EASTER SUNDAY

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:6-7
How does the song go? “What a difference a day makes? Twenty-four little hours…”

This day, Easter Day, makes ALL the difference. It is the day that our living and dying universe became a dying and rising universe. Death does not have the final answer anymore. Make no mistake, before Easter Sunday it most certainly DID. That was proven by every single solitary human being who’d ever walked the earth. Death was something we could all do, and did, sooner or later.

But rising from the dead … ahh, that was new. Beyond new.

We rightly celebrate the day Jesus was born. And we rightly study all the good He did while on earth. And we rightly mourn His unspeakably gruesome and unjust death on that Friday we call good. But there have been many good men and women born, many good men and women who were worth studying, and many men and women who suffered horrible and unfair deaths.

There has been only One Who died, stayed dead for three days, then rose again from the dead.

The chasm – think Grand Canyon deep and wide, multiplied by about a bajillion – that separated us sinners from Heaven has been bridged by two pieces of wood, some nails, and an empty tomb.

We don’t often reflect on sin, and the devastating effects of sin that begin in this life and can extend forever. But think about trying to get from Los Angeles to New York City in a car with a faulty GPS that consistently gave you wrong directions … oh, and you’re locked into this car with chains, and you can’t escape. Ever.

We could not save ourselves. We could not navigate our way into Heaven, because nothing less than perfect enters through those pearly gates. And as good as some people may have been, are, or may be, NO ONE is good enough alone. No one but God is God.

A long time ago our GPS systems were broken just enough that we needed to begin receiving directions on how to get to Heaven from an outside Source. And that Source in His infinite mercy decided that not only would He give us directions, He’s willing to bust into the car, break the chains that bind us, and carry each one of us to Heaven.

Yes, John Paul the Great was right when he said, “We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.” Alleluia, Praise God. We once were lost, but now we’re found.

What a difference a day makes? THIS day makes more of a difference than we could ever express in words. A thousand years from now, as followers of the Risen Christ, we will be celebrating the difference this day makes.

“Thank you Jesus” is not nearly enough, but it’s a start. So let’s say it, and then live it!

HAPPY EASTER, Easter people!!!
The clergy and staff of St. Mel wish all our parishioners and friends a beautiful and joyous Easter celebration. If you are visiting St. Mel today, we welcome you and invite you to come again soon.

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad"

OUR “NEW LOOK” BULLETIN!
This Easter Sunday, we are happy to present you with our new bulletin format. We hope you’ll enjoy the fresh look as well as content that is both useful and enriching. We are sincerely grateful to all those who have responded to the call for advertisers and we encourage our parishioners and friends to please patronize these fine businesses.

Weekday Mass
Monday — Saturday, 8:15 a.m.

Weekend Mass
Saturday Vigil, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15, 9:00, 11:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Parish Center Hours
Monday—Thursday 8:00 a.m. — 8:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 8:30 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Reconciliation
Saturday 3:45—4:45 p.m.
or by appointment

Today’s Readings
First Reading — Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (Acts 10:34a, 37-43).

Psalm — This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

Second Reading — All who are baptized, set your hearts in heaven (Colossians 3:1-4)

Gospel — Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each responds to the empty tomb (John 20:1-9) or Mark 16:1-7 (or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35).

Readings for the Week
Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mt 16:9-15

Pray for Our Beloved Deceased
In your Masses and prayers during the week please remember the repose of the souls of our deceased parishioners and loved ones:

Raymond McIntyre

Bereavement Support at St. Mel
The Group meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the elementary school faculty lounge. All are welcome. Call Ella Sciarra at (818) 340-6020, ext. 1015. Or email: esciarra@stmel.org.

St. Mel Catholic Church
www.stmelparish.org

April 1, 2018

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The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.

– Cardinal Basil Hume
In celebration of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Office of Safe-guard the Children is offering the 2018 Prevent Child Abuse Resource Packet. This year’s packet includes "Keeping Kids Safe" pinwheel stickers, decorations and children’s activities as well as informative articles to help parents and other caring adults learn about how to protect our children and youth.

Through this campaign, we hope to provide another opportunity to transform awareness into action as we affirm every child’s right for a life filled with hope, health and happiness. For more information, visit: http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/protecting/safeguard/Pages/CAPM.aspx.

Did You Know?

Bags in the Basket
Please take a paper bag from the baskets near the entranc-es and return it with your donation of nonperishable food for the Guadalupe Center. We require donations of only nonperishable items as the food is only picked up once a week and it’s a shame to see some of it go bad before we can get it to those it is intended to feed.

This is an important and ongoing opportunity for all of us to help the needy of our community. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity.

Guadalupe Community Center, 21600 Hart Street, Canoga Park, 91303. (213) 251-3549

“I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME”

The Young Adult Legion of Mary
meets Fridays in the Parish Center at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, please contact:
   Mitos Bitong (818) 486-2971
   Joy Rivera (818) 823-8987

For more information, please contact:
   Lourdes Curley (310) 367-7320

The Legion of Mary
Every Wednesday
7:00 PM
Serenity House

Easter Sunday

CrSRicebowl.org

We prayed, fasted and gave alms—and now we celebrate Easter joy! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl ends as we encounter our Risen Lord. We reflect on our brothers and sisters we have walked with, and we commit to bringing Easter joy to each person we meet in our daily lives. You can still turn in your Rice Bowl donation in the collection baskets or at the Parish Office.

Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Encounter Lent

Encounter

THE RISEN CHRIST

Encounter

Please join us next Sunday April 8 for the Angels Way Monthly Bake Sale. We will be available after the morning Masses with mouthwatering homemade baked goods. With your purchases of these wonderful items you support the special blessing that Angels Way Maternity Home is to our community. Please stop by if you would like to know more about Angels Way.

As always, thank you for your generous support.

Life, Justice and Peace Corner

Lent Baskets

To help the needy of our community, please take a paper bag from the baskets near the entranc-es and fill it with nonperishable food. We require donations of only food items as the food is only picked up once a week and it’s a shame to see some of it go bad before we can get it to those it is intended to feed.

On the first Sunday of Lent, we will distribute the bags to those in our community who need the food.
Vacation Bible School
returns to St. Mel again this summer—
July 23rd — 27th
You don't want to miss out! Mark your calendar now for a guaranteed fun week of faith, friends, music, crafts and much more!

To join the team, contact Monica Matthews at mmatthews@stmel.org.

Monthly Bible Study for Women
April 2
First Monday of each month
8:00 — 9:00 p.m.
In the
Serenity House
5108 Serrania Avenue
For more information, contact
Aimee Ostick
aimeeostick@gmail.com

New!
Daytime Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays, May 16 – June 27
For more information, visit www.stmelparish.org and click on "Faith Formation."

7th Annual St. Mel Golf Tournament
Monday April 30
Calabasas Country Club
REGISTRATION: $250 per person or $900 per foursome
Registration Includes: Breakfast, lunch, dinner, fantastic gift bag and post-golf auction.

Go to: www.golf4stmel.com
or contact Tiffany Grana:
tonytiffanytrent@msn.com
**Beyond St. Mel Parish…**

**HOUSE MANAGER WANTED**

The Sisters of St. Louis Convent Manager is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Convent House and its grounds. This position will perform daily management and coordination of staff and vendors to ensure prompt service to the Sisters, while promoting a safe and peaceful environment.

To learn more about this amazing opportunity, please visit [www.louisvillehs.org/page/about/employment](http://www.louisvillehs.org/page/about/employment). Also, please read about the Sisters of St. Louis’ charism, mission and impact around the world at [www.stlouissisters.org](http://www.stlouissisters.org).

Interested candidates should send their resume and cover letter to HR@louisvillehs.org. Please put the job title in the subject line.

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**KINDRED HEARTS**

**CENTERING PRAYER AND LECTIO DIVINA** continues on Tuesday April 10 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**THE GRATEFUL HEART** by Wilkie Au and Noreen Cannon continues on Thursday April 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Please RSVP to Sister Marie Paul Grech, SND at mgrech@sndca.org if you plan to attend either event.

Location: Notre Dame Center
1776 Hendrix Avenue
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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**A Message of Gratitude**

This Lent, St. Mel Parish was one of 13 parishes that participated in the University Series, a multi-parish, adult education program. A project of this magnitude takes months of planning and lots of time, energy and dedication from a large team of volunteers.

Our hospitality was outstanding and provided by the following ministries: Pastoral Council members; RCIA - Jackie Smith, Linda Scuder, Audrey Pon and members; Women’s Spirituality – Cindy Pardi, Tish Hernandez, Susan Butterfield, and members; A41 - Bernie Crowley and members; Filipino American Community– Millette and Rod Cruz and members; Legion of Mary-Mitos Bitong and members; Lectors and Eucharist Ministers-Kerry Edwards and ministers. Special thanks to Alice Dietz for hospitality and for being present at every session.

Thank you to Tom Lavin, Connor Powers and Ruairi Stucchi. Their assistance with technology was essential to the success of the series. We are very grateful to Vanessa Vasquez and attendants for directing the parking.

Special thanks to Amanda Kopang for coordinating the volunteers and Tish Hernandez for her sharing her past experience with the University Series. Thanks to all the facilitators that hosted one of the nine sessions. Thanks also to the many other volunteers that gave their ongoing consistent support throughout the journey.

This team was led by Pastoral Council members Mary Stefanec, Telma Dorsey and Susan Cantwell. Their dedication to the mission of the University Series and St. Mel’s participation in the program was integral to its success. They spent countless hours planning and working to make sure all went smoothly throughout the series. We are extremely grateful to them.

The University Series was well-received and very successful thanks to the efforts of many members of the St. Mel Community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rosemary
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>8 p.m. Bereavement Support — Faculty Lounge</td>
<td>7 p.m. R.C.I.A. — Parish Center</td>
<td>10 a.m. Theresians — Serenity House</td>
<td>7 p.m. Scripture Study — Auditorium</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. Men's Group — Parish Center</td>
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Parish Staff

**Pastor**
Fr. David Whorton, x1014

**Associate**
Fr. Vivian Ben Lima, x1016

**Deacon**
Brian Conroy x1018

**Director of Administration**
Rosemary McLarty, x1019

**Director of Faith Formation & Evangelization**
Dr. Ross Porter, x1013

**Elementary School Principal**
Mary Beth Lutz, (818) 340-1924

**Preschool Director**
Claudia Powell, (818) 340-3180

**Confirmation Coordinator**
Ella Sciarra, x1015

**Religious Education Coordinator**
Monica Matthews, x1022

**Director of Music Ministry**
Francesco Alleruzzo, x1028

**Liturgy Coordinator**
Kerry Edwards, x1025

**Administrative Assistant, Bulletin, Website and Facilities**
Patricia Bobillo, x1012

**Bookkeeper**
Katie Kisiel, x1026

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**PARISH SERVICE**

**Pastoral Council:** Mary Stefanec  
(818) 340-6020, x3022

**Finance Council:** James Hallissy  
(818) 621-5799

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**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

**Altar Servers:** Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1025

**Altar Society:** Catherine Ghaffari (Litens)  
(818) 398-7403

**Church Environment:** Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1025

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1025

**Greeters for Masses:** Margherita Aufmuth mlaufmuth@roadrunner.com  
(818) 222-1303

**Lectors:** Cindy Pardi  
(818) 346-6257

**Liturgy Committee:** Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1025

**MultiMedia Ministry:** Francesco Alleruzzo falleruzzo@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1028

**Music Ministry:** Francesco Alleruzzo falleruzzo@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1028

**Sacristans:** Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1025

**Ushers:** Bob Aufmuth  
raufmuth@roadrunner.com  
(818) 222-1303

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**PERSONAL GROWTH/SPiritual Development/Sacraments for Adults**

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) & Adult Confirmation:**
Dr. Ross Porter  
(818) 340-6020, x1013

**Book and Video Club:** Tom Mackel  
(805) 432-7707

**Men’s Group:** Joe Sukitch  
(818) 225-1546

**Partners in Prayer:** Susie Screbant  
(818) 348-8386

**Legion of Mary:** Mitos Bitong  
(818) 710-9888

**Young Adult Legion of Mary:** Lourdes Curley  
(310) 367-7320

**Rosary Ministry & Eucharist Adoration Coordinator:** Mitos Bitong  
(818) 710-9888

**Therians:** Maty Goodman  
(818) 591-3035

**Women’s Spirituality Circle:** Cindy Pardi  
(818) 346-6257

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**CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**Baptism Preparation:** Lisa Feliciano ifeliciano@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1020

**Teen Confirmation:** Ella Sciarra esiari@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1015

**RCIY (Rite of Christian Initiation of Youth) / Ages 11-14**

**Religious Education PreK-8**

**Sunday Preschool/Ages 3-5 during 9 a.m. Mass**

**Children’s Sunday Mass Dismissal**

**Vacation Bible School:** Monica Matthews mm.matthews@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1022

**Ministry of Moms Sharing (M.O.M.S. Group):** Virginia Dooley  
(818) 497-6292

**Parish Swim Team:** Andrea McIntyre stmelswim@gmail.com  
(310) 849-6928

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**CARING MINISTRIES**

**Ministry to the Sick & Homebound:**
Ella Sciarra  
esciarre@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1015

**Motion Picture Hospital:** Michel Hamaoui  
(818) 222-5498

**OASIS (Older Adult Services and Intervention):**
David Blackham  
stmel.oasis@gmail.com  
(213) 251-3572

**Bereavement Ministry/Funeral Planning / Grief Support Group:**
Ella Sciarra  
esciarre@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1015

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**OUTREACH**

**The Brown Bag Bunch:** Nancy Gruenfelder  
(818) 703-6522

**The Hot Lunch Bunch:** Nancy Gruenfelder  
(818) 703-6522

**St. Vincent de Paul:** Kent Gairdner  
(818) 389-2398

**St. Vincent de Paul (Donation pick up):**  
(800) 974-3571

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**RESPECT LIFE ACTIVITIES**

**Pregnancy Counseling Center**  
(818) 895-2500

**Angels Way Maternity Home**  
(818) 346-2229

**First Friday Respect Life Holy Hour (11:00 — 12:00)**

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**HOSPITALITY/SOCIAL**

**Adult Club:** Irene Strauss  
(818) 344-3333

**Coffee & Donuts:** Leticia Harding  
(818) 614-6606

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**ARCHDIOCESAN SERVICE**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** Russ & Jeanine Walker  
(805) 648-4244

**Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women:** Maty Goodman  
(818) 591-3035

**Virtus/Safeguarding the Children:** Pat Andre pandre@stmel.org  
(818) 340-6020, x1044
ADS
ADS
St. Mel Drama Club Presents

Mulan

Save the Dates!

Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 21, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 22, 2:00 p.m.

All performances to be held in O’Connor Center

For tickets, visit www.brownpapertickets.com
CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS
St. Mel Church #519934
20870 Ventura Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

TELEPHONE
818 340-6020 Ext. 1012

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Patrick Bobillo

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