

# Newsletter

## Issue 19

### March 2024



Image by Cathy Murrowood

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**Public lectures 2024**

The Centre will present several public lectures across 2024. Monitor our website for details.

**Online training programs**

Our next online training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is scheduled to commence on 9 April and our next local online training program for Ministers of the Word is scheduled to commence on 4 June. See our website for details and to enrol.

**Professional learning seminars**
**8 – 11 July, THLS606 Celebrating Liturgy Today: Exploring the Ritual Enactment of Faith (online)**  
**3 and 4, 17 and 18 August, THCT608 Theology of Marriage and Holy Orders (online)**  
 View our website for details.

 Visit [acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy](http://acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy) for further details.

**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Keeping the Lenten fast physically and liturgically, celebrating Holy Week, and completing the initiation of catechumens into our faith communities requires a lot of energy and can result in feelings of relief, jubilation, and accomplishment as we celebrate the Triduum and commence the 50 days of Easter Time. It can sometimes be a challenge to maintain our festive momentum throughout those 50 days, as we are invited to sustain our joy, repeatedly voice our ‘Alleluias’, and engage in an extended celebration of the gift of Baptism, the new covenant inaugurated through Christ’s Passover, and the promise of Resurrection Christ made to all who believe in Him (as our Easter Time lections emphasise). Easter’s invitation to expansive exaltation provides us with the opportunity to move beyond surface-level happiness to bone-deep joy as we are reminded of what awaits the faithful beyond our mortality: an eternity of divine communion and beatific vision.

In our newsletter’s feature article, Sr Dr Veronica Rosier OP delves into the beauty of Easter Time’s 50 days by exploring ways to maintain the joy across this ‘one big Sunday’ wherein we focus on the most important part of Christian faith. In ‘Sharing Good Practice’, Dr Paul Taylor offers some welcome advice on the Paschal Candle, which shines forth Christ’s light to lead us through the joyful Easter season and highlights practical ways to care for and maintain the brightness of this special liturgical object.

In a world that prioritises immediacy, may Lent’s penitential preparations and Holy Week’s deep dive into Christ’s Paschal Mystery prime our hearts and heighten our anticipation of celebrating Easter’s long Sunday of joy.

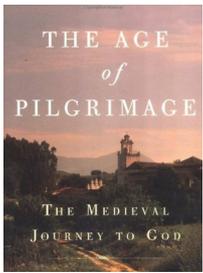

**Professor Clare V. Johnson**

 Director, ACU Centre for Liturgy  
 Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy

 SC@60+ Symposium Mass (Cantor - Larissa Cairns)  
 Photo - Cathy Murrowood

 SC@60+ Symposium Mass (Gribben and Murrowood)  
 Photo - Cathy Murrowood


## FROM OUR BOARD OF ADVISORS



Recently I read Johnathon Sumption's book, *The Age of Pilgrimage*, which looks at the development of Christian pilgrimage in the medieval world. A fascinating piece of scholarship, it got me thinking: Who among us, at some point in our life, hasn't wanted to go on pilgrimage?

Well, when I think about it, the liturgy of Holy Week, the Triduum, is our invitation to embark on a pilgrimage of sorts. It's an invitation to journey with Jesus. The journey to his passion and death during Lent, for many of us, has felt interminable. Perhaps, it has felt as though it has endured for years.

Yet, renewal and joy are abundant all around if we take the time to look. In the liturgies of Easter, we celebrate not only the mystery of Jesus's resurrection over death in his own time, but we celebrate

also how the miraculous event lives on into our own time, too.



**Fr Anthony Casamento, CSMA** has been Vice President of ACU since August 2017. Prior to this appointment, Fr Anthony was Director, Identity and Mission at ACU from 2011, and commenced as Chaplain to the North Sydney (MacKillop) Campus in 2010.

## NEWS AND RECENT EVENTS

Professor Teresa Berger (Yale University) offered a most engaging online public lecture on 6 November, addressing 'Liturgy's Imagined Futures: Beyond Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy'. On 3 – 5 December 2023, the Centre hosted a highly successful scholarly symposium at ACU's Melbourne Campus, marking the 60th anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. Rev Prof John F Baldovin SJ opened the symposium by delivering a fascinating public lecture titled 'A Liturgical Reform in Peril? *Sacrosanctum Concilium* Sixty Years On'. Invited scholars presented peer-



Image by Clare Johnson



reviewed papers on a range of relevant topics, and participants celebrated a special 60th anniversary

Mass featuring a new musical composition by Fr Christopher Willcock SJ and enjoyed a gala dinner.

On 30 January 2024, Professor Clare Johnson facilitated a professional learning day on Liturgy and Prayer in Catholic Schools for the staff of Sacred Heart Primary School (Croydon, Vic) aided by Dr Paul Taylor who provided music for the Mass.

On 3 February, Cathy Murwood began a new Ministers of the Word online training program with two large groups from Lagos, Nigeria. The Centre's training programs are available to participants from anywhere

in the world with internet access.

Maryanne Hemsley has moved into a new role as the Centre's Program Coordinator.

In 2024 the Centre, in collaboration with ACU's Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, is proudly offering two professional learning opportunities for clergy, teachers, pastoral associates, and interested others. Professor Johnson will present 'THLS606 Celebrating Liturgy Today: Exploring the Ritual Enactment of Faith' as an online intensive on July 8, 9, 10 and 11 (9am – 5pm) and 'THCT608 Theology of Marriage and Holy Orders', an online weekend intensive, on 4, 5, 17 and 18 August (9am – 5pm). Professional learners can choose from a selection of available sessions, and the Centre provides certificates of completion for those applying for professional development hours through their organisations. Further details will be available soon on our website.

## LITURGY SPOTLIGHT

# The 50 Days – Paschal joy extended: one great big Sunday



Once a year, the Church honours Christ's resurrection with utmost solemnity. The oldest, longest, and most festive season,

Easter is the high point of the liturgical year. The resurrection is the turning point in history. Above all other seasons it is a time of great Christian joy and hope, the celebration of what we are now and of what we too will be some day. God draws us into the paschal mystery of his beloved Son who has conquered the forces of sin and death and now lives in us, the Church.

Easter Time is a period of 50 days, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. These seven weeks are celebrated as one "great Sunday": a week of weeks, with Pentecost as the 50th day, the grand finale of Easter (7 x 7 +1). We are now commissioned to: "Go into the whole world and proclaim

the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

The Easter season is the overflow of the Paschal Triduum, the Christian Passover. At the sacred Easter Vigil the Church keeps watch, awaiting Christ's resurrection from the dead. The Vigil's climax is the most solemn Eucharist of the entire year, more so than Holy Thursday. In the paschal mystery of Christ, made present and active in the liturgy, we "become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pt 1:4). On this night of our redemption and gladness, heaven is joined to earth and divine realities are joined to earthly ones (Rev 21:1-8). Easter Sunday – Sunday of the Resurrection – signifies the first

day of creation, and Easter's final Sunday, Pentecost, the eighth Sunday, is the *first* day of the *new* creation.

When the liturgy of eight Easter Sundays is allowed to speak for itself in all its symbolic richness, it has the power to form and nourish our Catholic Christian identity.

The great symbol of the Easter candle proclaims and honours the presence of the risen Lord of life: "Christ is risen, Alleluia!" It is lit in the octave of the first eight days celebrated as a solemnity of the Lord, and in all liturgies through to the solemnity of Pentecost. Baptism calls us to walk as children of this light. It is lit at Mass for those who have died in Christ, gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

The rite for blessing and sprinkling of water as a memorial of Baptism may be used in place of the penitential rite (*Roman Missal*, Appendix, p. 1508). Singing is an expression of joy and an expression of love. The Gloria and Alleluia (absent in Lent) are sung. We praise God with *Alleluias* on our lips, so consider using the seasonal

Responsorial Psalm 118(117): "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia!" or Psalm 66(65): "Cry out with joy to God all the earth, alleluia!" Reserving one of the parish's musical Mass settings for use during Easter as well as a setting of the Gospel Acclamation is effective.

All the readings of this one great Sunday are from the New Testament, using the principle of continuous reading: the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of John. The second reading consists of excerpts from 1 Peter, 1 John, Revelation and 1 Corinthians.

The Eucharistic Prayer offers a choice of five Easter prefaces. Poignantly, each concludes: "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 ... 'Holy, holy...'"

Fresh altar linens, best white or gold vestments, and fresh flowers welcome worshippers with a display of ongoing festivity. Processions and incense, enthronement of the Book of the Gospels,

lectors and presider well-prepared to proclaim the readings, and periods of silence observed at requisite times. Holy Communion during Mass is meant to be from the altar, not the tabernacle. Such attention speaks of the *Ars Celebrandi*, the art of proper celebration that fosters the community's full and fruitful participation: paschal joy extended (Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 38-42).

If we do not grasp its full significance this year, one of the reassuring characteristics of the liturgical year is that "One Great Big Sunday" will return next year.



**Sr Dr Veronica Rosier** OP BTheol (SCD), MA(Music) Monash, MEd (RE) Boston College, PhD (CUA) has taught liturgy in Australia, including at ACU, and

is the author of numerous publications including *Liturgical Catechesis of Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest* (Leuven: Peeters, 2002).

## SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

# Care of the Paschal Candle: Let Christ's Light Shine!



Image by Sarah Gould

Following the lighted paschal candle through the darkened church at the start of the Easter Vigil and then lighting a taper from the paschal candle is a powerful experience of sharing in Christ's Resurrection from the dead. The lighted paschal candle symbolises the risen Christ among the community of believers. To keep that symbolism of "light in the darkness" fresh and effective, it is very important that the candle's lighted flame be visible to members of Christ's body. The following practical suggestions are designed to assist your care of the paschal candle so that its light might be visible from Easter to Pentecost and beyond, particularly during the celebration of baptismal and funeral liturgies when the central signs of our Christian faith are highlighted.

- Ensure the candle sits vertically in the stand in order to prevent bending over time.
- Trim the wick to around 5mm before every burn. This helps the flame burn evenly.
- Check that the wick stands straight up before lighting so that the wax melts consistently.
- It is suggested that the first burn of the candle should be for one hour for every 2.5cm diameter.
- For safety, use a taper to light the candle rather than a match or a lighter.

- To conserve the candle's life, avoid having it lit for more than four hours at a time.
- When extinguishing the candle, always use an extinguisher; this avoids blowing melted wax away from the candle top.
- If the wick descends below the candle rim, use a sharp knife to trim the top of the warm candle wax slowly (after it has been burning and is still soft), so that the wick is visible once more.
- Place the candle away from draughts as these can affect the evenness of the burn.
- For safety, keep the paschal candle secure within the church and avoid leaving the lighted candle unattended.

For further information, see the websites of Jamberoo Abbey, NSW (Candles – Jamberoo Abbey) and Marklin Candles (USA) (Candle Care - Marklin Candle Design).



**Dr Paul Taylor** is the Assistant Director of the ACU Centre for Liturgy and Organist and Director of Music at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

## Engage our expertise

### Online training programs for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of the Word

ACU Centre for Liturgy's online training programs for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of the Word are innovative and comprehensive short programs incorporating live Zoom classes, extensive online learning resources, and interaction with your parish priest and a local practicum to prepare you well for these special liturgical ministries. These rich and engaging programs are run multiple times a year and are supported by the Bishops Commission for Liturgy.

Visit [acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy](http://acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy) for future dates and enrolment.

### Parish training and formation workshops

ACU Centre for Liturgy offers a variety of in-person specialised training and formation workshops for parish ministers and liturgical musicians. We can also provide detailed advice and specific strategies to improve liturgical celebrations in your parish through a comprehensive liturgy or liturgical music audit.

### Professional development for teachers and religious education leaders

We tailor workshops and professional development sessions for schools and Catholic education offices to extend knowledge of liturgical celebrations and sacramental preparation.

### Develop your skills as a presider at liturgy

Clergy can engage in our specialised professional development sessions on a range of topics from presidential singing to the art of presiding at worship and to the craft of preaching.

### Bring our experts to you

Our academics and specialists are available to deliver keynote addresses, public lectures and conference workshops designed to meet the needs of your organisation or event.

### Study liturgy and sacramental theology

You can study academic courses or undertake higher degree research in liturgical studies and sacramental theology through ACU's Faculty of Theology and Philosophy. Contact us at [CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au](mailto:CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au) for further information.

## Contact us

### ACU Centre for Liturgy

25A Barker Rd, Strathfield, NSW 2135

**Phone:** +61 2 9701 4751

**Website:** [acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy](http://acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy)

**Email:** [CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au](mailto:CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au)

### Centre for Liturgy Staff:

**Professor Clare V. Johnson**, Director

**Dr Paul Taylor**, Assistant Director

**Mrs Cathy Murrowood**, Liturgy Educator

**Ms Maryanne Hemsley**, Program Coordinator



SC@60+ Symposium Mass in ACU Chapel - Choir, dir. Tony Way. Photo - Cathy Murrowood

## The Liturgy Nexus and Liturgy Nexus for Schools

The Liturgy Nexus and Liturgy Nexus for Schools are online subscription-based closed networks run by the ACU Centre for Liturgy and designed for conversation on liturgical issues, resource sharing and problem solving. The Liturgy Nexus links postgraduate-qualified liturgists, current students of liturgy and those working in a liturgy-related profession, such as liturgical architecture, art or music. Membership is granted to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. The Liturgy Nexus for Schools links those preparing liturgical celebrations in school communities. To apply for membership or associate membership, depending on your qualification level, visit our website. Membership costs \$30 per year (not pro-rata), renewable on or before 1 March each year.

## Support our work in rural and low-income parishes

You can support the crucial work of the ACU Centre for Liturgy by making a donation (tax-deductable over \$2) through the **Give Now** portal on our website. ACU is a not-for-profit institution, and 100 per cent of your gift will be utilised to provide formative education in liturgy and sacraments in areas of need. Endowments, bequests and gifts in kind are welcome.

### Board of Advisors:

**Bishop Paul Bird CSsR**, Bishop of Ballarat

**Father Anthony Casamento CSMA**, Vice President, ACU

**Sister Judy Foster SGS**, Liturgical Consultant, Diocese of Townsville

**Professor Clare V. Johnson**, Director, ACU Centre for Liturgy *ex officio*

**Professor Emerita Marea Nicholson AM**, former ACU Associate Vice-Chancellor

**Sister Professor Julia A Upton RSM**, St John's University, New York

**Mr Steven C Warner**, Founder and Director Emeritus of the Notre Dame Folk Choir, Associate Director of the Notre Dame-Newman Centre in Dublin, Ireland

## ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY

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