

# SCHOENSTATT MOVEMENT



*The Spirit of the Lord hath filled the  
whole earth, Alleluia*

## WA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

**Schoenstatt Shrine Pilgrimage Place**

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The month of April is dedicated to **The Holy Spirit**. The entire month falls during the **Easter** season.

The liturgical color is white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored).



## POPE FRANCIS INTENTIONS

### **The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of April 2024**

**For the role of women:** We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

### **Highlights of the Month**



As our Lenten journey comes to a close we prepare to follow Christ all the way to the cross and to witness His glorious Resurrection. Hopefully we have sacrificed and prayed so that we are now able to more fully reap the fruits of a well spent Lent. After our solemn commemoration of the last days and death of Our Lord we will spend the remainder of the month of April celebrating. As Autumn develops even nature will join us as buds, blooms and leaves begin to fall and we spend this month basking in the joy of the Resurrection. We continue throughout the entire month with our cry, "Christ is risen, Christ is truly risen."

The Feast of Divine Mercy offers us the opportunity to begin again as though we were newly baptized. The unfathomable mercy of God is made manifest today if we but accept His most gracious offer. Easter is the feast of feasts, the unalloyed joy and gladness of all Christians. This truly is **"the day that the Lord has made."** From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the Easters of this earth will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again with glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father.

**Focus of the Liturgy:** The Mass readings for the Sundays of April follow the Easter season for Cycle B. The Weekday readings follow the annual Easter readings.

**April 7th**

**Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy Year A,B,C:**

**John 20:19-31:** Eight days later Jesus appears to the Apostles after the Resurrection and the story of the doubt of St. Thomas.

**April 14**

**Third Sunday of Easter Year B: Luke 24:35-48:** Thus it was written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.

**April 21**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday Year B: John**

**10:11-18:** The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**April 28**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B: John 12:20-33:** "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

**The feasts and saints that we will focus on this month — those who have already shared in the rewards of the Resurrection are:**

**Solemnity of the Annunciation** will be celebrated on **April 8** since the 25th March fell in Monday of Holy Week. The feast was superseded by the Holy Week liturgy.

**Sts. George and Adalbert** (April 23), **St. Fidelis** (April 24), **St. Mark, Evangelist** (April 25), **St. Catherine of Siena** (April 29), and **St. Pius V** (April 30). These feasts of are superseded by Octave of Easter or Sunday liturgies: **St. Francis of Paola** (April 2), **St. Isidore of Seville** (April 4), **St. Vincent Ferrer** (April 5), **St. John Baptist de la Salle** (April 7), **St. Stanislaus of Cracow** (April 11), **St. Martin I** (April 13), **St. Peter Chanel** and **St. Louis Marie de Montfort**, (April 28).

### **A Time of New Life**

April boasts the most solemn and sublime events of human history:



### **the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ – the Paschal mystery.**

Though the way to the Resurrection was the *Via Crucis*, the Sacrificial Lamb of God is now and forever Christ our Light, the Eternal high priest of the New Covenant. And his sorrowful mother, the *Stabat Mater* of Good Friday, is now the jubilant Mother of the *Regina Caeli*.

We the members of Christ's Mystical Body exalt in the mystery by which we redeemed. If in Baptism we were buried with Christ, so also will we share in his resurrection. By his death we were reborn; "by his stripes we were healed." (Is 53:5) Easter, the epicenter of time, is the event that links time and eternity. It is indeed "the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.

(Ps 118:24 This item 12547 digitally provided courtesy of CatholicCulture.org

**He is risen! Alleluia!** We have reached our goal: Easter, the day we celebrate Christ's resurrection. This is the single most important feast day of the Church. In the words of the Eastern church calendar this is "the sacred and great Sunday of the Pasch, on which we celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and God, the Savior Jesus Christ" (Francis X. Weiser, S.J., *The Easter Book*). With Christ's death and resurrection, Christ has conquered sin and death, the gates of heaven are now open to man. This is the Feast of Feasts, the Solemnity of Solemnities, the highest Feast of the Church, the holiest day of the year.



**The celebration of the Easter Vigil is the beginning** of the season of Easter. The Vigil is the Christian feast par excellence, the feast of new birth, new beginnings, salvation renewed, and humanity restored to the Lord. While the Vigil marks the end of the paschal fast, the end of the celebration of Holy Week, and the end of repentance and conversion for which Lent prepared the



community, it is much more a beginning. It is the beginning of a new season of grace and a time of joy and thanksgiving, for Easter is not one day or one solemnity—it is a **fifty day celebration**, and the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday together comprise what the General Instruction terms "**the great Sunday**".

## **An excerpt from Archbishop Costelloe SBD'S Easter Message 2024**

Dear friends, this Easter, I invite you to remember that Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and alive with us, is at the heart of Easter, just as He is at the heart of the Church, and of every aspect of the Church's life. He calls to us and asks us to make room for Him so that He can be the companion on our journey, enabling us by His presence among us to love as He did. I invite each and everyone of you to open your hearts to Him, let Him be the way you follow, the truth you believe and the life you live- and do not be afraid, for He loves us with an everlasting love. May you all have a happy and Holy Easter.



## **SCHOENSTATT W A**

### **Daughters of Mary Lenten Activities**

We began 2024 with a Beach Day for young women, mothers and daughters on Saturday 17 February. We gathered at Cottesloe Beach early in the morning and were greeted with a delicious breakfast at one of the shelters prepared by Laura & Emily. After prayer reflecting on Lent, and warming up games organized by Daria, all girls mounted our paddle board and had a great time in the water. Mums enjoyed chatting ashore.





The next point on our program was Mass at St Patrick's Basilica, Fremantle, where we were surprised to have a festive Mass in honour of the founder of the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate. All of the fathers

living in Perth were gathered at this Mass to renew their vows and celebrate their community feast day. We were also blessed for the final part of our program: lunch at Leighton Beach BBQ area

prepared by Daria, Adriana and families. A breeze brought relief from the heat and we had the BBQs all to ourselves. A final reflection where each one received a shell with a small silver cross hidden in the sand as a



reminder that Jesus is the precious pearl of our lives... and it is in the cross that we experience his love for each one of us the most.

**During the Marian Lenten Retreat weekend** on the Labor Day long weekend, five ladies made the covenant of love with our Mother



Thrice Admirable on Sunday 3 March at the 2pm Mass in the Shrine. We met in two preparation groups – one at the Shrine, and one at St Columba Parish, South Perth for our weekly preparation sessions. As a group we admired Mary's

humility as the vessel of the Holy Spirit,

strengthening us with her love and trust, and interceding for us peace and joy. May she be able to use each of us as her instrument to build God's kingdom wherever we are.



**On Saturday 16 March** we had our first parish session for mothers and daughters this year about suffering, and imitating Mary's virtue in the sorrowful moments of her life.

For the first time, we were able to gather at All Saints Parish, Greenwood. We began the afternoon with ice breakers and afternoon tea, and then had separate mother and daughter sessions finishing with a prayer in the church. Many thanks to

Laura for facilitating the mothers session for the first time, and Emma for her assistance with the girls session. After a game about



offering up small and large suffering, and a discussion, the girls made a cross key ring using beads and wire. It is a wonderful blessing that we could welcome three new families to the event.

Finally, on Sunday 24 March the Holy Week retreat for women was held. After introducing each other and an opening prayer where we offered our intentions for the day in the symbol of wheat ears to God, we heard a thought-provoking talk from Sharne about



suffering and its purpose in our lives based on Fr Kentenich's thoughts on suffering as essential element of the Christian life together with work and prayer. It also became clear that it is love that enables us to



endure suffering. We then prayed the outdoor stations of the cross on the hill behind the Shrine and had quiet reflection time. At lunch we were gifted by one another with a wonderful assortment of dishes. The discussion groups then revealed to us how it is important to always focus on God, and trust in the hope for eternal life lying



before us, as well as the grace we already receive now. Our final prayer in the Shrine with reflections on the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary showed us how Mary is both our example and guide on

life's journey focusing on the light even when it is dark. It was a great experience to begin Holy Week in this way, and be enriched by one another's experience of faith.



**“Love proves itself in suffering. ...  
Father Joseph Kentenich**

## Why Me Lord -----The Main Problem

Lord, what is the biggest problem in the Kingdom at the moment??

### You.

I know I have my limitations but.....

Now don't take it to heart. I mean everybody. If each person could point to the person in the mirror and say 'you're the problem' then there would be very few things left to worry about.

Wrangles, wrecked communities and homes.....even wars?

Peace starts when you humble yourself. People always blame others for the discord in their lives and there's some truth in it. But if they emphasised their own contribution, their own failure to love, failure to forgive, failure to listen, failure to give, failure to fast and pray.....

That's quite a list Lord. So the first problem to solve is the one in the mirror?



No masks, no self-righteousness, no reputation to defend. Just the desire for the light that overcomes the darkness and changes all who believe.

It would be hard to offend the Person that already knows they are the problem.

No one can offend them. But I will defend them. **Page 10**

### **Look up at Jesus amid the 'terrible days we are living,' Jerusalem Patriarch preaches at Easter Vigil**

"The terrible days we are living have locked us in, they seem to have annihilated our expectations, to have closed all roads and erased the future," he preached. "But if only we looked up, if only we stopped being self-absorbed by our pain and trapped behind the boulders that keep us closed in our tombs, perhaps we too, just like the women in today's Gospel would be able to see something new, something that is being fulfilled." "Every time fear is conquered, every time a new step of humanity and fraternity is taken, the risen Lord makes Himself present in our life," he added. "May we find Him in all those who are still capable of acts of love and forgiveness, which the world thirsts for today more than ever."

### **Pope Francis: Easter Message 'Urbi et Orbi' (To the City and the World)**

Editor's Note: At noon on Easter Sunday, Pope Francis delivered his message and imparted his blessing to the city and the world (urbi et orbi).

"Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!" he began. "Today throughout the world there resounds the message proclaimed two thousand years ago from Jerusalem: 'Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has been raised!' (Mk 16:6)."

"The Church relives the amazement of the women who went to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week," he continued. "The tomb of Jesus had been sealed with a great stone."

"Today too, great stones, heavy stones, block the hopes of humanity: the stone of war, the stone of humanitarian crises, the stone of human rights violations, the stone of human trafficking, and other stones as well ..."

## COMING EVENTS

### Fridays

- Shrine 10am **HOLY MASS**
- 11am to 815pm **Silent Eucharistic Adoration**

### Third Sunday of the month

- 130pm to 245pm **Formation**
- 3pm **Covenant Sunday Devotion** followed by social and refreshments

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please forward any contributions to Joy and John Doherty for the next edition of "Schoenstatt WA News" by 16th April 2024

We look forward to your input.  
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