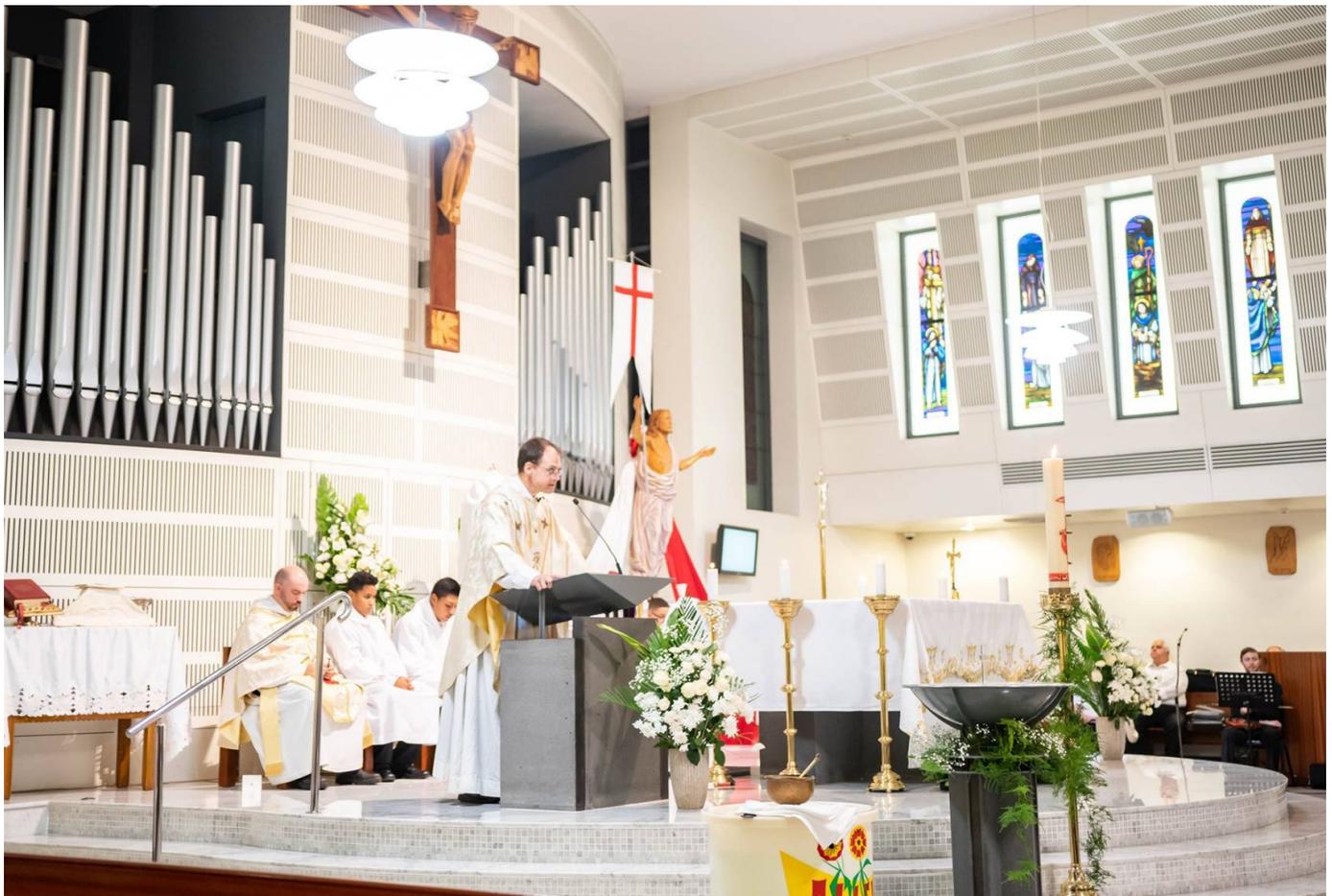
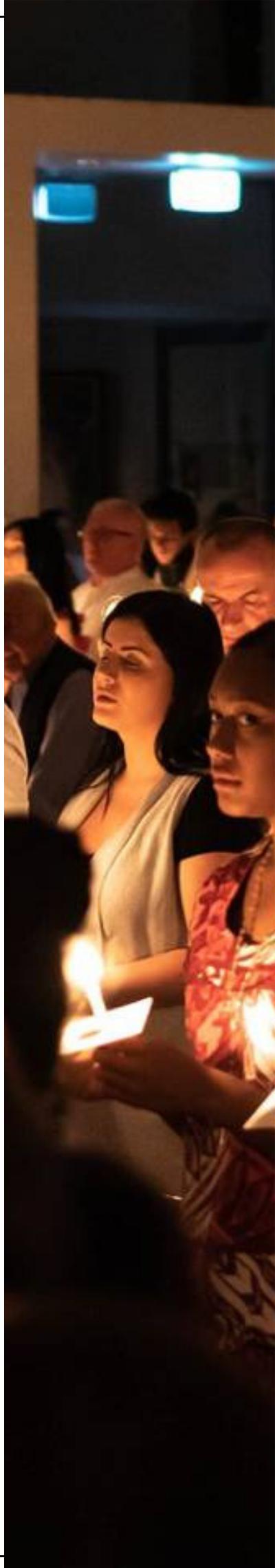


# Easter Vigil Mass Homily

*20TH APRIL 2019*



**By Fr Michael De Stoop**  
(Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary Fairfield)



The Easter Vigil is the mother of all vigils, for in it we celebrate what is so central to our faith; namely: the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ otherwise known as the Paschal Mystery. We celebrate the Paschal Mystery at every Mass, but in a special way at Easter. Accordingly, we have numerous readings during from the Old Testament during the Easter Vigil to help us appreciate the history of salvation. The Church provides seven readings from the Old Testament, but for pastoral reasons, we have only had four, as this is a large Parish.

Yet, there are not 7 books, but 47 books in the Old Testament, and 27 books in the New Testament. Imagine  
if we read all these books tonight. We'd be up all night!

Nevertheless, so that we can better appreciate that what God has revealed throughout the centuries has been revealed fully in Jesus, I am going to summaries every book in the Bible, all 74 books. At this, you may be thinking, "Oh no! How long will that take?" But, don't panic, because this summary will be more like a synopsis. As I provide this synopsis, I wonder if you can recognise what theme all these books have in common.

In Genesis, Jesus is the seed of the Woman.

In Exodus, He is the Passover Lamb.

In Leviticus, He is the Priest, the Altar and the Lamb of Sacrifice.

In Numbers, He is the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night.

In Deuteronomy, Jesus is the Prophet like Moses.

In Joshua, Jesus is the Captain of our salvation.

In Judges, He is our Judge and Law-Giver.

In Ruth, He is our Kinsman and Redeemer.

In 1 & 2 Samuel, He is our trusted Prophet.

In Kings & Chronicles, He is our reigning King.

In Ezra, He is the rebuilder of the broken-down walls of human life.

In Nehemiah, Jesus is our Restorer.

In Tobit, He is the messenger of New Life.

In Judith, He is weakness turned into victory.

In Esther, He is our Advocate.

In 1 & 2 Maccabees, He is the leader who dies for God's law.

In Job, Jesus is our Ever-Living Redeemer.

In Psalms, He is our Shepherd.

In Proverbs, He is our Wisdom.

In Ecclesiastes, He is our hope of resurrection.

In the Song of Songs, He is our loving Bridegroom.

In Wisdom, He is the emanation of God's law.

In Ecclesiasticus, Jesus is our security.

In Isaiah, Jesus is the suffering Servant.

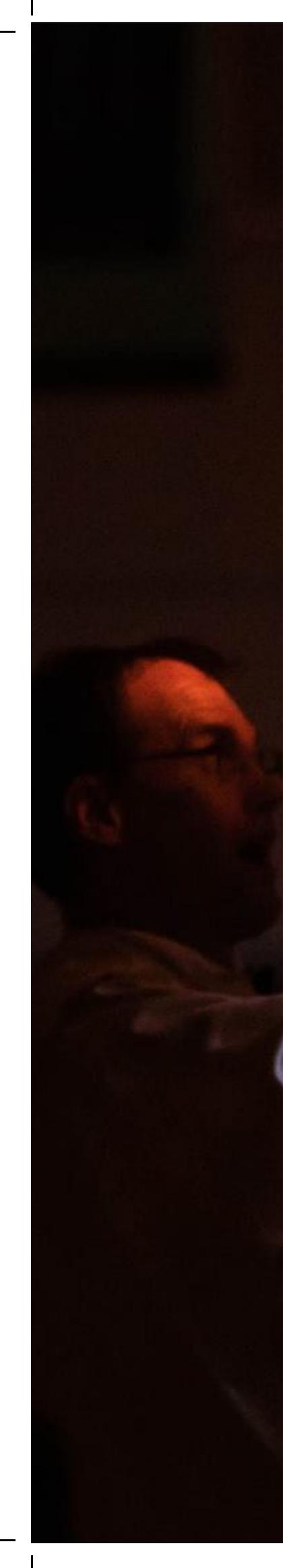
In Jeremiah, He is the righteous wronged.

In Lamentations, He is our weeping prophet.

In Baruch, He is the mercy from the Eternal One.

In Ezekiel, He is the one with the right to rule.

In Daniel, Jesus is the fourth man in the fiery furnace.



In Hosea, Jesus is the faithful husband forever married to the sinner.

In Joel, He is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit, fire.

In Amos, He is the restorer of Justice.

In Obadiah, He is mighty to save.

In Jonah, He is our great foreign missionary.

In Micah, Jesus is the feet of one who brings good news

In Nahum, Jesus is our stronghold in the day of trouble.

In Habakkuk, He is God my Saviour.

In Zephaniah, He is the King of Israel.

In Haggai, He is the signet ring.

In Zechariah, He is our humble King riding on a colt.

In Malachi, Jesus is the son of righteousness.

In Matthew, Jesus is God-with-us.

In Mark, He is the Son of God.

In Luke, He is the Son of Mary, feeling what you feel.

In John, He is the Bread of Life.

In Acts, Jesus is the Saviour of the world.

In Romans, Jesus is the righteousness of God.

In 1 Corinthians, He is the Resurrection.

In 2 Corinthians, He is the God of all comfort.

In Galatians, He is your liberty, He sets you free.

In Ephesians, Jesus is the Head of the Church.

In Philippians, Jesus is your joy.

In Colossians, He is your completeness.

In 1 & 2 Thessalonians, He is your hope.

In 1 Timothy, He is your faith.

In 2 Timothy, Jesus is your stability.

In Titus, Jesus is Truth.

In Philemon, He is your benefactor.

In Hebrews, He is your perfection.

In James, He is the power behind your faith.

In 1 Peter, He is your example.

In 2 Peter, Jesus is your purity.

In 1 John, Jesus is your life.

In 2 John, He is your pattern.

In 3 John, He is your motivation.

In Jude, He is the foundation of your faith.

In Revelation, Jesus is your coming King.



Have you noticed the common theme?  
Yes, Jesus is in every book of the Bible.  
Jesus is foreshadowed in the Old Testament and clearly manifest in the  
New Testament.

He is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.  
He is the Keeper of Creation and the Creator of all.  
He is the Architect of the Universe and the Manager of all Time.  
He always Was, He always Is and He always Will Be,  
Unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated and never undone.

He was bruised and brought healing,  
He was pierced and eased pain,  
He was persecuted and brought freedom,  
He was dead and brought life.  
He is risen and brings power,  
He reigns and brings peace.  
The world can't understand Him,  
Armies can't defeat Him,

Schools can't explain Him  
And the leaders can't ignore Him.

Herod couldn't kill Him,  
The Pharisees couldn't confuse Him,  
The people couldn't hold Him,  
Nero couldn't crush Him,  
Hitler couldn't find Him,  
and the New Age can't replace Him.

He is Life, Love, Longevity and Law.  
He is goodness, kindness, gentleness and love.  
He is holy, righteous, mighty, powerful, good.  
His Way is Right, His Words Eternal.  
His rules unchanging, and His mind is on me.  
He is my Redeemer, His is my Saviour, He is my God, He is my Priest,  
He is my Joy, He is my Comfort, He is my Law, and He rules my life.

Given that Jesus fulfils the deepest yearnings of our hearts, there are some people who will be Baptised tonight, and another person who will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time, as they, too, want Jesus to be the centre of their lives. Let us be sure to make them feel warmly welcome in our worshipping community as we celebrate the triumph of Jesus' victory over death.