



Easter message from Bishop Brian Mascord

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

This Easter, in 2026, we pause and find ourselves in a world that faces uncertainty, rapid change, and moments that are testing our resilience. Across our world we see challenges that remind us how interconnected we truly are, but also how strong we can be when we stand together.

Easter is the story of resurrection, the triumph of life over death, of hope over despair, a story of renewal. It reminds us that through the risen Christ, we are reminded that no darkness is too great for God's light, and no burden is beyond God's power to redeem. What seemed like an ending became a new beginning, offering us a living hope that endures through every season. Even after the darkest moments, light can return, hope is not fragile, it is enduring—that new beginnings are always possible, even when they seem distant.

In a time when many feel weary or uncertain, this promise calls us back to faith: that God is still at work, bringing renewal where it is needed most. The resurrection assures us that suffering is not the final word, love is. Grace is. Life is.

At Easter, we celebrate not just tradition, but the quiet courage of people everywhere: those who keep going, who care for others, who choose kindness when it's easier not to. These everyday acts are what shape a better future.

As we reflect this Easter, may we open our hearts to that hope, not as wishful thinking, but as something we actively build in our communities, in our conversations, and in the way we show up for one another. May we be renewed in spirit, strengthened in faith, and inspired to share Christ's love through compassion, kindness, and unity with those around us.

I wish you a blessed Easter filled with peace, joy, and the enduring hope found in the risen Lord. He is risen, bringing light to our world and hope to every heart and a sense of purpose this Easter. Brighter days are ahead, and we will reach them together.

Yours in Christ

Bishop Brian Mascord DD

05 April 2026
**Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of the Lord**

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 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 to Colossians
3:1-4

Gospel Acclamation

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

**Holy Gospel according
to John 20:1-9**

Communion Antiphon

Christ our Passover has
been sacrificed, alleluia;
therefore let us keep the
feast with the unleavened
bread of purity and truth,
alleluia, alleluia.

Next Week
**Second Sunday of
Easter Year A**

First: Acts 2:42-47

Resp Psalm: Ps 117:2-4.
13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

Second: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass:

1st Sunday at 12 noon

Maori Mass:

1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

Filipino Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Weekday Mass

9am each day except Thursday;

Thursday at 7.30pm

Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

Reconciliation

every Saturday at 11am

Devotions & Prayer groups

Adoration with the Rosary:

Saturday at 9.30am

Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass

& devotion: 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm

Divine Mercy Devotion:

3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm

Faith Circles:

every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom

Holy Family Fellowship:

every 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club:

meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Friendship Group:

is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

Bible Study & Reflection

Group: meets Monday at 10am.

Children's Ministry

Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Ascent Youth Ministry:

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

Parish Notices

Divine Mercy Sunday 12 April 2026 from 2pm in the parish church; for praying the Chaplet, adoration, reconciliation and Mass at 3pm.

After Mass Refreshments You are invited to a biscuit and a cuppa after the weekend masses. Our vision is for you to stop and connect with your parish community while enjoying the refreshments. We are not offering brunch or supper. Keep in mind that all the food is donated by our generous ministry team members. You are welcome to bring a plate to share at any of the masses you are going to attend. For more information contact Beatrix 0422925337.

Friendship Group will meet on Tuesday 7 April after the 9am Mass for an Easter celebration morning tea. All are most welcome and bring a plate to share.

Our Pastoral Care Team visit people who cannot attend Mass any longer due to ill health and age. If you know anyone who would like to have a home visit and Holy Communion please call the parish office and submit the persons contact information.

Grief and Loss Support Group was held this week with 14 participants. Our group will continue on a monthly basis for people who have experienced grief and loss in their lives and who would like an opportunity to connect with others in a gentle environment. **Please come along at 10am till 12 on Tuesday 14 April.**

Banns for Diaconate Ordination of Br. Anthony Lisone OATH, on 28 April in Laguna, Philippines. Should anyone know of any canonical impediment that would prevent the candidate from receiving Sacred Orders, please inform the parish office. Br Anthony grew up in this parish and we wish him well in his vocation. Va'a & Katalina have been parishioners here and we congratulate them on supporting Br Anthony through his studies.

Life in the Spirit Seminar The Monday Bible Study & Reflection Group invites you to attend a 9 week series commencing on Monday 13 April at 10 am in the parish meeting room. The topic for week 1 is "For the love of God". For more information and to register please call Nellie on 0411 965 526.

Preparation for our Fiesta in July will commence on Wednesday 15 April at 7.30pm. Please come along for an initial planning meeting.

2026 Sacramental Preparation

As first teachers in faith you as parents are in the best place to judge when your child is ready to participate in the sacramental life of the parish community.

Preparation classes for the children

At least 1 parent/guardian must attend all sessions with their child.

First Holy Communion: For children in year 4 & above

For children who have already completed First Reconciliation

Sessions: 5 x Saturday sessions starting 2 May at 4pm followed by Mass at 6pm

Ceremony: Weekend Masses on 6/7 June 2026

Retreat Day: Friday 5 June 2026: 9am-3pm

Practice: Friday 5 June 2026 at 7pm

Confirmation: For children in year 6 & above

Sessions: 5 x Saturday sessions starting 15 August at 4pm followed by Mass

Ceremony: Sunday 20 September 2026 at 9.30am

Retreat Day: Friday 18 September 2026 9am–3pm

First Reconciliation: For children in year 3 & above

Sessions: 4 x Saturday sessions starting 24 October at 4pm followed by Mass

Ceremony: Saturday 21 November 2026 at 4pm

There is a Parent Formation Session on Saturday 25 July at 4.30pm for all parents to attend.

If you or your children are not currently baptized Catholic, but wishes to be involved in the sacramental life of the church, there is a separate process. Call the parish office to discuss your individual circumstances.



There's a seat for you at the table and You're Invited
 ALPHA is a safe place where you can ask questions about life,
 faith & meaning.

Right now, a seat at the table has been prepared for you.

ALPHA is starting in our Parish on

Tuesday 21 April at 6:45 for 7pm dinner.

Come & See night: **Everyone is welcome**

Come share a meal, watch a film, have a chat, bring a friend

You will be surprised what God can do! For those that have already been to an Alpha come again and share your experience in a safe welcoming environment.

For more details: Contact Paul & Loriana on 0412 216 589 or

Martin & Violeti on 0404 949 474

Over a million Australians have already tried Alpha.

This Easter, let's set the table for thousands more.

All it takes is a simple invitation: "Would you like to come to Alpha with me?"

Free Technology program for older parishioners; Cross+Gen is a FREE program where students support seniors with everyday technology in a friendly relaxed setting held at St Benedict's College Oran Park. Bring along your mobile phone, tablet or laptop and join other people who also struggle with technology.

The dates and times are Tuesday 28 April, 12 May, 16 May, 9 June 12.45-2.30pm.

Please contact Jane from CatholicCare on 0417 018 152 or jane@catholiccare.dow.org.au

Diocesan Youth Sports Festival Young people from ages 15 to 35 are invited to come together for the very first Diocesan Youth Sports Festival- a huge day of sport, faith and community. On Saturday 18 April from 9.30am – 3.30pm at Holy Spirit College, Bellambi. Cost: \$50 per team | \$10 per person. Grab your friends, cousins, youth group or young adult crew and form a team of 7+ to compete in a fast-paced round-robin tournament. The twist? Teams vote on the main sport of the day, so register early and get training! Prefer something lower intensity? A table tennis competition will run throughout the day with plenty of chances to jump in. Morning tea and a BBQ lunch are included, and the day will finish with Mass celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord at St Columbkille Church in Corrimal. Register here: dow.sh/youthsportsfest

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnappalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdryns, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Richard Scolyer, Vladdy Mher Peralta, Pausumu Olaaiga, Bill Scibberas, Bernie Briscoe

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

For our recently departed Eileen Butcher,

Anniversaries that occur at this time Anne La Spina

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

Our Rosters

12 April 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen, Arlene & Berna	Martin, Violeti & Paul	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana, Elijah & Eliana	Vu	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Gabriel & Laura	Niya & Effie
Refreshments	Estela & Myra	Samoan Choir Community	Beatrix & Madonna
Altar Linen	Sr Jill	CLOTW:	
Flowers	Jeanne & Jessica	Church Vacuuming	Marites & Sarah
Counters	Bing & Cynthia	Church Foyer	Estela & Clara
Choir	C/ Nick	Samoan Choir	C/ Grace



Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr Shane Kelleher OCD

Deacon:
Rev Stuart Lake

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
 Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176
 Address: 193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville
 Email: varroville@dow.org.au
 Website: varroville.dow.org.au

Holy Gospel according 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.



Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen

Anyone who has been up at the crack of dawn in Hobart 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.

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!