

**31 March 2024
EASTER SUNDAY**



Entrance Antiphon

I have risen, and I am with
you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand
upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this
knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

First Reading from the Acts
of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R.
v.24

Response: This is the day the
Lord has made; let us rejoice
and be glad.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Colossians 3:1-4

Sequence

The sequence is said or sung

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our
paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the
Lord. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according
according to John 20:1-9

NEXT WEEK

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
SECOND SUNDAY OF
EASTER YEAR B**

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Resp Ps: Ps 117:2-4. 15-18.
22-24. R. v.1

Give thanks to the Lord for
he is good, his love is
everlasting

Second Reading: 1John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen

Anyone who has been up at the crack of dawn will know of the beauty of the first hint of the sun rising. It is a moment of anticipation. As it was for the women hurrying to the tomb 'as the day was dawning', 'just as the sun was rising', as the gospels tell us.

What a setting of the scene! Dawn is breaking. The power of darkness is being dispelled.

The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced,

the Power of Darkness which had Jesus cruelly tortured,

the Power of Darkness which had Jesus buried in the pitch-blackness of the tomb.

That Power of Darkness is being conquered by the life-giving energies of the now Risen Son

The menacing and gloomy power of the Prince of Darkness, whose principal warrior is Death, was vanquished by the Son-Rise of all sunrises flooding our world and the whole of human history with divine light and energy.

Those women who had gone to the burial site with oils and spices to do loving service to the body of Jesus were inspired to understand that the empty *tomb* was, in reality, an empty *womb*. The earth could not contain the death-annihilating new life of Jesus the Nazarene, Jesus the Christ, Jesus the Son of God. Our world, our history was earth-quake opened and filled with the creative presence of the Risen Lord. This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the entry to the Church. From that earthly element we lit the Easter Candle, we processed in: the Exsultet was sung.

'Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.'

Our faith is that an earth-shattering event occurred – that the tomb carved out of the earth was unsealed by Divine Power!

That is what the women first saw, simply an empty tomb. They did not see the resurrection itself, which is nowhere described in the gospels. But they were inspired to believe that he was risen as he said. And the women went running to tell the news to the disciples. It was *women* who were the first bearers of the message of Our Lord's victory over death, a message which they proclaimed to *men*:

men who did not believe that the *grave* injustice done to the most innocent man to walk the earth could be set right;

men who did not believe that the *deadly* violence done to the greatest exponent of non-violence could be healed;

men who did not believe that Death could be done to death.

Eventually, the men *did* believe, and we gather here today because *we* believe:

that grave injustice has been set right – and can be set right again and again

that deadly violence has been healed – and can be healed again and again

that Death *has* been done to death – and *can* be done to death again and again

because the Son has risen.

'O Death, where is thy sting? O Death, where is thy victory?'

His body was transformed by the energy of Divine love. The power of love had risen superior to the merely biological. The power of Divine love had risen superior to death and its warriors; entropy, exhaustion and decay. This power is not confined to the body of the Nazarene. We can, by grace, participate in the resurrection life of Our Lord Jesus Christ. A glorious destiny awaits us, heralded on the first day of the week as dawn was breaking. The Son was Risen, flooding our world, our history, with divine light and energy.

The Son is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!

HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Stations of the Cross; Friday 7pm during Lent
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12

Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm
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 Email: varroville@dow.org.au
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Parish Priest:
 Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
 Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Meetings and Gatherings

Friendship Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9am.
Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom. (30 April)
Fiesta Committee Meeting Save the date for our first planning meeting for 2024 on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm.
Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.
Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am.
Fundraising Team meeting is on Wednesday 24 April at 7.30pm.

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.
Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.
Children’s Choir will meet on Friday 19 April at 7.30pm.
Childrens Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm.
Youth Ministry is on fire for faith, friendship and specially for God! All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Una Champion, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, , Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Francisco Carmona, Lola Moors, Rosario David, Rodney Smith,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Fr Tadgh Tierney ocd, Veni Menezes, Bien Cortez
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

07 April	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Laura, Jeanne & Volunteer	Patricia & Volunteer
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana & Elijah	Orly, Fisiilose & Claire	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Tess & Aida	Tim & Volunteer
Refreshments	Myra & Volunteer	Steve, Sarah & Volunteer	Fev & Maree
CLOTW		Sarah & Janny	
Flowers	Maria & Estela	Church Vacuuming	Pawan & Effie
Counters	Louise & Lina	Foyer Cleaning	Wicks Family

Our Parish Notices:

Community Notices

Friendship Group will be this week on Tuesday 2 April at 9.30 am after the 9am Mass.



Divine Mercy Sunday 7 April: Please join us for confession, adoration, rosary, the chaplet and benediction from 2pm. We will be celebrating Holy Mass at 3pm. In preparation for the Feast of Mercy, pray the Divine Mercy Novena every day from Good Friday.

Fiesta Committee Meeting The first planning meeting for 2024 will be held on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm. The date for our **Parish Fiesta is Sunday 14 July 2024**. Come along and show your support to help with the preparations.

Altar Server Training will be held on 4 Saturdays during April at 4pm. For anyone wishing to become an Altar Server and for those already serving, it is a refresher. For more info call the parish office.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation; The dates for these Sacraments are available on our parish website and registrations are being accepted via the Parish office.

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes can be returned to the parish office now. On behalf of everyone at Caritas Australia, I want to thank your parish once more. Without your ongoing support, dedication and commitment, the work we do would simply not be possible. The inspiring stories we have shared during lent are living proof that your generosity travels far and wide, and can create better opportunities *for all future generations*. FIND US ONLINE: Visit the Caritas Australia website for more information about Project Compassion, including online donations, go to CARITAS.ORG.AU/PROJECT-COMPASSION. Receipts for those who have requested one will be issued in May.

Holy Land Appeal on Good Friday The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, March 29th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling

with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you. Supporters will also be able to donate online via credit card at the DOW website <http://dow.sh/HolyLand>

Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony: The annual Acies of the Campbelltown Curia hosted by Our Lady of the Holy Family Praesidium Ingleburn will be held at 7pm on Friday 5 April at Holy Family Catholic Church Ingleburn. The Acies Ceremony will include Legion prayers, recitation of the Rosary, renewal of Legionary Promises and consecration to Our Blessed Mother Mary, followed by Mass. All are invited after the church service for refreshments.

The Journey - Our DoW Weekly Podcast This podcast is a really simple way to promote adult faith formation and growth in personal prayer life for the faithful of your parish. Thousands access it as an email each week. Tens of thousands hear it across a radio network of around 30 stations. The Journey, 31 March 2024 – this Week: Bishop Brian Mascord's Easter message; let us hesitate no longer. Mother Hilda says the good news is that there's a God who wants only your happiness and your peace. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Byron and Francine Pirola, and Fr Joshua Whitehead. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

Women Alive Retreat – A Spiritual Retreat for Women Saturday 13 April 2024, 9:30am-3:30pm; Venue: St John's Parish Hall, 31 Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown; Please confirm your intention to attend the retreat by messaging Maria on 0433 905 968.

'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage' 10 – 20 October 2024 The itinerary for the 'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop' pilgrimage has been released. Set out on a true Australian Pilgrimage through the life and times of Mary MacKillop, as we rekindle the story, landscape, and spirit of our nation's first saint. Please share this news with family, friends, and fellow parishioners. As it is expected that this pilgrimage will 'sell out', everyone wanting to attend is encouraged to submit your deposit as soon as possible. It is the hope of Fr David Catterall (Parish Priest of St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park) to be chaplain on the October 2024 departure. More info, including the costs and itinerary, can be found at www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/footsteps-of-st-mary-mackillop

Emmaus Silent Retreat Friday 19th April - Sunday 21st April, Varroville: Embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the victorious love of God is revealed through the abiding presence of Jesus. Be renewed in spending time alone with the Lord, and watch as He slowly sets your heart ablaze. This retreat is run by the MGL Sisters and is a retreat for both men and women: trybooking.com/CNSXK

Holy Gospel according to John 20:1-9

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION BY BY POPE BENEDICT XVI 12 April 2009

"Christ, our Paschal lamb, has been sacrificed!" (1 Cor 5:7). On this day, Saint Paul's triumphant words ring forth, words that we have just heard in the second reading, taken from his First Letter to the Corinthians. It is a text which originated barely twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and yet – like many Pauline passages – it already contains, in an impressive synthesis, a full awareness of the newness of life in Christ. The central symbol of salvation history – the Paschal lamb – is here identified with Jesus, who is called "our Paschal lamb". The Hebrew Passover, commemorating the liberation from slavery in Egypt, provided for the ritual sacrifice of a lamb every year, one for each family, as prescribed by the Mosaic Law. In his passion and death, Jesus reveals himself as the Lamb of God, "sacrificed" on the Cross, to take away the sins of the world. He was killed at the very hour when it was customary to sacrifice the lambs in the Temple of Jerusalem. The meaning of his sacrifice he himself had anticipated during the Last Supper, substituting himself – under the signs of bread and wine – for the ritual food of the Hebrew Passover meal. Thus we can truly say that Jesus brought to fulfilment the tradition of the ancient Passover, and transformed it into his Passover.

On the basis of this new meaning of the Paschal feast, we can also understand Saint Paul's interpretation of the "leaven". The Apostle is referring to an ancient Hebrew usage: according to which, on the occasion of the Passover, it was necessary to remove from the household every tiny scrap of leavened bread. On the one hand, this served to recall what had happened to their forefathers at the time of the flight from Egypt: leaving the country in haste, they had brought with them only unleavened bread. At the same time, though, the "unleavened bread" was a symbol of purification: removing the old to make space for the new. Now, Saint Paul explains, this ancient tradition likewise acquires a new meaning, once more derived from the new "Exodus", which is Jesus' passage from death to eternal life. And since Christ, as the true Lamb, sacrificed himself for us, we too, his disciples – thanks to him and through him – can and must be the "new dough", the "unleavened bread", liberated from every residual element of the old yeast of sin: no more evil and wickedness in our heart.

"Let us celebrate the feast ... with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth". This exhortation from Saint Paul, which concludes the short reading that was proclaimed a few moments ago, resounds even more powerfully in the context of the Pauline Year. Dear brothers and sisters, let us accept the Apostle's invitation; let us open our spirit to Christ, who has died and is risen in order to renew us, in order to remove from our hearts the poison of sin and death, and to pour in the life-blood of the Holy Spirit: divine and eternal life. In the Easter Sequence, in what seems almost like a response to the Apostle's words, we sang: "Scimus Christum surrexisse a mortuis vere" – we know that Christ has truly risen from the dead. Yes, indeed! This is the fundamental core of our profession of faith; this is the cry of victory that unites us all today. And if Jesus is risen, and is therefore alive, who will ever be able to separate us from him? Who will ever be able to deprive us of the love of him who has conquered hatred and overcome death?

The Easter proclamation spreads throughout the world with the joyful song of the Alleluia. Let us sing it with our lips, and let us sing it above all with our hearts and our lives, with a manner of life that is "unleavened", that is to say, simple, humble, and fruitful in good works. "Surrexit Christus spes mea: praecedet vos in Galileam" – Christ my hope is risen, and he goes before you into Galilee. The Risen One goes before us and he accompanies us along the paths of the world. He is our hope, He is the true peace of the world. Amen!

