

**PAX - WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE
EASTER and EASTERTIDE, 2021**

SECTION ONE: READING AND REFLECTION

Theme: Proclaiming the Resurrection of Jesus.

Let us pray:

Help us, O risen Lord, to proclaim your Resurrection **by bringing good news to the poor, and healing hearts that are broken.**

And St. Benedict says: *Go to help the troubled and console the sorrowing. RB 4:18 & 19.* This is our Ministry for Eastertide.

Help us, O risen Lord to proclaim your Resurrection, **by feeding those who are hungry and clothing those who are naked.**

And St. Benedict says: *Relieve the lot of the poor. Clothe the naked. RB 4:14 & 15.* This is our Ministry for Eastertide.

Help us, O risen Lord, to proclaim your Resurrection **by welcoming strangers and visiting those in loneliness.**

And St. Benedict says: *Visit the sick. RB 4:16. Guests are welcomed as Christ. RB 53:1,7,15.* This is our Ministry for Eastertide.

Help us, O risen Lord, to proclaim your Resurrection **by bringing your peace to those who are in trouble, and your joy to those who are in sorrow.**

And St. Benedict says: *Go to help the troubled and console the sorrowing. RB 4:18 & 19.* This is our Ministry for Eastertide.

These prayers come from a selection of Biblical Prayers, originally written by Lucien Deiss, C.S.Sp. and published as “Biblical Prayers” in 1976. This book contains orations, blessings, and litanies. Lucien Deiss is also remembered for his Biblical Hymns, which we gained permission to use in the 1980s. They probably wouldn’t be popular today, but their authenticity will remain, because they were the first biblical hymns written after the Second Vatican Council. His “Biblical Prayers” are long out of print but may be available on eBay.

SECTION TWO: FURTHER READING AND REFLECTION

From: *The Rule of Benedict, Insights for the Ages*, by Sr. Joan Chittister: *Into a democratic country and a highly individualistic culture, into a society where personalism approaches the pathological and independence is raised to high art, the Rule [of Benedict] brings a chapter on listening and wisdom. (p.176).*

We proclaim the Resurrection of Jesus by listening in a new way, and respecting in a new way, teachers, colleagues, the elderly. Easter is about an empty tomb and new life.

Ronald Rolheiser sets us on a firm foundation when he teaches that it is FAITH, we need first of all: *to believe in the resurrection of Jesus is to be*

comforted, comforted at a level so deep that nothing in life is ultimately a threat any longer. And in proclaiming the Resurrection of Jesus, we say that in the Resurrection, the hand of God soothes us and the voice of God assures us...(page 133, "The Passion and the Cross", by Ronald Rolheiser).

SECTION THREE: ABOUT THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT

RB Chapter 71, Mutual Obedience.

Mutual obedience is about relating to one another, sharing with one another, communicating with one another. It is about give and take in any situation. Sr. Joan Chittister says of mutual obedience that it is about listening and wisdom. "The rule says that we are not our own teachers, not our own guides, not our own standard-setters, not a law unto ourselves...It is a chapter dedicated to making us see the elderly anew and our colleagues with awe and our companions with respect." (The Rule of Benedict, Insights for the Ages, page 176). The chapter on Mutual Obedience is a chapter about peaceful living. Paul says: "The peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." The message of the Risen Lord is peace.

"Since wars begin in the minds of human beings, it is in the minds of human beings that the defenses of peace must be constructed." (Constitution of UNESCO).

Easter tide then is a time when we proclaim the Risen Lord by living in peace, talking peace, thinking peace.

SECTION FOUR: COMMUNITY HISTORY

For those interested, I have just handed in the first draft of my thesis: *Obsculta – A study in Benedictine Continuity of Charism and Tradition*. The thesis deals with the first one hundred years of our community's history in ten chapters, plus seven appendices. It has been a hard four years. Now I am in the fifth year and will hand in the final draft sometime in this first semester. It is now with the supervisor and associate supervisors. Then it comes back to me to incorporate their suggestions. Finally, eight examiners have to read it and probably tear it apart! Whatever happens, it will later be published as a book. After that, I have been appointed to write the next book, a following on from our relocation to West Pennant Hills and then to Jamberoo. I wouldn't say 'no' to some prayer at this point!

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 4, until the Second Sunday of Easter, April 11, no Feast or *Memorial* is celebrated because of this SOLEMN week of Liturgy. The Liturgical Calendar for the rest of Eastertide is printed here for your reference.

April 11: Second Sunday of Easter. Divine Mercy Sunday
 April 18: Third Sunday of Easter.
 April 21: St. Anselm.
 April 25: Fourth Sunday of Easter and Anzac Day. Liturgical note: Although today is Anzac Day, a Sunday in Eastertide takes precedence over this commemoration. The Easter prayers and readings will provide suitable texts for remembering the fallen, and Anzac themes can find expression in the music, homily, intercessions and church decorations.
 April 26: St. Mark the Evangelist (Feast).
 April 28: St. Peter Chanel
 April 29: St. Catherine of Siena
 May 02: Fifth Sunday of Easter
 May 03: Sts. Philip and James (Feast)
 May 09: Sixth Sunday of Easter
 May 13: A day to honour Blessed Julian of Norwich
 May 14: St. Matthias, Feast
 May 16: The Ascension of the Lord.
 May 23: PENTECOST SUNDAY.
 THIS IS THE OFFICIAL CONCLUSION OF EASTERTIDE. I have taken the next week also, since it is the week following Pentecost.
 May 24: Our Lady Help of Christians (Solemnity in Australia)
 May 25: St. Bede of England.

SECTION SIX: YOUR COMMUNITY

Death Notice: Sr. Petra's aunt in Indonesia has died from the Covid virus. It is a very hard time for Sr. Petra because she cannot go to Jakarta (Covid 19 restrictions). Please pray for her. Her father has tested positive for the virus, but so far, there are no symptoms. Her mother and sister are free of it. Let us remember each day when we go to prayer that someone somewhere is dying from this horrible virus.

Bob and Colleen Cashman have moved from their unit into the Nursing Home, at St. Joseph's, Old Maitland Road, Sandgate, 2304. We continue to pray for them. If you want to send a card to them, I'm sure they would be grateful.

Prayers go out to all Oblates who are ill at present, and to those who are caring for siblings, and spouses who are ill.

Happy Feast Day to:

April 21: Tony Anselm Tarleton, Alfred Anselm Breznik, Robert Anselm Cashman, Robert Anselm van Oort, and Kate Anselm Trevenen,
 April 29: Claire Catherine Devlyn, Marie Catherine Gleeson, Kathleen Catherine Daysh, for St. Catherine of Siena
 May 13: Patricia Julian Morgan, Brigid Julian Inder, Rev. Catherine Julian Eaton, Colleen Julian Hines, Therese Julian Proctor, Jean Julian Reid, Margaret Julian Crooks, Sr. Julian Barbara Garwood, Sandra Julian Cooper
 May 22: Laynie Rita Pullen and Doreen Rita Soballa.

May 24: Amanda Mary Hickey
May 25: Alan Bede Hickey, Heather Bede Thompson, Cheryl Bede
Townsend, Patrick Bede Quinn, Antonio Bede Zaragoza, and
Fr. Kevin Bede Walsh.

I am sorry for overlooking the feast days on 25 March. These should have been in the Lent Booklet: Jenny Ancilla Shirvington, Linda Mary Moir, Mary (of the Annunciation) Wyatt, Bernadette Mary Maher.

Happy Anniversary to:

April 16: Helen Seraphim Shorter.
April 19: Margaret Thomas More Whetham
April 19: Ewa Maria Teresa Komorowska
May 4: Abbess Hilda Scott, (Solemn Monastic Profession).
May 24: Ivan Benedict Fitz
May 25: Phyllis Magdalen Rodrigues, Clare Therese Sydenham,
Rev. Jeanette Therese McHugh and Phillip John Wilson

Necrology

APRIL

17: Sr. Mary Editha Thompson (1983)
23: Mother M. Ignatius Harnett (1915)
27: Sr. M. Magdalene Parkinson (1900)
28: Sr. M. Placida Burrows (1859)

MAY

01: Sr. M. Veronica Brown (1992)
02: Sr. M Dolores Haselden (1951)
04: Sr. M. Angela Regan (1859)
17: Most Rev. Charles Henry Bishop Davis (1854)

SECTION SEVEN: SAINTS

St. Athanasius, whose feast day is 2 May, lived from 295-373 (before the time of St. Benedict). He was a native of Alexandria, a deacon and secretary to his bishop at the Council of Nicaea (325), where he disputed effectively with the Arians. The Arian Heresy denied the true Divinity of Jesus Christ. In 328 he was elevated to the episcopal See of Alexandria. Because he refused to readmit Arius to the Church, he was deposed by the Synod of Tyre and exiled by the emperor. He was able to return to his See when the emperor died but was exiled again four times until the people rose up to compel the authorities not to interfere with Athanasius' theological and pastoral position. His literary output was extraordinary. His works include: Three Discourses against the Arians, Defense against the Arians, a legendary Life of St. Anthony, and exegetical works. Monastics claim him for his life of St. Anthony of Egypt, who gave away all his possessions and took on a life of asceticism in the desert. He became more well-known and rather an authority on desert monasticism when the desert movement began to flower. He is considered to be the father of the desert monastics.

From the sayings of Anthony of Egypt, also called Anthony the Great

A hunter in the desert saw Abba Anthony enjoying himself with the brethren and he was shocked. Wanting to show him that it was necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the brethren, the old man said to him, 'Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it.' So he did. Anthony then said, 'Shoot another,' and he did so. Then Anthony said, 'Shoot yet again,' and the hunter replied, 'If I bend my bow so much, I will break it.' Then Anthony said to him, 'It is the same with the work of God. If we stretch the brethren beyond measure, they will soon break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down to meet their needs.' When he heard these words, the hunter was pierced by compunction and greatly edified by Anthony, he went away. As for the brethren, they went home, strengthened.

SECTION EIGHT: FOR REFLECTION

After death, something new begins over which all powers of the world of death, have no more might. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise." (John Strett).

The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope, which makes us have confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake. (Cardinal Basil Hume).

This is the end of this edition of "Pax with the Gospel for your Guide. The next edition will be Post-Pentecost 1, and will cover three months: June, July and August.



He is Risen!
Image by Chinese artist He Qi