



— OUR LADY —
— QUEEN OF PEACE —

The Peaceful Voice

11th May 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER, Year C

Popes and the Room of Tears!

Habemus Papam

I'm writing this ready for printing during the Papal Conclave, BEFORE there has been any white smoke! By the time you see this bulletin, no doubt the famous words will have been heard in St Peter's Square and relayed across the planet: **Habemus papam** – We have a pope! Once a cardinal is voted by two thirds plus one in the conclave, he is asked if he accepts – and then by what name he is to be known. He is taken to a room adjacent to the Sistine Chapel that's commonly called the **'Room of Tears'** where he is fitted in the papal white cassock etc. Why the 'rooms of tears' though? It's an emotional name, representing the enormous burden that has often been felt by the person who has just been elected as the Successor of St Peter!

I'm going to die

The story on Pope Leo XIII for example, is that he was aged 68 when becoming Pope in 1878 – He used a cane to walk and apparently once elected, burst into tears saying: "I'm too old for this. I'm going to die." He is renowned for having led the Church into the modern era with a much more developed approach for that time, regarding the communication of faith and action for social reform. When anyone talks of Catholic Social Teaching, which is the major body of learning and teaching for the application of the Gospel for the good of the world, it's Pope Leo XIII's name that comes up first and his groundbreaking encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (on the Rights and Duties of Capital and Labor). An encyclical is a writing from a pope on the top shelf of Catholic significance! Encyclicals become part of the *Magisterium* – the teaching authority of the Church!

Influence beyond expectation

What Leo XIII taught through that encyclical and papacy became a foundation of guidance and principles for many political movements and countries, regardless of faith affiliation. As he stood in the Room of Tears, he would have had no idea of the impact of his leadership. Oh – and yes – after bursting into tears and saying he'd die when he was 68, he remained Pope until aged 93!

And Francis r.i.p.

Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si* on the care of creation, is likewise a profound teaching that will grow in significance as one of his great legacies. In that encyclical (and others) he grows our central faith understanding that all people, all life, all creation, is interconnected – and is all part of God's redeeming

vision. Humans are not separate to creation, but integral within it. As God is relational, so in God's plan all creation is relational. Hence, it is not of God to use the earth's resources in any way we want, as if the earth is disposable. It is not of God to initiate violence nor to dictate who lives and dies at any point of the life journey. It is not of God to justify that some parts of humanity and creation are to be given more dignity and value than others. Pope Francis' influence will continue to form us in the deeper connection of our faith with the relationships of all of life and all circumstances across God's creation.

So, who is the Bridge Maker?

I don't know who the new Pope is as I write this – but if you're reading this, you probably will know by now. Let's pray for him from the heart, that the Holy Spirit will use any tears he might weep under the weight of this calling, to anoint him with grace to be a wonderful PONTIFF (from French *Pontife* – which is from Latin *Pontifex*) In the Latin **pons, pont** is 'bridge' and **-fex** from **facere**, to 'make'. Hence here's to the new Pontiff, to be a BRIDGE MAKER for all of God's creation.

**With friendship in God's mission,
Fr Paul**



Photo by Leandro Silva on Unsplash

Update on Fr Jack

Fr Jack is out of hospital and is well. He was moved by the excellent medical care, particularly from wonderfully caring and hard working nurses. He appreciates that what began as an accident developed into a thorough medical appraisal. Jack has expressed deep thanks for the many prayers and wishes and is now on annual leave. He will return for the last weekend of May and we will farewell him on that Sunday morning at 11.30am. We can now announce that Fr Jack's new appointment will be as the Administrator of Springwood Parish.

Faith B4U...

Walking with Mary

As we journey through May, a month traditionally devoted to Mary, you are invited to a time of reflection. Let us walk with Mary, our parish patroness, Our Lady Queen of Peace, as we are guided by Sr Anne Suma Lata smsm.

There are two opportunities to come together: Tuesday 20 May, 10am OR 7pm, in OLQP Church

RSVP to the Parish Office on 9631 8135 or parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Monday 12 May @ 10:30am, St George Preca Centre.
Topic: How to Access Homecare Services from "Right At Home"

Members and friends always welcome .

Contact: Frances 0404 257 495

Schoenstatt's Annual Marian Pilgrimage - 18 May

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will be celebrating Mass at Schoenstatt Shrine in **18 May at 10:30am**. Join us from 9:30am for Reconciliation, Mass a Eucharistic procession, and more. This is an outdoor event so please bring your own chairs. Drinks & food will be available for purchase. All Pilgrim Mother Coordinators are encouraged to bring along your Pilgrim Mother Shrines.

For more information contact Sr. M. Rita: 0493 026 628 srrita@schoenstatt.org.au or visit schoenstatt.org.au or FB page: /MtSchoenstattMulgoa/

A Blessed Mother's Day

To Mothers & Mother figures who are with us
and in our hearts xxx



Photo by Diana Polekhina on Unsplash

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, 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.

Elina Attard, Christopher McGrath, Antonia Pace, Victor Sammut, Farida Sassine

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.*

Gerard David, Nguyen Dang Doanh, Maryanne Vella

Be part of our new Care Ministry!

OLQP is excited to share the formation of a new **Care Ministry**, dedicated to providing practical and compassionate accompaniment and support, with a focus on the elderly in our community. This could include offering:

- Friendly calls or visits
- Support during illness or recovery
- Being a listening ear
- Sharing information about resources

There are many ways to be involved - even through prayer support. We are growing our team and invite those interested to attend introductory gatherings offered by the Diocese of Parramatta during the Wednesdays in June. We will follow up these sessions with more preparation for this ministry as a parish group.

To find out more or to register for the sessions, please contact Lisa Bright at the parish office on 9631 8135 or lisa.bright@olqp.org.au.

Ministry of Care - Facilitated by the Office for Worship

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. The course will take place every Wednesday from 4 to 25 June at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown.

Session dates

4 June – Pastoral Care and Safeguarding

11 June – Jesus our Model of Ministry

18 June – Skills in Pastoral Care

25 June – A Holistic Approach to Pastoral Care

Attend all 4 sessions to receive a certificate of completion or just attend the session(s) that interest you.

Please contact the parish office to register your name and the dates you would like to attend.

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

Celebrating 50 years of OLQP Church!

You are invited to share your stories and memories of the past 50 years of OLQP!

We would like to share these stories with the wider community at Masses and on our social media pages.

Please send your written responses to the question, **"What are some of your most meaningful or significant memories of the OLQP community?"** to Lisa in the parish office. Email lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

If you would like to meet up or agree to be videoed sharing your story, please contact the parish office on 9631 8135 and someone will get back to you with further details.

Together, let's celebrate as we continue to grow as a parish community in the likeness of Christ.



Position Vacant - Sacramental program & Special Religious Education Coordinator

St Anthony of Padua Parish Toongabbie is looking for a Sacramental program and Special Religious Education Coordinator. This is a permanent part-time position with 15 hours per week. Please forward applications and resumes to the Parish Secretary secretary@stanthonychurch.org.au by **9th June 2025**.

For more information you may contact 96313316

Christ's Catholic Community

Come and join us in understanding the Gospels more deeply. Fridays at 10am in the Youth room.

Letter for Ministers re: Photo Register

A letter was emailed to all Readers, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers at the Altar and Altar Servers. If you have not received this letter, please collect a copy from the Sacristy. Thank you.

FAITH of ORIGIN

Celebrating Our Community.

Pentecost Sunday - 8 June 2025 - Save the date for a Pentecost Celebration for our parish community.

Lunch and Events from 11.30am till 4pm

If you would like to be part of a team to coordinate this event, please leave your name at the Parish Office or share your contact details on the sign-up sheets at the doors of the church.

FEAST DAYS



This week we celebrate

14th Wednesday **St Matthias**, apostle

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

13:14, 43-52

2nd Reading

Revelation

7:9, 14-17

Gospel

John

10:27-30

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

14:21-27

2nd Reading

Revelation

21:1-5

Gospel

John

13:31-35

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

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

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