

# Celebrating Easter 2009

## *Living in solidarity with the Risen Christ*

**Please come and join us this Easter...**

Welcome to our celebration of the three great days which culminate in the Easter Vigil and the celebration of the resurrection.

During Lent, our parish family has been reflecting on the theme of *living in solidarity* and the meaning of God's love for us and our commitment to the good of each and every person.

On Holy Thursday we celebrate Jesus' solidarity with us as he washed his disciples' feet and hence our feet and shares with us the Eucharist, the bread and wine of new life, his Body and Blood. We are nourished and shown the meaning of the commandment of love in this profound gesture of love. We are invited to commit ourselves to the service of others. As Jesus says, "in so far as you did this to one of the least of my bothers and sisters, you did this to me."

On Good Friday we process to the cross in solidarity with all people around the world who are denied justice and human rights which leads to suffering and oppression. We are invited to stand in solidarity with them. Jesus unites himself to us in the solidarity of love and loves us to the end so that our sins are forgiven. As Jesus prays for his persecutors, he says, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." To the good thief, he gives the promise of eternal life.

At the Easter Vigil we join together to celebrate the new life of baptism as children of God. Baptism is the gateway to eternal life after a life lived in the work of building God's kingdom. The celebration of the baptism of an adult reminds us powerfully of this gift of new life, the life of the sacraments, and the promise of eternal life. Jesus' solidarity with the dead promises the new life of heaven to all people.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection with great hope and joy. Easter requires fifty days of celebration until Pentecost. Often we forget the wonder of this feast. During the time we are invited to deepen our appreciation of this feast and pray for the children and young people who will be receiving the sacraments of confirmation and holy communion this summer.

May you all enjoy a blessed and joyful Easter.

Father John Sherrington