

## This weeks reflection

**T**he Gospel reading for the 5th Sunday in Lent centres around Jesus' prediction of his death and resurrection, as recorded in the Gospel of John 12:20-33. This passage encapsulates a profound theme of sacrifice, redemption, and the transformative power of faith.

Jesus acknowledges his impending death and its purpose in God's plan for salvation. He speaks of his impending crucifixion as the hour for which he has come into the world. This moment represents the culmination of Jesus's earthly ministry, where he willingly offers himself as a sacrificial lamb for the forgiveness of humanity's sins - for "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

Moreover, Jesus uses the metaphor of a grain of wheat falling to the ground and dying to bear much fruit to illustrate the paradoxical nature of his impending death and resurrection. Through his death, Jesus demonstrates the ultimate act of selflessness and obedience to God's will, paving the way for the redemption and salvation of humanity. This theme of sacrifice and transformation is further emphasised through Jesus's exhortation for his followers to take up their crosses and follow him, implying a call to embrace suffering and self-denial for the sake of the Gospel. (Jn 3:14)

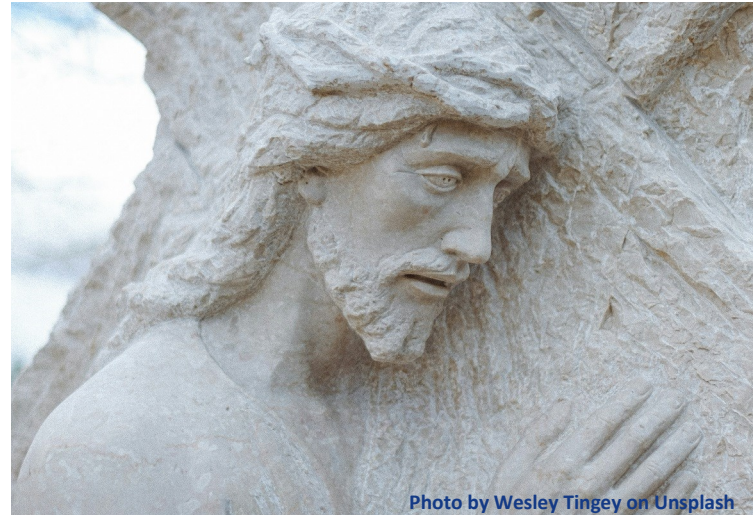


Photo by Wesley Tingey on Unsplash

Furthermore, Jesus's proclamation that "whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also" underscores the intimate connection between discipleship and solidarity with Christ in his suffering. It challenges believers to embody the values of selflessness, humility, and service in their own lives, mirroring the sacrificial love exemplified by Jesus on the cross.

In essence, the main theme of this Gospel reading invites reflection on the profound significance of Jesus's sacrificial death and resurrection and its implications for discipleship. It calls believers to embrace the transformative power of faith, take up their crosses, and follow Jesus in a life characterized by selfless love, service, and obedience to God's will.

Fr. Jack

## Easter Mass Times

**EXTRA RECONCILIATION (additional to Saturdays at 4pm)**

**2nd Rite Reconciliation**

Monday 18th March, 7pm

*The church's 2nd Rite of Reconciliation is a communal rite with shared prayer and a brief individual time with a priest.*

**Extra 1st Rite Reconciliation**

Saturday 23rd March, 3pm to 4.45pm

**Extra 1st Rite Reconciliation**

Good Friday, after 10am Stations of the Cross to midday

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

**Palm Sunday (24th March)**

Weekend Masses as usual

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Thursday 28th March - 8pm

**Good Friday (29th March)**

Stations of the Cross - 10am

Passion of the Lord - 3pm

Liturgy at the Tomb - to be confirmed

**The Easter Vigil (30th March)**

Holy Saturday - 8pm

**Easter Sunday morning Masses (31st March)**

7am | 8.30am | 10.30am

NO EVENING MASS Easter Sunday

# Faith B4U...

## This Lent at OLQP

Pope Francis has invited every Christian community this Lent *'to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment'*. In this spirit, OLQP is offering:

- **Lent around your Table:** A new Lent Card is available at all church doors this weekend – containing simple, relevant reflection questions and the next Sunday Gospel to share with a partner, family, friend or by yourself
- **Prepare for Holy Week (mini retreat):** Tues 19 March in the St George Precia Centre, from 6:30pm All are welcome. Full details on this page under title Invitation.
- **Friday Night Stations, Rosary, Adoration, Benediction:** 7pm - All are invited to this Friday nights Stations of the Cross.

*Here's to an enriching Lent for all - Replies or more info - Parish Office 96318135 or email [anne.hines@olqp.org.au](mailto:anne.hines@olqp.org.au)*

## Helping Others this Lent...

Please consider donating the following items to Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS):

- sugar
- salt
- condensed milk
- nappies, sizes 3, 4 & 5. Other sizes are OK.
- dry chickpeas
- instant coffee
- tea bags
- women's deodorant
- instant noodles

Donated food can be placed into the JRS basket located in the Narthex (main church entrance).

## Invitation

You are warmly invited to prepare for Holy Week by gathering as a community in our journey to the Cross. **Mini Retreat**, this **Tuesday 19th March**, in St George Precia Centre, beginning at 6:30pm with pizza, followed by time to reflect and meditate on key events, finishing at 8:15pm. Note: we will walk together to the Church.

Please rsvp to [anne.hines@olqp.org.au](mailto:anne.hines@olqp.org.au) or parish office 96318135 (for catering purposes)

## Retreats & Pilgrimages

Light to the Nations Easter Youth Pilgrimage - Biannual event for Catholics (singles and families) aged 16+. Camp under the open skies with up to 1,000+ as we celebrate the Easter Triduum, **28 – 31 March** 2024. Visit [www.ltnn.org.au](http://www.ltnn.org.au) for more information

St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre - Easter guided silent retreat **26 - 31 March**. Contact Fr Stephen Dives msc for more info [sdmisc@misacor.org.au](mailto:sdmisc@misacor.org.au) / 4630 0237

Disciples School of Mission Live-in Course, **1 - 4 April**. Be renewed in your own journey, equipped for mission / youth ministry. Visit [discipleschoolofmission.com.au](http://discipleschoolofmission.com.au) or ring Judy MGL on 0479 059 183.

Jesus Light of the World Communities Day Retreat with Mother Mary - "Walk by faith, not by sight", **13 April** at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Rockdale. For more information, please contact Helen on 0433 455 114, Ida on 0426 953 697 or email [jlowcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:jlowcommunity@gmail.com)

Missionaries of God's Love Emmaus Silent Retreat, **19 - 21 April**. Men and women are invited to embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. This retreat will be held at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, and is run by the MGL Sisters. To book visit [trybooking.com/CNSXK](http://trybooking.com/CNSXK)

## Let us pray...

**FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.**

Mary Anjoul, George Attard, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Maria Golkowski, Margaret John, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Delma Ryan, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Grace Widjaya, Jasper Wilhite, Maureen Zarb

**FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.**

Nancy Ciccone, Marie-Josée d'Argent, Mary Saliba, Joseph Sylvester

**FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.** *Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.*

Beverly Byers @ 10.30am 21 Mar, Lolita Estrada, Rita Hoes, Gregory Pathinather @ 10am 23 Mar

We acknowledge the Dharug people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand.

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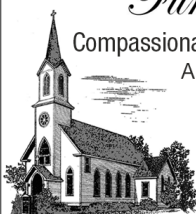
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# Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

## SRE 2024

### Are you looking for a new challenge for the new year.

Now is the time to share your faith with the young people in our local Primary schools. We currently need a teacher for Thursday afternoon. If you are able to assist, or would like further information, please contact Patricia Shaw 9631 8135.

## Volunteers needed for 2024

**Children's Liturgy**- Once a month with a small team to share the Gospel with our young children during either the 8:30am or 10:30am Mass. School Terms only.

For details call Parish Office on:

P: **9631 8135** / E: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

## NOW AVAILABLE - In Person Training!

### Have you had a chance to complete your first three Mandatory Safeguarding Modules as yet?

Face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown on Tuesday mornings in March.

#### • **Module 3: Tuesday 19 March (10.00am – 11.30am)**

To register, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?topic=safeguarding>

You can access your modules online please visit:

<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

*Thank you for working together to keep our community safer.*

## Free online formation on Synodal Spirituality

Dive into 'Synodal Spirituality' with this FREE online short formation course, taught by Sr Patty Andrew OSU. Part of the FaithLIFE series hosted by the Mission Enhancement Team, the course offers an exploration of communal discernment, active engagement, and creative faith responses to challenges in the mission of the Church today.

Enrol now and take part in Pope Francis's vision for a synodal Church:

<https://pfparra.thinkific.com/courses/synodal-spirituality/>

## FEAST DAYS



### This week we celebrate

18<sup>th</sup> Monday **St Patrick**, bishop

19<sup>th</sup> Tuesday **St Joseph**, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### This Weeks Readings

#### 1st Reading

Jeremiah  
31:31-34

#### 2nd Reading

Hebrews  
5:7-9

#### Gospel

John  
12:20-30

### Next Weeks Readings

#### 1st Reading

Isaiah  
50:4-7

#### 2nd Reading

Philippians  
2:6-11

#### Gospel

Mark  
14:1-15:47

## Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

**Memorial Mass** - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

**Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick** - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

### Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, [olqp.org.au](http://olqp.org.au), every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

**Rosary in the church:** Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Join us on...

Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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