The Miraculous Medal Association Australia

AMM National Office,
172 Balaclava Rd,
Marsfield, NSW 2122.
Phone: (02) 9886 8910
Email: info@amm.org.au
Website: www.amm.org.au

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Incorporating AMM Sydney, New South Wales & AMM Adelaide, South Australia

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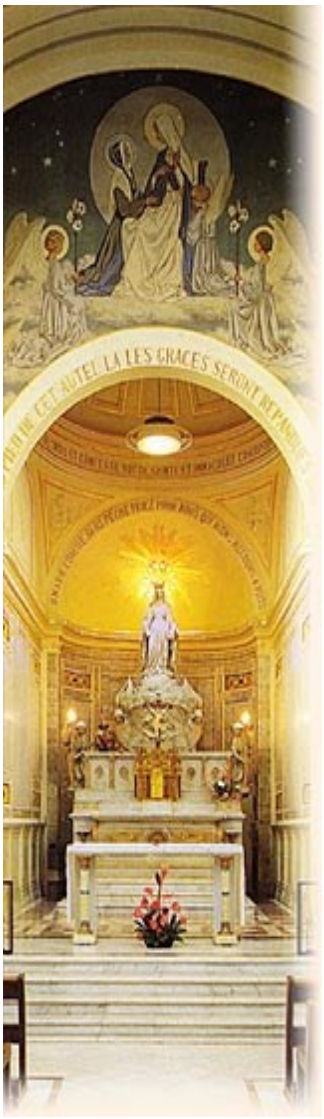
Easter Reflection 2022:

By Fr Kevin Canty, CM (National Director)

I would like to commence this reflection with a quotation from Fr Richard Rohr, OFM, a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico Province, a writer of a number of books and reflections, and the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque , New Mexico. He writes:

"Christ crucified is all of the hidden, private tragic pain of history made public and given over to God. Christ resurrected is all of that private, ungrieved, unnoted suffering, loved and transformed by an all-caring God. How else could we believe in God at all? How else could we have any kind of cosmic hope? How else would we not die of sadness for what humanity has done to itself and to one another? Jesus is the blueprint, the plan, the pattern revealed in one body and moment of history to reveal the meaning of all of history and each of our lives. The Cross is the banner of what we do to one another and to God. The resurrection is the banner of what God does to us in return. Easter is the announcement of God's perfect and final victory."

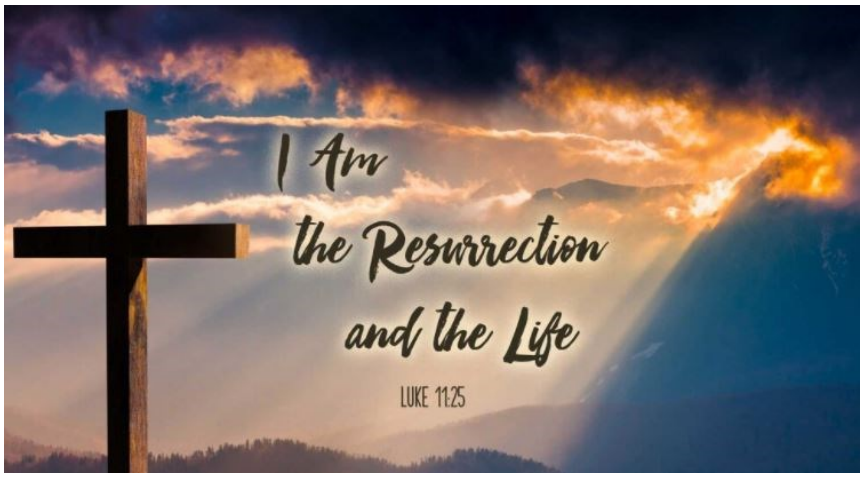
The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the core of the Christian Gospel. St Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and hope are in vain (1Cor 15:14) Certainly without the resurrection, there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The apostles of Christ would have continued as the disheartened group which the gospel of John depicts being in hiding for fear of the Jews. They were in total despair until they met the risen Christ. Then they touched Christ's wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with him. The resurrection became the foundation of everything they said and did.



Nevertheless Easter did not always signify Christ's resurrection from the dead and the purpose of Easter was considerably different than what Christians observe today. The feast day of Easter was first a pagan holiday of renewal and rebirth. Honoured in the early spring, it praised the pagan Saxon goddess Easter. When early Christian missionaries converted the Saxons to Christianity, the Spring holiday, because it occurred near the same season as the traditional memorial of Christ's resurrection from the dead, was joined with the pagan festival, and became known as Easter. The meaning of Easter was also changed to honour its new Christian significance.

Let us conclude here with a beautiful prayer by the Rev Brian McLaren

"*Living God, the risen Christ is on the move among us, but often we don't recognise him. Like Mary Magdelene, we weep by the tomb, interpreting events in their worst possible light, until we hear the risen one call our name. Like the men walking to Emmaus, we think the bad guys have won, until we see Jesus alive in the breaking of bread. Like the disciples on the beach, we go back to our old lives of fishing, while the risen Christ is on the beach making a fire for a breakfast we're about to catch. Like Saul of Tarsus, we blindly surge forward doing our religious duty—even when it includes religious violence—until an unrecognised voice arrests us on the road, and when we ask, 'who are you, Lord?' we hear the answer, 'Jesus, the one you are persecuting.' So now, where we face disappointment, discouragement, lack of faith or hope, or lack of conscience—we open ourselves this Easter morning to discover that you are already here, unrecognised. Today, may we once again hear our name, recognise Christ in the breaking of bread, cast our nets again, and know the good news that the Lord is risen indeed, "alleluia!"*



Did you know that:

- You can send your special intention to be included in our monthly Novena mass through the Novena prayer intention in the website.
- For any enquiries or request for medals, please email info@amm.org.au or phone the AMM office at 9886 8910.

Have a blessed, safe and happy Easter 2022!

Double milestone celebration and the first AMM Novena Mass in 2022

By Bianca Kallukaran

In the first month of 2022, the AMM members in Australia were blessed to celebrate some milestones of their long-time serving priest , Fr Kevin Canty, CMM. On 16th January 2022, members of the AMM in both Marsfield and Ashfield gathered together with parishioners of St Vincent's Church in Ashfield for the mass celebrated by Fr Kevin Canty and St Vincent's Ashfield Parish Priest Fr Joti Bilowalu CM.

Fr Kevin's homily was filled with inspirational stories about his family, his vocation, all the people who have accompanied him on his journey (including his beloved "flock" at St Vincent's who showered Fr Kevin - much to Fr Kevin's humble "embarrassment" - with prayers, loving wishes, beautiful stories, and a magnificent cake with his picture on it). There was a true fellowship at the morning tea in honour of Fr Kevin's faithfulness and commitment to his vocation. The cherry on top, was just over a week later, when Fr Kevin celebrated his birthday, marking another milestone in his life, and making it another reason for AMM members to come together to celebrate the life of their beloved priest.

On the first Saturday of February 2022, members of the AMM, Marsfield Community celebrated the first Novena Mass of the year, which was followed by the first morning tea since the lockdowns started and Fr Kevin's birthday celebration.

After many months of not being able to gather for morning tea after mass, many members were jubilant about being able to gather in fellowship especially to celebrate a special occasion. It was also a time to be reconnected with other members since most of the members would have only seen each other after two months since AMM novena masses re-commenced. What a refreshing time of fellowship to start a new month of the year, and to do so ever journeying with Our Blessed Mother and Our Lord in the Liturgy and in the Novena!

Top photo: Fr Kevin's priesthood jubilee cake prepared by the Vincentians in Ashfield. Middle photo: AMM members in Ashfield and Marsfield who attended the jubilee celebration. Bottom photo: First morning tea held since the lockdown started and Fr Kevin's birthday celebration in St Anthony's church in Marsfield.