

# The Peaceful Voice

13th April 2025
PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD

#### Dear Parish Family,

"We are entering **Holy Week**, the most special time in our Christian calendar. It begins with the joyful celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, marking the start of His journey toward the cross and resurrection."

On Palm Sunday, we remember the joyful entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The crowds were excited to see Him. They waved palm branches, laid their cloaks on the road, and shouted, "Hosanna!" They hoped He would be their saviour and bring peace.

But Jesus didn't come as a king with an army. He came humbly, riding on a donkey, not with force or violence, but with love and peace. He showed that the true way to rule is through serving others, offering forgiveness, and healing brokenness. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and He is still offering His peace to us today.

As we enter **autumn** in Australia, we notice the changes in the world around us—the days are cooler, the leaves are falling, and nature is preparing for rest. This change in season invites us to slow down and reflect. We are called to look inside ourselves and make sure we are welcoming Jesus into our hearts, just as the people of Jerusalem once did.

While we are in a time of **change and peace** here in Australia, we know that the world around us faces great challenges. In **Myanmar**, a **devastating earthquake** has struck, causing destruction and loss. Thousands of people are suffering, and many have lost their homes and loved ones. We pray for the people of Myanmar, that they may experience God's comfort and healing.

We also turn our hearts to **Jerusalem**, the city where Jesus once walked. Today, Jerusalem and the surrounding areas are filled with violence and fear. In **Gaza and Jerusalem**, conflict continues to cause pain and suffering. Families are torn apart, and the dream of peace seems so far away. Yet, in the midst of this, we remember that **Jesus came to bring peace**, even to the places filled with the most pain. He is the **Prince of Peace**, and He offers His peace to everyone, no matter where they live.

Palm Sunday is a reminder for us to reflect on how we can bring peace into our own lives and into the world. It's not always easy to live out peace, especially in a world filled with anger and violence. But Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, to treat others with kindness, forgiveness, and understanding. We can bring peace to our families, our communities, and the world by caring for others, praying for those who are suffering, and showing God's love in everything we do.



As we hold our **palm branches** today, let them remind us not just of the past, but of our calling to live as followers of the **Prince of Peace**. Let's welcome Jesus into our hearts and let His peace fill us so that we can share that peace with others.

This Holy Week let's walk closely with Jesus from the joy of Palm Sunday to the sorrow of Good Friday, and finally to the joy of Easter. As we journey together, let's remember that no matter how dark the world may seem, God's light and peace are always with us.

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" — Luke 19:38

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, we welcome You into our hearts this Holy Week. Bring peace to the places where there is suffering. Help us to be peacemakers in our world and to share Your love and hope with others. Amen.

With blessings for a peaceful and holy week, Fr. Sebastian cmi

#### Holy Week Mass Times

**Thursday 17th April** 

Mass of the Lord's Supper 8pm

**Good Friday 18th April** 

Stations of the Cross (re-enacted) 10am Solemn Passion of the Lord 3pm

Vigil Prayer at the Tomb 7:30pm

**Holy Saturday 19th April** 

Mass of the Easter Vigil 8pm

Easter Sunday 20th April
Masses 7am | 8.30am | 10.30am | 6pm

## Faith B4U...



## Divine Mercy Sunday 27th April Program starting 2pm.

- 2pm Adoration, Chaplet and Prayers concludes with Benediction
- 3pm Mass
- After Mass there will be veneration of the image and a time to place petitions alongside the special image
- Fellowship will take place adjacent to the church in the covered space. Please bring a plate to share
- Reconciliation is available from 2pm onwards.

## Thank you for Supporting our Catholic Care's chaplaincy services

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for people in hospital and prison who might otherwise feel abandoned. Our Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal has raised two thirds of our \$12,000 quota which will provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to people in times of darkness.

If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal

#### Seeds of Hope for Holy Week

As we will soon enter into the Easter Triduum celebrations, we would like to invite you to an hour's recollection.

When: Tuesday, 15th of April

**Where:** In the Church Time: 10 to 11am (straight after the 9.15am mass)

During this time together we will meditate on the scriptures and have a time of sharing.

Led by Sr Anne and Lisa from the parish Team.

We hope to see you there.

#### **Annual Commissioning Mass**

Of Liturgical Ministers, 13th May.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope all liturgical ministers readers, servers and extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at **7:30pm on 13th May 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta**.

To register your attendance and guests please visit parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/

#### EXTRA RECONCILIATION pre Easter

- ⇒ This coming Tuesday night come any time 7pm to 8.30pm for One to One Reconciliation with Adoration and quiet music in the church
- ⇒ Also <u>next Saturday</u> Reconciliation starts early at 3pm to 4:45pm
- ⇒ <u>Please, kindly don't</u> wait for Good Friday for Reconciliation

#### Grace and Truth Event

You are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on Wednesday, 30 April for an evening of prayer, formation, and fellowship. Open to men and women of all ages. The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and talks by Sister Elena Marie and Father James Baxter. The event will run from 5-9PM, starting in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, and moving to the Cathedral Hall. Fee: \$20. For more information, contact the Dominican Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.

#### Varroville MGL Sisters Behold Day Retreat: 26 April

"BEHOLD, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). Take a day to reflect on the incredible gift offered to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and allow God's love and mercy to bring new life. To book or for more information visit, trybooking.com/CZPVW

### Let us pray...

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

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, John Attard, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, 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, Joe Vella, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

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

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.

Charles Cutajar, Violet Gove, Yvette Sharma

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Please understand that whilst OLQP Parish allows advertising, it cannot take responsibility for the advertisements, services advertised or for any matters arising





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

#### Caritas Australia - Project Compassion

As Project Compassion 2025 draws to a close for another year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support throughout this Lenten Season.

This year, we shared the inspiring stories of 3 individuals whose lives have been transformed through your compassion and generosity.

But the work isn't done yet. There is still time to donate! Together, we can Unite Against Poverty and help transform lives this Lent.

You can support through donation boxes or by scanning the QR code.



Facilities Officer: Diocese of Parramatta, Applications close 14

April

**Property Lawyer:** Diocese of Parramatta, Applications close 14

**Administration Assistant:** Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair, Applications

close 18 April

Communications Lead: Diocesan Pastoral Plan More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

#### Ministry of Care Courses: 4 - 25 June

An invitation to Ministers of the sick and dying.

Wednesday's 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown.

You can attend all 4 sessions or the topics that interest you. Visit. Please visit parracatholic.org/events/OFW to reserve a spot. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0488 000 211

#### Safeguarding is a priority at OLQP

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Saturday 3 May at Holy Family Church, Emerton for Cycle 2 (Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout May.

Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: https:// parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training

For more information, please email:

#### safeuardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you volunteer at the parish and are unfamiliar with Safeguarding, please contact the parish office for more details.

#### A small gift makes a BIG DIFFERENCE

During Lent, you can support refugees and people seeking asylum by donating these essential items.

**WEEK 5: Long Life Milk** 

All donations support JRS (Jesuit Refugee Services Australia). Donated food can be placed into the JRS basket located in the Narthex (main church entrance) OR brought to the Parish Office.



#### This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Luke 22:14-23:56

#### **Next Sunday's Readings**

1st Reading Acts 10:34, 37-43

2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-4

> Gospel Luke 24:1-12

#### 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, 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 Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207 Join us on...

Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday PO Box 5035 Greystanes 2145 | 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes