

*Rejoice and be glad for the Lord is risen as he said, Alleluia!*

# Reflection Easter Season

This is the good news we have been awaiting and preparing for during the days of Lent, and now is a time for rejoicing: the Lord is truly risen, and this great Easter event ushers in a wonderful time of reflecting with awe and gratitude on all that the Lord has done for us. This time of newness of life and possibility is much-needed in our troubled times. The Resurrection of the Lord signifies the keeping of a promise, the possibility of hope, and a future for all those who would believe in the risen Lord. What we experience in these heady days is the triumph of goodness over evil, life over death, light over darkness, beauty over all that is ugly and soul-destroying, joy over sadness and grief, hope over futility. For those who believe, nothing is impossible for God.

We began the season of Lent with liturgies that involved the use of ashes and our liturgies reminded us that we are dust and will return to dust; in the meantime, we were reminded that we need to prepare for the celebration of Easter by consciously aligning our lives with the gospel and taking to heart the good news promised to us. A wonderful image often called to mind at this time of the year is that of the phoenix. In classical mythology, the phoenix is a bird that burned itself on a funeral pyre and was born again from the ashes. In very recent times, we have been reminded as Church that the taste of ashes is bitter; there is much for which we need to be forgiven and much for us to change to more truly reflect the Easter message and the ultimate good news promised to us by the Lord. The promise of life to the full, hearts made joyful, and hope for the future are there for us, and contain the seeds of hope for a reconciled Church that can once again preach the good news of the risen Lord to all people. In a sense, the Church is like the phoenix, needing to rise up again out of the ashes of bitter experiences and witness to the truth. In truth, the Lord is no longer in the tomb but has gone before us. We cannot afford to wait around; the spirit of the risen Lord urges us on with joy and hope in our hearts.

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During the Easter Vigil in many of our parishes, catechumens were initiated into the life of the Church. They were baptised, confirmed and celebrated their first Communion, and now as fully initiated members of the community, they continue their journey. Others, baptised in other Christian Churches, were received into full communion with the Catholic Church. They have accepted the invitation to come and see and they now provide us with a further sign of hope. They have come to faith in the risen Lord and their enthusiasm and gratitude for their faith is indeed heartening. The Easter season is a time for all of us to give thanks to God and to reflect on all that has happened, and to take the deep meanings intended to provide us with the ways and means to live our lives full of Easter hope and joy. In RCIA terms, this Easter period is a time of Mystagogia, that is, a time for the community and neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist, and doing the works of charity.

Reflecting on the Easter Vigil, Fr. Richard Leonard SJ, makes the following observation:

*"There are several images in the Exsultet that help us name our joy: freedom from slavery; an end to fear; the triumph of life over death; and God's utter fidelity to his son, Jesus. The Exsultet proclaims that God has not done this because we have earned or deserved it, but simply because he loves us. ..We have never done anything that can earn God's saving love. It is a completely unearned, unmerited, and undeserved gift, given to us in Jesus Christ. Our response to this gift is how we conduct our daily Christian lives, disclosing to others our justice and joy that we have found the best way to announce that life can be found where others only see death."*(Richard Leonard: What are we hoping for?)

With the celebration of Easter, the Alleluia refrain of joy has reappeared in our liturgies and urges us on with great hope.

**Kathy Horan**  
RCIA Coordinator

## Adult Confirmation

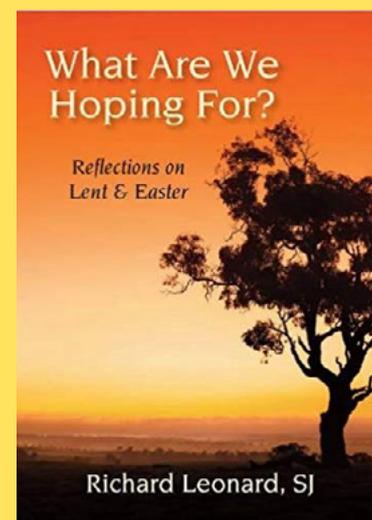
As in other years, there will be two opportunities provided for Adult Confirmation celebrations. Both celebrations will take place in the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide.

Details are as follows:

- First Confirmation Celebration:** Saturday 15 June, 6pm  
**Preparation Session:** Saturday 1 June, 1.00pm to 2.30pm  
Cathedral Hall Music Room
- Second Confirmation Celebration:** Saturday 9 November, 6pm  
**Preparation Session:** Saturday 6 October, 1.00pm to 2.30pm  
Cathedral Hall Music Room

Please make this information known in your parishes, and encourage candidates to make contact with Alison at the Office for Worship on 8210 8130 or on email [worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au)

## NEW RESOURCE



**AVAILABLE MOST  
BOOKSTORES**

We've got a  
**NEW LOOK**  
and a  
**NEW WEBSITE!**

[www.ofw-adelaide.org.au](http://www.ofw-adelaide.org.au)

OFFICE FOR  
WORSHIP



An agency of the Adelaide Archdiocese

We invite you to check out our new website for news, information, training courses and registrations. This has been constructed by Alison Appleby, the OFW Office Administrator, who will update and maintain the website on our behalf. Feedback welcomed!

# Lenten Stational Masses

2019

We have just completed a series of seven Deanery Stational Masses during Lent. These have provided opportunities for the faithful to come together in Deanery clusters to pray together and celebrate the Eucharist as part of our journey towards Easter.

In each place hosting the Stational Masses, there has been a wonderful spirit of hospitality and welcome for people who have travelled from across the Deanery to be present. Another feature of the Stational Mass experience has been the presentation to the communities of those seeking full communion with the Catholic Church – a sign of hope to all of us.

## 2019 RCIA State Conference

There will be a  
State RCIA Conference  
this year, from  
**11th to 13th October**

The conference will begin late afternoon  
on Friday, 11th October,  
and will conclude at lunch  
on Sunday, 13th October.

**Venue: The Monastery, Glen Osmond.**

**Keynote Speakers:**

**Fr. Elio Capra, SDB, and  
Sr. Bernadette Kiley O.P.**

Further details about the Conference,  
costs and registration will be available soon.

**Please save the dates!**

## Mass for New Catholics Sunday 12 May, 6pm at St Francis Xavier Cathedral

Please extend a welcome and invitation to all new Catholics and those who have supported them in the RCIA process. A light supper will be provided after Mass. We ask that you contact us at the Office for Worship to confirm numbers attending the Mass to assist with catering.

## 70th MARIAN PROCESSION & Peace Rally

*Celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church*

**Sunday May 19, 2019**

Pilgrim Peace Park - next to Veale Gardens in the South Parklands

Assemble: 1.30pm | Procession: 2pm

**This is a significant way to honour Mary, and a good way for our new Catholics to join with other parishioners from across the Archdiocese in giving thanks to God for her role in bringing Jesus into the world.**



# ALIVE IN CHRIST

Initiation in the Catholic Church

Presented by Kathy Horan

## Come and learn about the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

- Where it came from?
- Why the Second Vatican Council brought it back after centuries of absence
- Gain a new understanding of your own Baptism and faith

Commencing Wednesday 15 May, 7pm to 9pm (for 6 weeks)

Venue: Adelaide Cathedral Hall (39 Wakefield St, Adelaide)

Cost: \$50 per person (payable on first evening)

To book your place, please contact the Office for Worship  
by Friday 10 May 2019

Email - [worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au)

Phone - 8210 8130



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP

[www.ofw-adelaide.org.au](http://www.ofw-adelaide.org.au)

REGISTER ONLINE

Go to: [www.ofw-adelaide.org.au/alive-in-christ-registration](http://www.ofw-adelaide.org.au/alive-in-christ-registration)