

*He is not here. He has risen.* (Luke 24:6)

## Happy Easter!

Today we rejoice in the heart of our faith: that Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us, has risen in glory. The tomb is empty. Death has been defeated. And hope is alive.

Easter isn't just a moment to remember something that happened long ago. It's a celebration of what's still happening *today*—in our lives, in our hearts, and in our Church. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is still at work in us, bringing new life where we least expect it.

Some of us come to this Easter with joy. Others bring burdens or questions. Some may be feeling tired or uncertain after a long Lent—or a long season of struggle. But Easter tells us this: no matter how dark things seem, God always has the final word. And that word is *life*.

The Risen Christ calls each of us by name, just as He called Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morning. He meets us where we are—in our joy, in our grief, in our doubt—and offers peace, courage, and a fresh beginning.

So this week, as we greet one another with “Happy Easter” and sing our Alleluias, let's carry that Easter joy into the days ahead. Let's be people of the Resurrection—not only in word, but in the way we live: with hope, with mercy, and with hearts full of love.

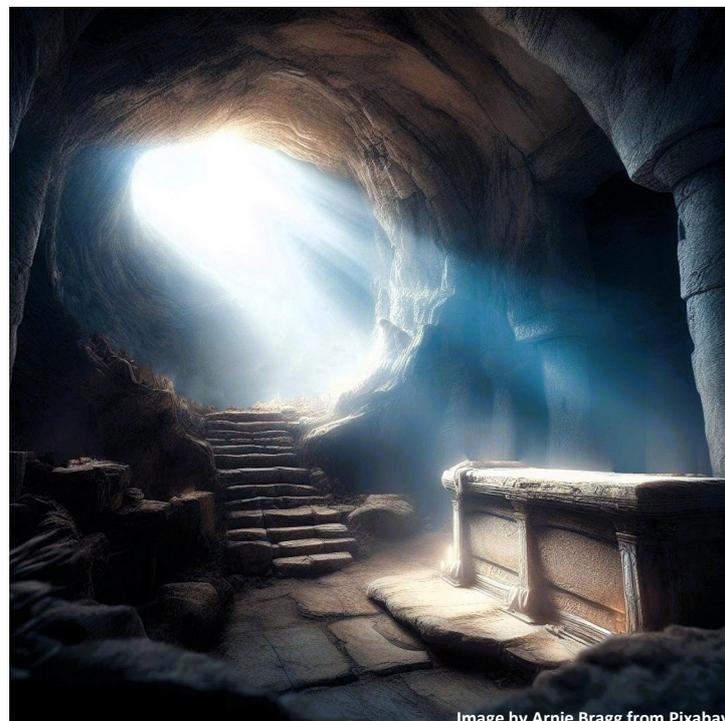


Image by Arnie Bragg from Pixabay

Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**May the Blessing of Easter be with you all +  
Fr Jack Elkazzi**

## Keeping our community safe

The parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace is committed to ensuring a safe environment for all.

Jesus asks us to

*“Love one another as I have loved you”*

and it is through this lens that we are invited to approach ministry and the requirements we are asked to fulfil.

All people in ministry and involved in volunteer activity at OLQP Parish are asked to complete safeguarding modules. Contact Lisa at the parish office to complete these modules if you have not already or are unsure.

9631 8135 | [lisa.bright@olqp.org.au](mailto:lisa.bright@olqp.org.au)

## Ministry of Welcome

In the spirit of our welcoming community, we would like to grow the ministry of Welcome at our Masses. This ministry involves greeters, the friendly faces who are the first point of contact for everyone entering our church.

Do you have a warm smile and a welcoming heart? Consider becoming a Greeter!

Please express your interest to Lisa at the parish office by calling 9631 8135 or email [lisa.bright@olqp.org.au](mailto:lisa.bright@olqp.org.au)

There are many ministries which you can be involved in our parish.

If you would like to find out more or unsure how you can share your gifts and talents with the community, please contact the parish office and speak to Lisa.

# 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.**

## Carer Required

The parish office has received a message to see if anyone is interested in a carer role for an elderly man in the Hills district. Interested persons may contact Jason (son) on 0414 987 206. *(You will need to pursue your own enquiry re any conditions or employment legalities).*

## 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.



## 10th Anniversary Laudato Si

Laudato Si -10 Years anniversary is coming up from 17-24th May. Watch this space for information in the coming weeks.

## Positions Vacant

**Communications Lead:** Diocesan Pastoral Plan

**More details at:** [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](http://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/)

## 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.**

Rocco Badolato, Maria Teresa Badolato, Nazzereno Muscat, Carlito Rivera, Ruth Smith, Pino Ursino

**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 Attard - 28th April @ 11am, Parvin Gardner, Benjamin Saadat - 24th April @ 11am, Julie Simari

## Handmade religious articles & souvenirs for sale

We are delighted to welcome Sr Larysa from the Sisters of St Elisabeth Convent in Belarus back to our parish on **May 5th and 6th, after the 9.15am Mass.** She will be selling beautiful handmade religious articles and souvenirs.

The money raised will go towards the sisters' work of supporting their orphanage, hospital, homeless centre and rehabilitation centre. Your support will be very much appreciated.

## Aid to the Church - seeking volunteers

The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need is seeking for regular volunteers to assist at their national office in Penrith. Days and times as mutually suitable. The office is close to public transport and has parking.

For more information contact Peter Harrop, [peter@aidtochurch.org](mailto:peter@aidtochurch.org) or phone **9167 9526**.

## Nominations open for the 2025 Papal & Diocesan Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Papal and Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals—both religious and lay—who have made outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church and its community. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised? **Nominations close at midnight on 31 May 2025.**

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/](http://parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/)

## PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Rosary in the church ANZAC DAY evening, 25 April 2025.

# Growing in faith...

Dear parishioners and your extended families and loved ones,

Just a message to wish you every blessing for this remarkable feast of our faith; Easter!

I recall that well quoted line of Pope – now Saint - John Paul II who said: *“We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!”* One of the messages of this one liner from JP II is that the Alleluia joy of the Resurrection isn't only for a day or a week – but is a foundation to our very identity, as people with a promised 'now in grace' and 'unending future'. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, who walked on this planet and who is now the risen Christ embracing the universe. As a season in our worship year, this is now a focussed time of fifty days, the Easter season through to Pentecost, for us to be renewed in the freedom and gift of this promise and identity that we have in the Risen Christ. Indeed, happy Easter each day!

And so friends, may we commit to truly receiving the repeated words of Jesus that he spoke both before he died – whilst still walking the dusty roads of Palestine – and after his resurrection; the words: *“Do not be afraid!”* The ways we can gently show others that we take these words to heart (particularly when we ourselves might be in the midst of various of life's challenges) are among our most powerful ways to witness to our faith in Christ. What a gift of encouragement we can be to many others who may be struggling to believe, when we can live with a trusting, humble confidence that life forever is already under way – even while we're still fully engaged in this current chapter of life. So, let's pray this Easter for blessings in our own belief, so that we can live with a joy that's infectious to others; a joy that serves to echo those beautiful words: *“We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!”*

**With friendship in God's mission  
Fr Paul – parish priest**



Photo by Yves Cedric Schulze on Unsplash



**Share the joy of celebrating our faith with the  
children of our parish!**

Be part of the

## **Children's Liturgy Team**

Children's Liturgy is celebrated at 8.30am and 10.30am Sunday Masses during the school term.

Call the Parish Office on 9631 8135 for more information to become a leader or helper for this enriching ministry.

## **African Mass 2025**

The African Catholics who live in the Dioceses of Parramatta, Broken Bay, and the Archdiocese of Sydney invite you to the African Mass 2025: **Sunday 18 May, 12:30pm for 1:00pm start, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.** Followed by a community gathering and refreshments.

For RSVP or more information contact [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

## **FaithLIFE Theology Short Course**

Considering learning about theology? Looking to learn more about the Jubilee Year of Hope?

Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Alison Ryan from MET on **Wednesdays 7 + 14 + 21 May**: [parracatholic.org/faithlife](http://parracatholic.org/faithlife)

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

## Next Face to Face Safeguarding Training

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training for all volunteers 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: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

## Helping Others ...

Please consider donating the following items to:

Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) who are in urgent need of the following items.

### NON PERISHABLE FOOD such as:

**Sugar | Salt | Long Life Milk | Dry Chickpeas | Instant Coffee | Tea Bags | Instant Noodles | Pasta | Rice etc**

### WOMEN AND BABY ITEMS:

**Nappies | Sanitary Items | Baby Wipes**

### CLEANING ITEMS:

**Laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent etc**

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

St Vincent de Paul: **Non perishable foods**

*Please give clothing or other items directly to St Vincent de Paul outlets. Nearest shop is on the Great Western Highway, Wentworthville*

## Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal Office

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to offer advice and assistance regarding marriage annulments and dissolution of marriages. Interviews are preferably conducted in person with ZOOM and telephone interviews in special circumstances.

Please contact the Tribunal Office on **8838 3480** or email [tribunal@parracatholic.org](mailto:tribunal@parracatholic.org)

## Men at the Shrine

Men at the Shrine is a monthly hour for men at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, held on the second Wednesday of the month from 8-9pm. The hour includes a brief reflection, silent personal prayer and the opportunity for confession. All men are welcome. **No RSVP is necessary**

The Shrine has been a place of pilgrimage in the diocese since 1968 and in 2025 is also one of the three locations in the diocese to gain the Jubilee Indulgence.

Find the event on Facebook, or for questions, please contact **Bernard, 0416 106 871**.

### This Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

Acts

10:34, 37-43

#### 2nd Reading

Colossians

3:1-4

#### Gospel

Luke

24:1-12

### Next Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

Acts

5:12-16

#### 2nd Reading

Revelation

1:9-13, 17-19

#### 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

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)

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

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