

**PAX - WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR
GUIDE
EASTERTIDE, 2015**

**SECTION ONE: READING AND
REFLECTION**

Theme: REMEMBERING.

In Eastertide, 2015, one of the most important days in Australia's history occurs. Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter is the Centenary of the landing of Australian Troops at Gallipoli.

This day is not a glorification of War.

On the contrary, it is about remembering those who went to War to fight for the freedom of our own country. Most of us living now in 2015, had someone in that War – a relative who lost life there, a relative who came home shell-shocked, a relative who worked in the Red Cross. Many of us can tell the stories of Grandfathers, or Great Uncles who came home so scarred that their marriages became casualties of War. Those who came home without limbs or shell-shocked were perhaps nursed by our relatives who were nurses in repatriation hospitals, or who were right there on the battle field. And as a result of this War a

whole generation of men were erased from the pages of Australian History. Only by REMEMBERING do we keep them alive.

Some of us may be going to Gallipoli for the Dawn Service this Centenary day. Some of us have relatives or friends going to Gallipoli. Young Australians, even High School Students are going for the Dawn Service, to ensure that the story continues to be told and that we remember. REMEMBERING is a necessity for human beings of all Nations. Other days of Remembrance this Eastertide are:

April 7: Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwandan Genocide.

April 29: Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare.

Remembering gives birth to Memorials.

For Australians, the **WAR MEMORIAL** in Canberra is the greatest.

Added to that, are the Memorial Arches, in every town and village of our land with the names of those who fought and died in the Great War.

And then, there are memorial boards inside our Churches – containing the names of Parishioners who fought and died in the Great War.

No matter what strain of faith we claim, most Churches have a wall or board of honour.

In our own times, there is Ground Zero in New York (9/11), with its magnificent Memorial for all those who lost lives in that terrorist attack.

There is a Memorial being arranged for Martin Place in Sydney, as a result of the Lindt Café Siege in 2014.

Everywhere, there are floral tributes (memorials) where a tragic accident or murder has taken place.

In our families, we **remember** Wedding Anniversaries, Birthdays.

We go to the graveside of husband, wife, mother, father, child – on the anniversary of death, because we want to **REMEMBER**.

The famous words: **LEST WE FORGET** are etched into the heart of each of us.

And then there are “mementos” which we keep because we want to REMEMBER a person or persons:

Wedding photographs, and photographs of family

War medals

Pieces of clothing

A lock of someone’s hair in a small locket, which we wear or keep in a safe place.

In our Heritage Centre at the Abbey we keep:

- A Priest's Vestment, dating from the period of the French Revolution.
- A Scarf, belonging to one of the Carmelite Martyrs of the French Revolution. (The Martyrs of Compiègne).
- Items belonging to the early Benedictine Bishops of Sydney.
- Ecclesiastical Embroidery worked by our early Nuns. (1850s)
- Wood Carvings done by a Nun in 1905.
- A set of Monastic Breviaries from the 1920s
- A Gothic Clock donated to our Community in circa. 1860
- A ship's telescope from a Nun's family – dated to the 1770s.
- A Singer Sewing Machine dating from 1900, used to make Vestments and the Nun's Habits.

Why do we keep all this and more?

We keep it all so that we don't forget the story which has made us who we are today.

LEST WE FORGET.

We don't suddenly arrive at Eastertide 2015 without a past.

Our past is our story. **LEST WE FORGET.**



SECTION TWO: FURTHER READING AND REFLECTION

As Benedictine Oblates, people of the Word, the very best we can do is read and pray with the texts for each Sunday of Eastertide. A reflection is provided on our website, and some of you receive this reflection from me, Sr. Hildegard, either by Email or by Australia Post.

SECTION THREE: About the Rule of St. Benedict.

What does St. Benedict have to say about “remembering”?

He has such a lot to say that we will be surprised.

First of all, let us remember that every part of the Rule applies to each one of us, whether it is addressed to the Abbot/Abbess or the Porter, or the least of the monastics – let us begin now to apply that principle as we work with the following texts:

Chapter 2:1. To be worthy of governing a monastery, the abbot must always remember what his title signifies and act as a

superior should. He is believed to hold the place of Christ in the monastery.

TRANSLATING: The Monastic must always remember what life signifies for him or her. The monastic holds the place of Christ in the home, the workplace, the parish, the sporting club and so on. We carry Christ in earthenware vessels, says St. Paul. Each one of us is a Temple of God.

Chapter 2:30. The Abbot/Abbess [MONASTICS] must always remember who they are, and what they are called to be. More will be expected of those to whom more has been entrusted. We are those to whom so much has been entrusted. We hold within us Christ Jesus Our Lord by virtue of our own Baptism. Much will be expected of us, and we are to REMEMBER this.

Chapter 7:11. The Monastic is to remember everything that God has commanded. And let us remember that all God's commandments are given to us to foster love, and promote life.

Chapter 19:3. We must always remember what the Prophet says: "Serve the Lord with fear." (If we don't relate well to the word "fear", translate it to "reverence" or "respect". Chapter 31:8, addressed to the Cellarer of the Monastery, speaks of being mindful (remembering) of the teaching of Paul to Timothy, in 1 Timothy 3:13.

Chapter 31:16. We are to remember
Matthew 18:6

Chapter 57:5. We are asked to remember
Acts 5:1-11.

REMEMBERING the teaching of the Lord in the Scriptures is one of the foundation pillars of being a Monastic.

And finally, every Monastic Church and every Parish Church has the Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Altar. This is THE MEMORIAL OF ALL MEMORIALS. It is the culmination of the Easter Vigil, and it is the Memorial which is celebrated every time the Mass is celebrated. It is the greatest gift we have. “Do this in Memory of Me”, said Jesus at the Last Supper.

SECTION FOUR: Community History

Two historical notes for 1914 and 1915 appear in our Community Chronicles.

1914: With the declaration of World War I, The Archbishop of Sydney wrote a Pastoral Letter, dated August 13th. In this letter he asked all Religious Communities of the Archdiocese of Sydney to pray or sing the antiphon “Sub Tuum Praesidium” after the Midday Meal. The “Sub Tuum Praesidium” is one of the earliest known Christian hymns to the Mother of God. The origin of the text

is Coptic Christian and dates back to 250 A.D. In English, the text translates as:

We place ourselves in your keeping,
Holy Mother of God.

Do not refuse the prayer of your children in
distress.

But deliver us from all danger,
Ever-Virgin, glorious and blessed.

1915: A life-size Calvary Setting, made within five miles of Verdun, was purchased by Mr & Mrs Thompson, shipped to Australia towards the end of 1916, and given to our community, then resident at “Subiaco”, Rydalmere. That Calvary setting was moved to our Monastery at Pennant Hills in 1957, and then restored in 1988/89 and moved to our present Abbey in Jamberoo. It is situated in a large garden within the enclosure of the Abbey. It depicts Jesus Crucified on the Cross, and Mary His Mother with John the Beloved Disciple, kneeling at the foot of the Cross. Mr & Mrs. Thompson’s daughter, Sr. Mary Editha, made her Profession in May, 1916. It was not unusual for families to make monetary or other donations on the occasion of their daughter’s Profession.

SECTION FIVE: Liturgy

We are now in Eastertide

The Octave of Easter ends with the Liturgy of *Compline* (Night Prayer), on the Second Sunday of Easter - but strictly speaking, each Sunday in Eastertide is considered in terms of 'solemnity' in the Church, and in Monastic communities. From Easter Sunday, April 5th, until the Second Sunday of Easter, April 12th, no feast or *Memoria* is celebrated because of this SOLEMN week of Liturgy. Other Solemnities, Feasts and Memorias, during Eastertide are:

April 12: Second Sunday of Easter.

April 19: Third Sunday of Easter

APRIL 25: ANZAC DAY – Centenary of Gallipoli

St. Peter Chanel: April 28th. (Memorial)

St. Catherine of Siena – April 29th.
(Memorial)

St. Athanasius: May 2. (Memorial)

May 3: Fifth Sunday of Easter (Sts. Philip and James are omitted this year).

May 10: Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 11: The Abbots of Cluny

May 13: Blessed Julian of Norwich

May 14: St. Matthias. (Feast)

May 17: Ascension of the Lord.

May 24: Pentecost Sunday

May 25: Our Lady Help of Christians (transferred from 24th). St. Bede the Venerable is omitted.

THIS IS THE CONCLUSION OF EASTERTIDE AND CONCLUSION OF THE PERIOD OF THIS EDITION OF PAX.

SECTION SIX: Your Community

On February 2nd, 2015, the Annual Foundation Day of our community, Oblate Fr. Ronald (Bede) Harden died.

Fr. Ronald was a dedicated Priest and a faithful Oblate. He was particularly faithful to receiving the *Lectio Divina* leaflet each week from the Abbey, until he could no longer read it. Even after that, a friend would read it to him, until he could no longer concentrate. He died peacefully after a period of time in Palliative Care. Archbishop Anthony Fisher did the Funeral, with Bishop David Cremin, the Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Sydney concelebrating. Other Bishops and Priests of the Archdiocese of Sydney concelebrated. The acknowledgment of Country was done by Michele Anthony. The symbols placed on the coffin were Fr. Ron's Breviary, Chalice, Stole and Anointing oils, Crucifix and Diaries. In 1955, Fr. Ron became Director of Music at St. Mary's Cathedral and thus the St. Mary's

Cathedral Choir joined the St. Michael's Hurstville Music Ministry to provide the Music at his funeral from St. Michael's Catholic Church, Hurstville.

It is not often we have such information to share about an Oblate who has died. We are grateful to those who have provided us with these facts.

Congratulations to Alice-Anne Macnaught, who made her Oblation on Saturday, February 21st, the first day of the Oblate Retreat. Alice-Anne took the name "Hildegard" after St. Hildegard of Bingen. Other Oblates present at Mass renewed their Oblation.

The retreat was a gentle, peaceful and very healing time for all of us.

**The Community is away on holidays from May 3rd until May 23rd.
THE ABBEY IS THEREFORE CLOSED.**

The next Oblate Meeting is on Saturday, 18th April. Oblates Mary and Graham McCall will be leading the prayer.

Happy Feast Day to:

Tony Anselm Tarleton, Alfred Anselm Breznik, Robert Anselm Cashman, Kate Anselm Trevenen, for **April 21st**.

Claire Catherine Devlyn and Marie Catherine Gleeson, for **April 29th**.

Brigid Julian Inder, Rev. Catherine Julian Eaton, Colleen Julian Hines, Therese Julian Proctor, Jean Julian Reid, Patricia Julian Morgan, Margaret Julian Crooks, Sr. Julian Barbara Garwood, for **May 13th**, Bl Julian of Norwich.

David Brendan Mumford for **May 16th**, St. Brendan.

Paul Godric Griffiths, Wendy Godric Orrock,, Ian Godric Thomas, for May 21st.

Doreen Rita Soballa, and Laynie Rita Pullen, for May 22nd – St. Rita of Cascia.

Happy Anniversary to:

Sr. Mechtild Crawford, for March 2nd.

Helen Seraphim Shorter, for April 16th.

Margaret Thomas More Whetham and Ewa Maria Teresa Komorovska, for April 19th.

Sr. Hilda Scott, for May 4th (Solemn Profession Anniversary)

Andrew Stephen Davies for May 11.

Rosalie Barnabas Jacques for May 23.

Necrology

APRIL

07 - Sr. Mary Monica Hardy (1956)

10 - Sr. Mary Aelred Bradshaw (1959)

17 - Sr. Mary Editha Thompson (1983) – See Community History section.

- 23 - Mother M. Ignatius Harnett (1915)
- 27 - Sr. M. Magdalene Parkinson (1900)
- 28 - Sr. M. Placida Burrows (1859)

MAY

- 1 - Sr. M. Veronica Brown (1992)
- 2 – Sr. M Dolores Haselden (1951)
- 4 - Sr. M. Angela Regan (1859)
- 17 – Most Rev. Charles Henry Davis.

SECTION SEVEN: Saints

St. John Climacus has some wisdom for us about WHAT WE SHOULD NOT REMEMBER.

He teaches: “The memory of insults is the residue of anger. It keeps sins alive, hates justice, ruins virtue, poisons the heart, rots the mind, defeats concentration, paralyses prayer, puts love at a distance, and is a nail driven into the soul.

Remembrance of the Passion of Jesus will heal your soul of resentment...when it remembers the patience of the Lord.

Forgetting offences is a sign of sincere repentance. If you keep the memory of them, you may believe you have repented but you are like someone running in your sleep.”

SECTION EIGHT

A Reflection for Anzac Day

To remember the fallen
Is not to remember how they fell
But to remember why, and for
what.

To remember the fallen is not to
remember their actions
But to remember the dream for
which they fought.

To remember the fallen is not to
remember how they fought

But to remember who they fought
for.

To remember the fallen
Is to remember their reason,
To remember their dreams
To remember those they fought
to save.

(Annalissa Range)

If you are responsible for the Anzac Day Liturgy in your Parish, this is a beautiful poem. It is found on her website.

THE JULY MEETING IS NOW
CANCELLED. IT IS THE
SOLEMN PROFESSION DAY FOR
ONE OF OUR SISTERS. THE
DATE OF A SOLEMN
PROFESSION CANNOT BE SET
ANY MORE THAN FIVE
MONTHS IN ADVANCE. A
SISTER HAS TO BE ACCEPTED
BY THE COMMUNITY AND

THEN THE BISHOP HAS TO BE
AVAILABLE. I AM SORRY TO
CANCEL, BUT THERE IS NO
OPTION.