

## He took a hammer to the Easter Egg

Easter Greetings from Fr Paul

### Is that the answer?

Happy Easter friends after these many weeks of Lent. I've already used the idea at Easter Mass of taking a hammer to an Easter egg so I better think of something else! Any case, I admit that one wasn't an original idea. I once saw someone else do it – and ask a volunteer child to come and have a look at what was inside. The first child was very upset, as she was expecting to find Smarties inside. But the next one up answered victoriously: *'There's nothing inside!* Worriedly though, he immediately corrected himself; *'oh wait, except the bits of chocolate you just smashed into it!* *Is that the answer?* The kind presenter assured him he was right both times – and went on to talk of the empty egg as representing the tomb of Jesus, which likewise was found empty. Jesus has risen!

### Not Resuscitation

We can add to that lesson that 'resurrection is not resuscitation'. If it was, then Jesus' tomb would have been needed again some time later. Rather, we can say that the resurrection is transformation; an unfolding of human life, to being able to actually be forever! What a remarkable wholeness of life the resurrection of Jesus has made possible for us! One of the further key messages, however, is that this remarkable possibility doesn't diminish this life now, as if it doesn't matter too much. Instead, this life now is the beginning of that wholeness; a beginning of the wholeness that in Jesus' earthly life he called the 'Kingdom of God'. For us believers it's a life, a way, a vision, to be lived 'in the now', that becomes part of wholeness that's forever! The early Christians referred to people who made this choice for Jesus' vision, as being 'Followers of The Way'.

### Not only in 'success' terms

It's this sense of living something NOW that becomes part of FOREVER, that means we don't only judge our lives in conventional success terms. As 'Easter people' it's about what God can do through us. If someone looked at Jesus' life on earth in success terms, they might think it was a bit wasted. They might conclude that he went around trying to live ideals that proved not to be too realistic and died awfully having been condemned and tortured.



### But ...

But what God did with that radical idealism, with that uplifting faith, with that gutsy 'yes' to selfless goodness, with that determination to let God's Way of mercy and dignity and liberation be known ... what God did with that, was so far beyond imagining, that no measure of success is even in the ballpark of comparison! Jesus' life created a glimpse of the 'Kingdom' on earth AND became the material of the eternal Kingdom of life and wholeness. As Followers of the Way, may huge Easter encouragement be yours – as your life too is backed by God to be a glimpse of the kingdom. Beyond the success measures, it's your every 'yes' that matters; your 'yes' of mercy and goodness, your 'yes' to being with others in their stories, your 'yes' of seeking to grow, your 'yes' of risking to love, your 'yes' of creative striving, your 'yes' of openness to God's grace ... these are the kingdom treasures in the now, beyond price, that are the building materials with God of the 'forever kingdom' of wholeness.

As Pope John Paul II quoted of St Augustine in Adelaide while visiting Australia in 1986: **'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!'** May you and your loved ones be really blessed in the amazement of what Easter made possible for the purpose of your life and yes!

**With friendship in God's mission,  
Fr Paul pp – on behalf of the parish team**

# Faith B4U...

## Helping Others ...

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).

## Life and Faith Enrichment

### Prayer and Reflection.

You're invited to a morning of prayer and reflection on **Wednesday 3rd April** from **10am – 11am** in the St George Preca Centre. Morning tea provided, all welcome.

For more information: [anne.hines@olqp.org.au](mailto:anne.hines@olqp.org.au)

## Divine Mercy Sunday - 7th April

### Program starting 2pm at OLQP Greystanes.

- 2pm - Chaplet and Prayer with Adoration and Benediction
- 3pm Mass
- After Mass there will be veneration and time to place petitions alongside the special image
- Fellowship will take place adjacent to the church in the covered space - Welcome to bring a plate to share

**Reconciliation:** Those seeking the indulgence associated with this devotion can attend Reconciliation within the seven days prior or seven days after the day. Reconciliation is not being offered at Greystanes parish on this day.

## 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.**

Leonardo Mastrodomenico

**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.*

John Fyffe 4 April @ 10.30am

## Catholic Faith Enquiry

Do you know someone who might be interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith, wanting to know about Jesus or explore questions to discover more about life and faith?

Please share the gift of faith with others by inviting someone who is interested or thinking about becoming part of the catholic community to contact the parish office ph: **9631 8135** or email: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au) where we can arrange to meet up with them and accompany them in their next steps of their faith journey.

## Easter

Easter is a time of hope.

Hope looks forward to better things... in the next moment...in the next hour ...or the next day. Hope gives possibilities to new situations...and gives perspective to old ones. Hope springs from the need for change. And with change comes the possibility of new directions.

Hope inspires new dreams. Hope encourages us to keep going when the going is difficult. We cannot live without hope. And knowing this, God became hope...in the life of and Resurrection of Jesus. Easter reminds us that God never gives up *on us*.

## Greystanes Maltese Seniors

**Monday 8th April door opens at 10:30am, St George Preca Centre.**

**Centrelink** – Downsizing & Aged Care Specialist Members & friends welcome.

**Contact: Marisa 0414 863 123**

## Project Compassion donations

Please return your compassion boxes and envelopes by 7th April. Thank you.

# Growing in faith...

## Children's Liturgy Volunteers needed

**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)

## IGNITE Your Spirit

IGNITE YOUR SPIRIT in Nature. Relax, Reflect on your journey, Rejuvenate your body, mind and spirit in the Serene surrounds of JAMBERROO ABBEY

**Friday 19th** (from 3pm for 6.00pm start) **to Sunday 21st April 2024** (2pm finish)

Jamberoo Abbey, 695 Jamberoo Mountain Road, Jamberoo NSW

YOUNG ADULTS (aged 18 to mid-30s)

**COST:** \$280 early bird (shared cottage/own room, \$360 early bird (Private Hermitage). After 22nd March prices \$320 and \$400.

Inquiries: [admin@grailaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@grailaustralia.org.au)

To Book: [events.humanitix.com/ignite-your-spirit](https://events.humanitix.com/ignite-your-spirit)

## Get your feed on the Soul Food Podcast

**Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?**

The Mission Enhancement Team's Soul Food Podcast features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify: [www.parracatholic.org/resources/soul-food](http://www.parracatholic.org/resources/soul-food)

## Christ's Catholic Community

Come and join us in understanding the Gospels deeper. Every Friday at 10am in the Youth Room next to the office. All are welcome! **Contact:** Mary Testa 0403 302 283

## SRE (scripture teachers)

**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.

## Youth Corner (for 13yrs+)

All OLQP Youth are invited to attend a special faith night on **11th April at 7pm**. It will be an enriching opportunity to explore the topic 'Is this it?'

Bring a friend and your thinking caps to the Youth Room!

Instagram: [OLQPGreystanesYouth](https://www.instagram.com/OLQPGreystanesYouth)

## Marriage Preparation Courses

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation](http://www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation) to view weekend course dates, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website.

For more information, email [marriage@parracatholic.org](mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org) or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

## MET FaithLIFE Theology Short Course

Considering learning about theology? Wanting to expand your language for expressing your faith? Seeking ways to deepen the way you put your faith into practice? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Dr John Collins on Tuesdays 16 + 23 + 30 April!

To register and more info, email: [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

## Help play an active role in keeping children & the vulnerable safe

Do you volunteer your time at the parish? Did you know that every volunteer **must** complete their Safeguarding modules every 2 years AND parish volunteers who work alongside or care for children must *also* hold a Working with Children's Check?

This is a mandatory requirement by the Government. Visit <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au> to sign up and log into your Safeguarding modules.

- **Modules 1,2 & 3 are to be completed by new volunteers or those who are yet to complete their modules.**
- **Modules 4 & 5 are to be completed by volunteers who need to renew their safeguarding skills**

After completion, please email your certificates to Christine at: [christine.v@olqp.org.au](mailto:christine.v@olqp.org.au). If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email **Maria Kervin**, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org) or contact the parish office on 9631 8135 / [christine.v@olqp.org.au](mailto:christine.v@olqp.org.au).

To obtain a **Working with Children's Check**, please visit: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/working-with-children> Once you have received your clearance from Services NSW, please email a copy of your clearance to Christine at: [christine.v@olqp.org.au](mailto:christine.v@olqp.org.au) for processing and next steps.

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

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

## Adult Faith Formation opportunities in 2024

- Preparing for marriage or know couples who are?
- Looking to learn more about the Bible, spirituality, theology or practical skills for ministry?
- Searching for encouragement and growth by listening to life & faith stories from adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s?

View and share a copy of the 2024 adult faith formation calendar (link: <https://shorturl.at/grLV3>) OR get in touch with the team to learn about more formation opportunities via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

## Preparation for First Sacraments in 2024

**Reconciliation & First Eucharist** - Children in year 4 and above are invited to prepare for Reconciliation & eucharist.

**Enrolment's are open at [www.olqp.org.au](http://www.olqp.org.au)**

**Confirmation** - Children in year 6 and above are invited to prepare for confirmation. **Enrolments open JULY**

## Divine Retreat Centre offerings in 2024

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend residential retreats throughout 2024.

For more information and bookings, please contact 4372 1598 or email [drcretreatrego@gmail.com](mailto:drcretreatrego@gmail.com) to confirm attendance.

Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org)

### Easter is in your heart when:

You wake in the morning with new hope;

You go to bed with a forgiving heart;

You truly grieve at another's loss;

Your heart rejoices at another's joy;

You keep your temper with a trying friend;

You refuse to nurse a niggling hurt;

You face the routine of another day;

You delight when love comes round again;

You dare to love despite the grief;

You trust in dawn at the darkest hour;

You accept your weakness and it makes you strong;

When you try to live in the present moment.

You notice beauty you missed before;

You weep at the greed that causes war;

(Fr Daniel O'Leary)

### This Weeks Readings

#### 1st Reading

Acts

10:34, 37-43

#### 2nd Reading

Colossians

3:1-4

#### Gospel

Mark

16:1-7

### Next Weeks Readings

#### 1st Reading

Acts

4:32-35

#### 2nd Reading

1 John

5:1-6

#### Gospel

John

20:19-31

## 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

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

PO Box 5035 Greystanes 2145 | 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes

Join us on...

[www.facebook.com/OLQPGreystanes](https://www.facebook.com/OLQPGreystanes) | [OLQPGreystanesYouth](https://www.instagram.com/OLQPGreystanesYouth) | [www.olqp.org.au](http://www.olqp.org.au)