



## *Easter Sunday*

*31st March / 1st April*

### **Parish Administrator**

Fr Martin Cruickshank

### **Parish Office**

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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### **Mass Times**

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm**

**SUNDAY: 9.30 am**

### **WEEKDAYS MASSES:**

**First Tuesday of the month: 11.00am Mass  
at Mercy Place.**

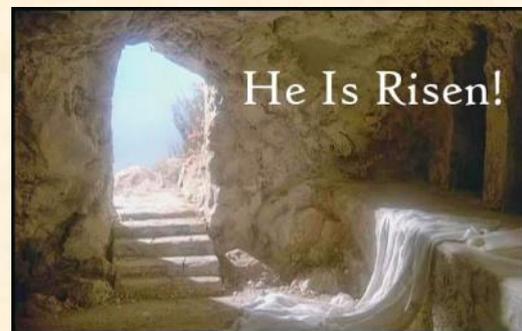
**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30am**

### **RECONCILIATION**

**SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM**

**BAPTISMS—By appointment**

**Preparation Course: 0411 883 661**



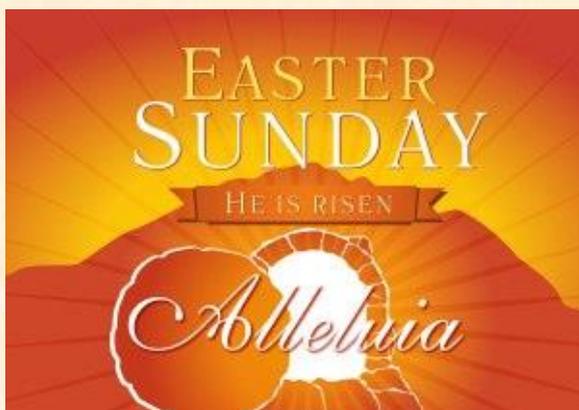
Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia! (Fr Michael Tate)



# Parish Community



*We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Judith Manison/Corrigan

Margaret Creek, Bill Stirling, Terry Packer.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** David Paull, Mija Matijevic, Catherine McIntosh, Evelyn Esler, Mary Curley, Mary Benefield, Patti Crozier, Mary Egan, John Norman, Bob Gray, Patricia Darbyshire, Edna Stephenson, Shirley Foster, Mary Cromerty, Penny Johnson, Pamela Quin, Kathrina Schieber, Meg McNamee, Billy Clarke.

*Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## Prayer for the Sick

*We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.*

*May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.*

*We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen*

## ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 31st March / 1st April		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	See roster in church	See roster in church
Eucharistic Ministers	See roster in church	See roster in church
Cantor Musicians	<b>EASTER CHOIR</b>	Val Hayes
Counters: Carmel & Brian Butts		Cleaning Group: Group 5

Sat /Sun: 7th / 8th April		
Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Anthony Foley Kellie Gordes Pat Hickman	Rosalie Martin Roy Thompson Jane Murtagh
Eucharistic Ministers	Catherine Cutler Judy Lindsay	Gemma Whitehead Carey Menz-Dowling Trish Parkinson
Cantor Musicians	Margie & Ed Brown Judy Foley	Anne McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Michael Byrnes		Cleaning Group: Group 6

## Prayer for Easter

**Lord of life,  
we pray for all who bring your  
word of life,  
as a light to those in darkness.  
For those who bring your  
word of peace,  
to those enslaved by fear.  
For those who bring your  
word of love,  
to those in need of comfort.  
Lord of love and Lord of peace  
Lord of resurrection life,  
be known  
through our lives  
and through your power.  
Christ the Lord is risen to-day!  
Alleluia!**

A Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis): 'We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence, and we are able share it with others.'

# Parish News

*May the hope and joy of the Easter season remind each of us of God's guiding presence in our world and in our lives. May the Risen Jesus renew our faith and give us the courage and strength to be his disciples in our world. Wishing you a happy, safe and peace filled Easter.*

## At the Easter Vigil

*We welcome into the community of the Christian faith through the sacrament of Baptism and into full communion of the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist—Ashleigh Hemphill. Thanks is extended to Sr Anne Hagan and Ed Brown for journeying with Ashleigh and preparing her to receive the sacraments of initiation.*

## Bonsai Under Lights

*Come and join us for a stunning and unique event featuring Albury's largest and oldest collection on bonsai, accompanied by the soothing sounds of the Murray Conservatorium Choir, and a beautiful display on bonsai botanic artwork. Fund raising event for The Murray Conservatorium Choir. Dates: 13th, 14th & 15th April at 7.10pm. Venue: Valibo Nursery, 534 Urana Road, Lavington. See flyers in church.*

## Easter Vigil

*Again this year we will use tea lights during the Easter Vigil. Please collect one from the church entrances. You are invited to turn the tea light on as the Paschal Candle passes your seat. After the singing of the Exultet you turn your light off. They are turned on again for the Renewal of the Baptismal Promises. As you leave the Church after the Vigil you can return the tea light. Easter water is available for you to take home. The small containers are in front of the Paschal Candle.*

## Project Compassion

*Boxes and envelopes need to be brought in over the next couple of weeks.*

## Philippine Independence Day Mass

*On Saturday 2nd June at 5.45pm  
Holy Spirit Church, Prune Street, Lavington  
Pot - luck Dinner...Bring something to share.*

*God of new life, at the beginning of creation your Spirit hovered over the waters, to sanctify the seas and the land.*

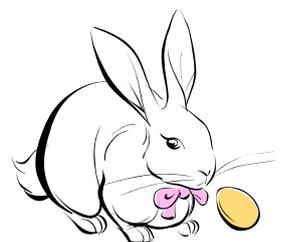
*God of freedom, you called your chosen people to arise from the Red Sea and slavery.*

*God of compassion, your Beloved Son was baptised by John, and as he rose up from the waters, was anointed with the Holy Spirit.*

*Through the Resurrection of Jesus you have filled us with the same light.*

*May we always walk as radiant witnesses to your love, your mercy, your tender care and justice.*

*This we ask in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen*



# Liturgy of the Word

*Easter Sunday—Year B*

*Readings: Acts 10: 34, 37-43; Col 3: 1-4 ; John 20: 1-9*

*Responsorial Psalm:*



***This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.***

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;

Let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!



## Reflection on the Readings

On this, the most important celebration in the Christian calendar, it is a shame that the reading chosen for the Lectionary is something of a let down. Certainly, within the gospel reading we have the discovery of the empty tomb by Mary of Magdala; the disbelieving disciples running to find things exactly as Mary had described; and the dawning realisation of what Jesus had meant when he so frequently spoke about rising from the dead. However, if the editors of the Lectionary had chosen to also include the next nine verses of the gospel we would have also heard the magnificent encounter between Mary and the risen Lord, confirming that it was a woman, Mary Magdala, who was the first witness to Christ's resurrection. As it is, we never hear this account as part of the cycle of Sunday readings.

The discovery of the empty tomb – although so simply told – is an astounding event that completes the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death AND resurrection of Jesus. Whilst Christ's willingness to go to his death on the cross was an extraordinary statement of God's love for humankind, it is his rising again from death that offers all Christian people hope. It is the second disciple – the one whom Jesus loved – who is the first to grasp the meaning of what has happened inside the tomb. The gospel tells us that upon entering the tomb and seeing Jesus' burial cloths lying there, 'he saw and he believed'. Unlike the later encounters with the risen Lord, this disciple recognised the truth and significance of what he saw in the empty tomb. He didn't need to see the risen Lord to believe. Perhaps it is he that we today can best identify with. Not in a position to physically encounter the risen Christ, we are capable of seeing the signs of his resurrection and continuing presence in the world and choose to believe.

In this week's gospel we see reference to a disciple as 'the one Jesus loved'. It is generally agreed that this disciple is John. There is some suggestion that the disciple, John, is in fact the John ascribed as the author of this gospel. If this is so, to describe himself as the disciple Jesus loved is merely a means of avoiding using a personal pronoun – I or me. Just as Jesus described himself as 'the Son of God' or 'the Son of Man' rather than say 'I', John uses the same convention to avoid naming himself. It is not to suggest that Jesus didn't love his other disciples.



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