator: The congregation will now be blessed with holy water. Make the sign of the cross while this is done. Please stand.

Priest: May almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All: Amen.

An acolyte fills the stoop with water from the font. The priest and an acolyte go up and down the Church blessing the congregation with holy water. When the priest is back in the sanctuary after the blessing of the congregation, the commentator says:

Commentator: Please sit down.

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

Commentator: We shall now have the Sacrament of Confirmation. All candidates for Confirmation with their godparents please stand up and form one queue along the middle aisle.

Priest: *(Addressing the candidates)* By your baptism, you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to be baptised.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

Priest: *(Addressing the congregation)* My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these candidates for confirmation to strengthen them with his abundant gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

All pray briefly in silence

Priest: *(with hands extended)* All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Candidates: Amen.

The candidates queue up along the middle aisle with their godparents. They go up to the priest one by one to be confirmed. The godparents place their right hand on the candidate's shoulder. The priest dips his right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed saying:

Priest: (Saint Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Newly-confirmed: Amen.

Priest: Peace be with you.

Newly-confirmed: And with your spirit.

The newly-confirmed and their godparents return to their seats as soon as Confirmation has been conferred.

Priest: My dear friends, we have just witnessed the catechumens and candidates become members of the Catholic Church. I now ask you to congratulate and welcome them into our community. (all clap)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Commentator: Please all stand for the Prayer of the Faithful.

Priest: We proclaim with the whole Church that Jesus Christ is risen and through him, we offer our prayers to the Father.

1. We pray for the Church. That her leaders, especially Pope Francis and Archbishop Anthony, continue to grow in the love of Christ and remain faithful to his teachings, through the intercession of his Mother.

(Pause) Lord, hear us.

2. We pray for the leaders of nations. May they work together sincerely and effectively to ensure universal respect for the sanctity of life from conception to the grave.

(Pause) Lord, hear us.

3. We pray that the light of the Risen Christ shine upon the poor, the afflicted, the hungry and the homeless, giving them hope and consolation.

(Pause) Lord, hear us.

4. We pray for the newly-baptized and all those received into the Catholic Faith this evening. May they experience freedom and peace in Christ and may they be faithful to the promises they have made.

(Pause) Lord, hear us.

5. We pray for our parish of St Michael's. May we continue to work tirelessly in a spirit of cooperation and love, so that at journey's end we may all attain our heart's desire: to see God face to face.

(Pause) Lord, hear us.

6. We pray for courage to trust in God's love, especially those affected by illness and/or bereavement. We also pray for family members and friends who have gone before us, may they find eternal peace in the Risen Christ.

(Pause) Lord, hear us.

Priest: God our Father, creator of heaven and earth, we bless you and thank you for this holy night. May the Holy Spirit be with us always, helping us to be faithful witnesses to the Risen Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Commentator: Please be seated. We shall now have the first collection. All candles will be collected shortly, so please pass them along to the outside aisle.

Two servers and two acolytes go towards the main entrance collecting the newly-confirmed along the way who will be doing the offertory. Offertory procession includes water and wine, paten and hosts, collection baskets.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The thurible is used throughout. Servers and acolytes hold candles while kneeling on bottom step in front of the altar during consecration. Lights should be kept on.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Priest: Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Priest: Accept, we ask, O Lord, the prayers of your people with the sacrificial offerings, that what has begun in the paschal mysteries may, by the working of your power, bring us to the healing of eternity. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Preface 1 of Easter

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this night above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord: that you accept and bless ✠ these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you firstly for your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant Francis. our Pope and Anthony. our Bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants **N. and N.** and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you. For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

Celebrating the most sacred night of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, and in communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, and blessed Joseph, her Spouse, your blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, St Michael, St Mary MacKillop, Blessed Bronislaw Markiewicz and all your Saints; we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help.

Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family, which we make to you also for those to whom you have been pleased to give the new birth of water and the Holy Spirit, granting them forgiveness of all their sins; order our days in your peace, and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation and counted among the flock of those you have chosen.

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer, he took bread in his holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took this precious chalice in his holy and venerable hands, and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.

Priest: The mystery of faith.

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Priest: Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your holy people, offer to your glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, ✠ may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.

Remember also, Lord, your servants **N. and N.**, who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace.

Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace.

(Strikes his breast with his right hand) To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia) and all your Saints; admit us, we beseech you, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon, through Christ our Lord.

Through whom you continue to make all these good things, O Lord; you sanctify them, fill them with life, bless them, and bestow them upon us.

(raising the chalice and the paten with the host)

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Peace be with you.

Priest: May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Priest: May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgement and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Priest: May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

Priest: May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

COMMUNION

Priest: I invite the newly-baptised and confirmed to come forward and receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Newly-baptised and confirmed receive of both species before the rest of the congregation from the priest. Acolytes and extraordinary ministers wait in sanctuary until the priest returns to the altar after giving communion to the newly baptised and confirmed. The rest of the congregation then receives Holy Communion.

The second collection is taken up after the tabernacle is closed

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest: Let us pray. Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this paschal Sacrament one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Commentator: Announcements

1. The Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help will resume next Saturday.
2. The Divine Mercy Novena is at 3 pm tomorrow, at 7.30 pm on Monday until Friday, then at 3 pm on Saturday, 18 April.
3. We shall have the Mercy Hour at 3 pm on Divine Mercy Sunday, 19 April. This includes exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as well as benediction. There will be opportunity for reconciliation and blessing of sacramentals (rosaries, medals, statues etc).
4. Mass times tomorrow will be 8 am, 10 am and 6 pm as usual. On Easter Monday, morning Mass will be 9 am instead of 6:45 am and there will be morning tea after Mass.
5. The bottles containing holy water and prayer sheets for house blessing are found at the main and side entrances of the Church. Please use these to bless your homes with.

The Concluding Rites

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessings.

Priest: May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin.

All: Amen.

Priest: And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality.

All: Amen.

Priest: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

All: Amen.

Priest: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

FINAL HYMN

Procession order: Crucifix, altar servers, newly-baptised/confirmed, acolytes, priests. Acolytes to assist with distribution of the blessed water at each church entrance.

Preparation Notes for Acolytes

1. The Paschal Candle, incense nails, a long taper, tabernacle interior veil and wing nut are on the credence table
2. The offertory gifts of hosts, wine and candles as well as the Gospel Book and two jugs of water are on tables at the main entrance
3. The thurible is primed and ready
4. The stoop (to be filled from the font for the blessing of the congregation) and rod are located on the chapel side
5. The empty baptismal font is in front of the altar
6. Oils and cotton wool in the ambry
7. Gloves for handling the Paschal Candle
8. Distribute the battery candles before the Mass starts
9. The fire is prepared outside the church
10. Acolytes to make sure the fire is out and everything is safe before going into the church after the Lighting of the Paschal Candle
11. All lights are turned on (and remain on until the end) just before the Exsultet except for the altar candles
12. Remind cantor to go for blessing. **IF** cantor is not chanting then the priest will pray the Exsultet
13. Altar candles are lit just before the Gloria when the purple cloth is removed from the altar
14. No altar servers with candles for the reading of the Gospel

Preparation Notes for Work Committee

1. Music: Joy Vaz Group
2. Roster: 1 Commentator, 5 lectors, 2 greeters, __altar servers
3. Liturgy booklets to be distributed before Palm Sunday (priest, x5 acolytes, x1 commentator, x5 lectors, x1 musician, x1 cantor, x1 power point, x2 RCIA coordinators, x1 liturgy coordinator)
4. Battery candles: 350 pcs; torches for priests (everyone else to provide their own)
5. Holy water bottles: 500 pcs, labelled and with prayer sheets
6. Provide cartons for collecting Project Compassion boxes and for battery candles
7. Black Saturday morning Rosary at 9am at Corroboree Room