

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

Sunday 30 Mar 2025
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Year C



Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading from the book of [Joshua 5:9-12](#)

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9](#)

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading from the second letter of St Paul to the [Corinthians 5:17-21](#)

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Holy Gospel according to [Luke 15:1-3. 11-32](#)

Communion Antiphon

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.
The Gospel of the Lord

Next week

6 April 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Year C

First: Isaiah 43:16-21

Resp Ps: Ps 125. R. v.3

Second: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

JUBILEE OF THE MISSIONARIES OF MERCY

The Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy recognises those who work to spread mercy throughout the world.



PRAYER

In the name of Jesus Christ crucified and risen, in the spirit of His messianic mission, enduring in the history of humanity, we raise our voices and pray that the Love which is in the Father may once again be revealed at this stage of history, and that, through the work of the Son and Holy Spirit, it may be shown to be present in our modern world and to be more powerful than evil: more powerful than sin and death. We pray for this through the intercession of [Mary] who does not cease to proclaim "mercy...from generation to generation," and also through the intercession of those for whom there have been completely fulfilled the words of the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." (*From Dives in Misericordia, n. 15.*)

TEACHING *From Misericordiae Vultus – Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (2015)*

In 2015, when establishing the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis determined to send out 'Missionaries of Mercy', whom he described as "living signs of the Father's readiness to welcome those in search of his pardon". "18. They will be missionaries of mercy because they will be facilitators of a truly human encounter, a source of liberation, rich with responsibility for overcoming obstacles and taking up the new life of Baptism again." While these designated Missionaries of Mercy were ordained priests tasked with preaching on mercy and facilitating increased opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis also encouraged the laity to show mercy towards everyone they come in contact with. "9. We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves.

"The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other." From Pope John Paul II's *Dives in Misericordia* (1980): "VII. The Church must bear witness to the mercy of God revealed in Christ, in the whole of His mission as Messiah, professing it in the first place as a salvific truth of faith and as necessary for a life in harmony with faith, and then seeking to introduce it and to make it incarnate in the lives both of her faithful and as far as possible in the lives of all people of good will. "14. Christ crucified is for us the loftiest model, inspiration and encouragement. When we base ourselves on this disquieting model, we are able with all humility to show mercy to others, knowing that Christ accepts it as if it were shown to Himself. On the basis of this model, we must also continually purify all our actions and all our intentions in which mercy is understood and practiced in a unilateral way, as a good done to others. An act of merciful love is only really such when we are deeply convinced at the moment that we perform it that we are at the same time receiving mercy from the people who are accepting it from us. If this bilateral and reciprocal quality is absent, our actions are not yet true acts of mercy, nor has there yet been fully completed in us that conversion to which Christ has shown us the way by His words and example, even to the cross, nor are we yet sharing fully in the magnificent source of merciful love that has been revealed to us by Him."

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: 3rd Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Not during April	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12



Contact us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176
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Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Mary Ponnalam, Peter Presdee, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Reg Bucknell, Emma Reyes, Christephur Pereira, Effin D'Cruz, Mabel Artuz.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

6 April 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela & Cecelia	Sarah, Jeanne & Jessica	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Orly	Vu & Nathan
Readers	Candice & Eliarna	Irene & Lee	Niya & Effie
Altar Linen	Nellie	CLOTW:	Josephine & Anne
Counters	Christine & Cira	Church Vacuuming	Gerard & Maritas

Meetings and Gatherings

Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom.

Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Children's Mass is on the 5th Sunday of the month, 30 March at 9.30am

Friendship Group is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

Wrap with Love Knitting group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 11am

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

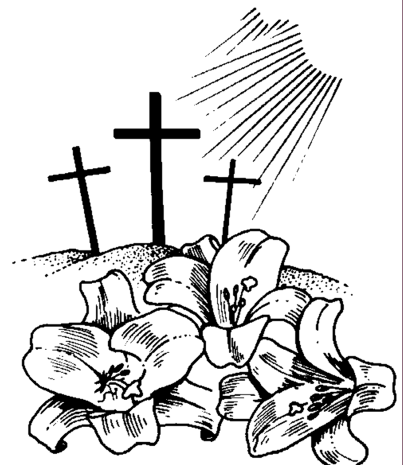
Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

Children's Choir will meet on 3rd Friday at 6pm.

Children's Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Young Adults Group will meet at 6pm every Sunday after 5pm Mass

Ascent Youth Ministry meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30pm.



Parish & Community Notices

Stations of the Cross are held every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the church.

Friendship group will meet on Tuesday 1st April at 10am at Carmelite Missionaries Convent. We will be celebrating Easter. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

Fun'Raising meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 April via zoom. Call the parish office for the link. Thank you to those who supported the Bingo night last Saturday. We had lots of fun and laughs and raised \$695. The Fun'raising team put a lot of preparation time into planning activities for our parish. It is not just about raising funds for the building project. Attending these events is a great way to meet people and build friendships within our community.

Buy a Brick promotion held during January has been very successful and I thank everyone who has supported the venture. Receipts and bricks will be prepared in the next week for those who made donations. Over \$8000 has been donated this year. Thank you.

Building update: As you can see, the building project is underway. It's exciting to watch the progress from week to week. We can look forward to having everything completed before our fiesta in July.

Restoration of Church Benches: We are looking for more volunteers to help with the restoration of the Benches in the Church. Steve Locke and his team are doing a great job but really need your help. If you have a couple hours after the weekday Masses please come along.

Working Bee will be held on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 April to clean up the church and grounds in preparation for Easter. Come along either day for an hour or 2. Bring your cleaning cloths and garden tools.

Easter Services

11 April: Parish Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm
13 April: Passion Sunday Masses 6pm vigil, 9.30am and 5pm
17 April: Holy Thursday Mass at 7.30pm
Adoration at the Altar of Repose until midnight.
18 April: Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 10am
Passion of the Lord at 3pm
19 April: Morning Prayer at 9am
Easter Vigil at 7pm
20 April: Easter Sunday Masses at 9.30am and 5pm
27 April: Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and Devotions from 2pm

Please Support Father David's urgent appeal for Stem Cell Donors across our Diocese Fr David Catterall will soon be undertaking a stem cell transplant. Each year, over 1,100 Australians, like Fr David, search for a stem cell donor to help save their life. Australia's small donor pool means only 80 patients are helped annually, leaving many struggling to find

a match. A simple cheek swab, sent to your home could change someone's life. Becoming a source of HOPE in this Jubilee year. If you're 18 to 35 and generally healthy, you can join Fr David's appeal by visiting stemcelldonors.org.au/appeal/david or scanning the QR code.

Come and See, Go and Make Formation Pathway – April 1 / 2
Our next Formation Pathway evening is next week, and we will explore the topic of Parish Culture and Cultural Change. It's shaping up to be a great couple of evenings and you are most welcome to join us (and bring a friend or 3). And the bookstore will be back in full force - I've got some more great resources for you!

Parish Culture & Cultural Change (Module 106) [7-9pm]
Campbelltown - Tuesday, 1 April
Wollongong/Zoom - Wednesday, 2 April
REGISTRATION: [HTTP://dow.sh/fpapril2025](http://dow.sh/fpapril2025)

A vocation view: God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32). If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Formation Nights on the 2025 Jubilee Year Want to know more about how people across the Diocese can embrace the 2025 Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope. Join one of our zoom sessions on Wednesday 9 or Thursday 10 April. They run for an hour, commencing at 7pm and will be a great opportunity to learn about this very special year of Hope and the grace that God wants to bestow on us.

VOCARIS: PASSOVER, LAST SUPPER, FIRST MASS Join us for an unforgettable night as we celebrate a Passover Meal together, unravelling the deep significance behind Christ's words at the Last Supper, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross! What better way to start your Holy Week! Join us on Saturday, 12 April from 5pm to 10pm at the Wilton Community Centre: Main Hall (20 Broughton Street, WILTON).

Pilgrims of Hope – Youth Camp with YMT: Mon 14 -Wed 16 April; Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre
What: Games, fellowship, food & formation
Who: Youth Mission Team Sydney & a stack of awesome 14-18 y/o's; More info & rego: M: 0428 771 744 / ymt.com.au/istandevents

Penrose Park: Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage, Sat 26 April 2025, Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy Penrose Park, 10am – 3pm
Join us for a special Youth Pilgrimage—a day of prayer, reflection, and encounter as we journey in faith through: Mass, Reconciliation, Rosary Walk, International Chapels, Fellowship & Lunch, and Creative Prayer Stations. Bring your passports to get stamped along the way! Come as Pilgrims of Hope, embracing the grace of this Jubilee Year! To register: dow.org.au/events/penrose-park-jubilee-youth-pilgrimage/

Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.



'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Project Compassion Reflection

One of the most beautiful expressions in the Bible comes from the prophet Ezekiel (Ezk 11:19). 'Thus says the Lord, I will take their hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh.' It is a call to be tender and compassionate.

You would need a heart of stone not to be affected by the stories we encounter today. Most of us have heard the story of the two sons in today's Gospel over and over. The brilliance of the way Jesus tells stories is that it still gets under our skin. Here are two young men who think they can live on their own terms. One has a sense of entitlement and demands his share of his father's estate which he then squanders. He is finally prepared to eat humble pie and find his way home. The other son has a different sense of entitlement. He believes that his hard work and reliability should provide him with a greater share of his father's love. At different times in our life, we can relate more to one or other of these people. Jesus implies that they are both blind to the way God's love works and that they both need to grow. They have both been dead and now must come to life.

The story we encounter this week is also deeply moving. Irene, aged 25, lives in the Kongolo region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her father was killed during a war and Irene lived with her mother on very meagre resources, often going hungry for extended periods of time. Irene first became pregnant as a teenager and later had to raise her two children on her own, with the support of her mother. As a single mother, it was challenging for Irene to care for her two sons without a stable income. Irene's life changed after she participated in the Youth Capacity Strengthening program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Kongolo. Through the program, she undertook training in sewing and livestock farming, enabling her to generate income to support her family.

Our second reading today reminds us that we are 'ambassadors for Christ.' St Paul says, 'for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation.' Let us all be part of building that new creation, setting the world to rights as best we can. Our part is to reach out in compassion and love to heal the wounds of the whole human family. Let us all *Unite Against Poverty* as pilgrims of hope in this Year of Jubilee.

Thank you so much for being part of Project Compassion 2025! Please scan the QR here to find your Diocesan Director's details.

