



# The Catholic Community of HOLY TRINITY PARISH BLACKBUTT NORTH



**St John the Evangelist Church**  
Dickson Street Lambton Est. 1873



**Corpus Christi Church**  
Platt Street Waratah Est. 1917



**St Therese's Church**  
Royal Street New Lambton Est. 1954

## ◆ EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD ◆ YEAR A ◆ 12 APRIL 2020 ◆

### PARISH OFFICE

**Street Address:** 58 Victoria Street  
NEW LAMBTON NSW 2305  
**Phone:** 02 4979 1365  
**Email:** [triparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:triparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.holytrinityparishblackbutt.com.au](http://www.holytrinityparishblackbutt.com.au)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/holytrinityblackbuttnorth](http://www.facebook.com/holytrinityblackbuttnorth)

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday:**  
**Tuesday:**  
**Thursday:**

We recommend contacting the office via phone or email with your enquiries.

### PARISH STAFF

**Parish Administrator:** Fr Sabu Adimakiyil  
**Lambton Presbytery:** 02 4956 1953  
**Email:** [sabu.adimakiyil@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sabu.adimakiyil@mn.catholic.org.au)  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Camillus Nwahia  
**Shortland Presbytery:** 02 4955 9575  
0469 829 125  
**Email:** [camillus.nwahia@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:camillus.nwahia@mn.catholic.org.au)  
**Parish Secretaries:** Mrs Liza Ruitenbach  
Ms Justine Atkinson

### SCHOOLS

#### ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL LAMBTON

**Principal:** Ms Annie Duggan  
**Street Address:** Dickson Street LAMBTON NSW 2299  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 8 LAMBTON NSW 2299  
**Phone:** 02 4952 1423  
**Email:** [admin@lambton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@lambton.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website:** [www.lambton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.lambton.catholic.edu.au)

#### CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL WARATAH

**Principal:** Ms Julie Mulhearn  
**Street Address:** Platt Street WARATAH 2298  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 63 WARATAH 2298  
**Phone / Fax:** 02 4968 3220 / 02 4968 3833  
**Email:** [admin@waratah.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@waratah.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website:** [www.waratah.catholic.edu.au](http://www.waratah.catholic.edu.au)

#### ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEW LAMBTON

**Principal:** Mr Duilio Rufo  
**Street Address:** Burke Street NEW LAMBTON 2305  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 321 New Lambton 2305  
**Phone / Fax:** 02 4957 4922 / 02 4952 1637  
**Email:** [admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website:** [www.newlambton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.newlambton.catholic.edu.au)

### EASTER MESSAGE

Fr Sabu, Fr Camillus and the Parish Secretaries wish you and your families the blessings of the Resurrected Lord as you celebrate the joy of Easter and the promise of eternal life. In these very different times we can look to Christ's Resurrection as our guiding light and know that He is here with us. God Bless.

Bishop Bill's Easter Message can be accessed via [mnnews.today](http://mnnews.today).

### INFORMATION

**Diocesan Website:** <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au>  
**Parish Mass Celebrations:** Fr Sabu and Fr Camillus are both celebrating the Mass for you during Holy Week. Streaming live on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityparishblackbutt) from St John's Lambton: Holy Thursday at 7:00PM, Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 10:00AM, Good Friday Passion at 3:00PM, Easter Vigil at 6:30PM, and Easter Sunday at 5:30PM.  
**Celebrating Mass:** Bishop Bill will celebrate Mass during Holy Week, live streamed from Sacred Heart Cathedral at the following times:  
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – Holy Thursday 7:00PM  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion – Good Friday 3:00PM  
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – Easter Saturday 7:00PM  
Mass of Easter Day – Easter Sunday 9:30AM  
This will also be available for access at a later time if needed.  
<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>  
**Prayer Resources:** During this time of social isolation, it is important that we pray and stay connected to our community. A range of online resources is available to support personal and family prayer at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/supplementary-resources-for-prayer-and-reflection/>  
**Keeping the Sunday Holy and What we can do:** <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/4197/keeping-sunday-holy-what-can-we-do.pdf>

**The Prayer of the Church:** Morning and evening prayer is available by downloading the [Universalis App](https://www.universalisapp.com/) which contains the Prayer of the Church and Mass of the day. See also: <https://liturgy.life/2020/03/keepingsunday-holy-when-we-cannot-gather-for-mass-liturgy-of-the-hours/>

**LiturgyHelp:** Free access to a range of prayer resources is available at <https://liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray>.

**Aurora:** The April *Aurora* is now out. It can be read online here: [https://issuu.com/diomn/docs/aurora\\_april\\_2020](https://issuu.com/diomn/docs/aurora_april_2020)

**Special Note:** Some people have asked how they can continue to financially support our Parish. If you wish to contribute via Direct Debit or Credit Card please feel free to email the Parish via [triparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:triparish@mn.catholic.org.au) or phone the Parish Secretary on 02 4979 1365 or Catholic Development Fund via <http://www.cdfmn.com.au/> or phone 02 4979 1160. Otherwise, in the absence of Mass Collections, cheques are an option that is available. Our grateful thanks to everyone.

**Parish Office:** To work to the requirements of our time the office is closed but still functioning. Please contact us by phone or email with all your enquiries, and Justine and Liza will assist you in whatever way they can. The office is closed on Easter Monday. For Funerals, please contact the Funeral Directors who will contact the Priests directly.

**Bulletin:** We are uploading the bulletin and resources to the Parish website by closing each Thursday, as well as emailing same to our parishioners. If you currently receive the bulletin by email, please share it with others, especially those who might not have internet or email. Please advise anyone wishing to receive a bulletin via email to contact us and we will add their names to our distribution list.

**Maintaining Your Mental Health:** The Australian Psychological Society offers information to the public on a variety of topics via <https://psychology.org.au/for-the-public/Psychology-topics>

## ♦ EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT ♦ YEAR A ♦

### FIRST READING

Gen 1:1 – 2:2

#### A reading from the book of Genesis

*God saw all he had made, and indeed it was good.*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night'. Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, 'Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two.' And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault 'heaven'. Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.' And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.' And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.' Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.' And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

God created man in the image of himself,  
in the image of God he created him,  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I

give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 103:1-2. 5-6. 10. 12-14. 24. 35. R. see v.30

#### (R.) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe. (R.)
2. You founded the earth on its base,  
to stand firm from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:  
the waters stood higher than the mountains. (R.)
3. You make springs gush forth in the valleys:  
they flow in between the hills.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
from the branches they sing their song. (R.)
4. From your dwelling you water the hills;  
earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and the plants to serve man's needs. (R.)
5. How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
Bless the Lord, my soul! (R.)

### SECOND READING

Gen 22:1-18

#### A reading from the book of Genesis

*Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

Rising early next morning Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He chopped wood for the burnt offering and started on his journey to the place God had pointed out to him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.'

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering, loaded it on Isaac, and carried in his own hands the fire and the knife. Then the two of them set out together. Isaac spoke to his father Abraham, 'Father' he said. 'Yes, my son' he replied. 'Look,' he said 'here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt

♦ EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT ♦ YEAR A ♦

offering?' Abraham answered, 'My son, God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.' Then the two of them went on together.

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. Abraham called this place 'The Lord provides', and hence the saying today: On the mountain the Lord provides.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 15:5. 8-11. R. v.1

**(R.) Keep me safe, O God;  
you are my hope.**

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)

2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)

3. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

**THIRD READING**

Ex 14:15 – 15:1

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

*Tell the children of Israel to march on, to walk through the sea on dry ground.*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.'

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his own horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried 'the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!' 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,' the Lord said to Moses 'that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

The Word of the Lord

**CANTICLE**

Ex 15:1-6. 17-18. R. v.1

**(R.) Let us sing to the Lord;  
he has covered himself in glory.**

1. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!  
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!  
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.  
This is my God and I extol him,  
my father's God and I give him praise. (R.)

2. The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,  
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.  
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone. (R.)

3. Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,  
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe. (R.)

4. You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,  
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,  
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever. (R.)

♦ EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT ♦ YEAR A ♦

**FOURTH READING**

Is 55:1-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*Come to me and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant.*

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;  
though you have no money, come!  
Buy corn without money, and eat,  
and, at no cost, wine and milk.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
your wages on what fails to satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat  
and rich food to enjoy.  
Pay attention, come to me;  
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant  
out of the favours promised to David.  
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and a master of the nations.  
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,  
those unknown will come hurrying to you,  
for the sake of the Lord your God,  
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and  
do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and  
giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the  
eater, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to  
me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what  
it was sent to do.

The Word of the Lord

**CANTICLE**

Is 12:2-6 R. v.3

**(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

1. Truly God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. (R.)

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples,  
declare the greatness of his name. (R.)

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
make them known to all the earth!  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

**EPISTLE**

Rom 6:3-11

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**  
*Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.*

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

**GOSPEL**

Mt 28:1-10

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**  
*He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.*

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**FIRST READING**

Acts 10:34. 37-43

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord.

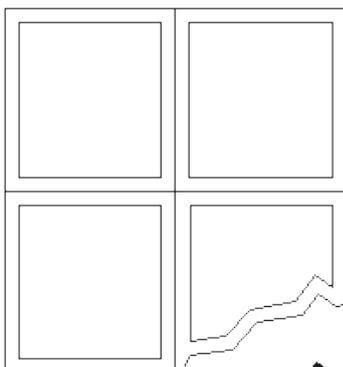
**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

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

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.  
Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

**THE STONE WHICH THE**



**BUILDERS REJECTED**

**HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE**

**SECOND READING**

Col 3:1-4

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians**

*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**SEQUENCE**

**The sequence is said or sung.**

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.  
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;  
and Christ, the undefiled,  
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.  
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!  
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.  
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.  
The tomb the Living did enclose;  
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!  
The angels there attesting;  
shroud with grave-clothes resting.  
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.  
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.  
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Jn 20:1-9

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.*

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## HOMILY

by Richard Leonard

A man was driving along the road when he saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny, but couldn't do so. The basket of eggs went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman saw the man and pulled over. 'What's wrong?' she asked. 'I accidentally killed the Easter Bunny', he explained. The woman knew exactly what to do. She went to her car, pulled out a spray can, walked over to the bunny, and sprayed the entire contents over the little furry animal. Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up his eggs, waved at them and hopped on down the road. Not far away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around and waved again. He kept doing this for as far as they could see.

The man was astonished. 'What in heaven's name is in that can you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?' The woman showed the man the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.' For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and inculturated with this local festival.

In both hemispheres Christians today celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus' resurrection: the empty tomb and the apparitions of Christ.

Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

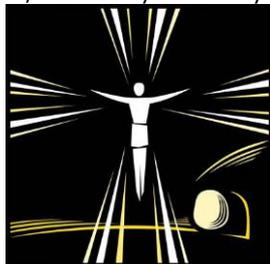
We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds.

Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all:

'Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!' © Richard Leonard SJ



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Easter is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth. © Dianne Bergant CSA

\*\*\*\*\*

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate  
*Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen*

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; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia and thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love and compassion for our global community can transform lives. You will be helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. When we Go Further Together in love and compassion, the whole world thrives. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2020 Lenten appeal. [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) #projectcompassion 1800 024 413.

Project Compassion: Please hold on to your boxes and return them when our restrictions are lifted and life resembles something normal again. Meanwhile, kindly count the contents of your box and fill in the label. Receipts will only be issued for those who request them. Thank you.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### Light a Candle

In the absence of our Sunday Eucharistic gathering we invite you to light a candle to symbolize the Light of Christ and Light of the World. Below are our Prayer of the Faithful which we can pray together.



**Introduction:** Brothers and sisters, rejoicing in Christ's triumph over death, we bring our prayers before the God of glory.

1. That our Holy Father Pope Francis may continue to proclaim the new life that Jesus Christ offers to all people. Lord hear our Prayer:
2. That all nations work together in troubled times to find a way towards peace and new life. Lord hear our Prayer:
3. That missionaries and all who dedicate their lives to God will find strength in their faith and draw inspiration from the Easter message. Lord hear our Prayer:
4. That our parish community will be filled with the joy of Easter and find strength to reflect the risen Christ in all that we do. Lord hear our Prayer:
5. That all the sick will be shown the healing light of Christ; and all that are caring for the sick be given the strength to do so. Lord hear our Prayer:
6. That those who have died will be raised to new life with Christ. Lord hear our Prayer:

**Conclusion:** God our Father, we rejoice this day in Christ's triumph over death. Hear our prayers and help us to bear witness to the risen Lord as we are freed by the mystery of his Resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

© Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

## A VOCATION VIEW

You have been given new life in Christ. Forsake earthly materialism, in order to live life to the full. For more information regarding Vocations contact P 02 4979 1112 or E vocations@mn.catholic.org.au



### FEAST DAYS

- 25 Apr: ANZAC Day
- 3 May: Saints Philip and James, Apostles
- 14 May: Saint Matthias, Apostle
- 31 May: Pentecost Sunday
- 7 Jun: The Most Holy Trinity
- 14 Jun: The Most Holy Body and Blood Of Christ

### WE REMEMBER

#### Please Pray for:

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Michael Payne, Gerard Harvey, Fred Stanwell, Sheila Bell, Robert Watson, Paul Mowbray, Maureen Ashlett, Gary Herschel, Shelley Smith.

Recently Deceased: Amalia Maria Rufo

Anniversaries: Fr Patrick Hallinan, Fr Leo Daniel Driscoll, Fr Michael Dwyer OSB, Fr Michael Barron

*During this time of restrictions Intentions for publication may be submitted by email (or phone) by midday Monday each week ahead. Reminder that you need the person's permission if sick or the immediate family if it is a death.*

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

At this time, we cannot receive you Lord Jesus sacramentally in the Eucharist. Help us to welcome you spiritually as we wait for the day when your saving Sacrifice will be offered and the divine Banquet will be spread in our churches once more.

You are the Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

My Jesus, come to me. I long for you; let me always be at one with you.

*St Alphonsus Ligouri*

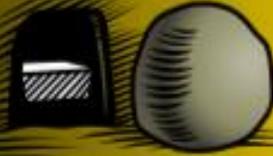
## All who have faith in Jesus will have their sins forgiven

Acts 10:34a, 37-43  
Ps 118:1-2, 15c-16ab & 17, 22-23  
Jn 20:1-9

F A O K N I F A I T H E B O P  
G E L I C R M L S D R L D J M  
F E M Q M E B B G C O D P V U  
R R D G E D R C H O S E N S G  
E H Z Y V E V E R Y O N E S P  
F T H D V B J K P P D E H S Y  
E G Q R M O C C K F F P N O A  
E X S R A I S E D N X J E R N  
N O U R G N I Y L E G R N C E  
O Q K F P Q J R Z H D V I U K  
T C Z M J K N X T N K I L E A  
S H M A R Y U U X K Z L P I T  
B N E U B R B Y E V F C O A J  
Z V G O R S O Q X T O M B Z F

Try to find these words:

chosen  
cross  
everyone  
faith  
linen  
lying  
Mary  
raised  
stone  
taken  
three  
tomb

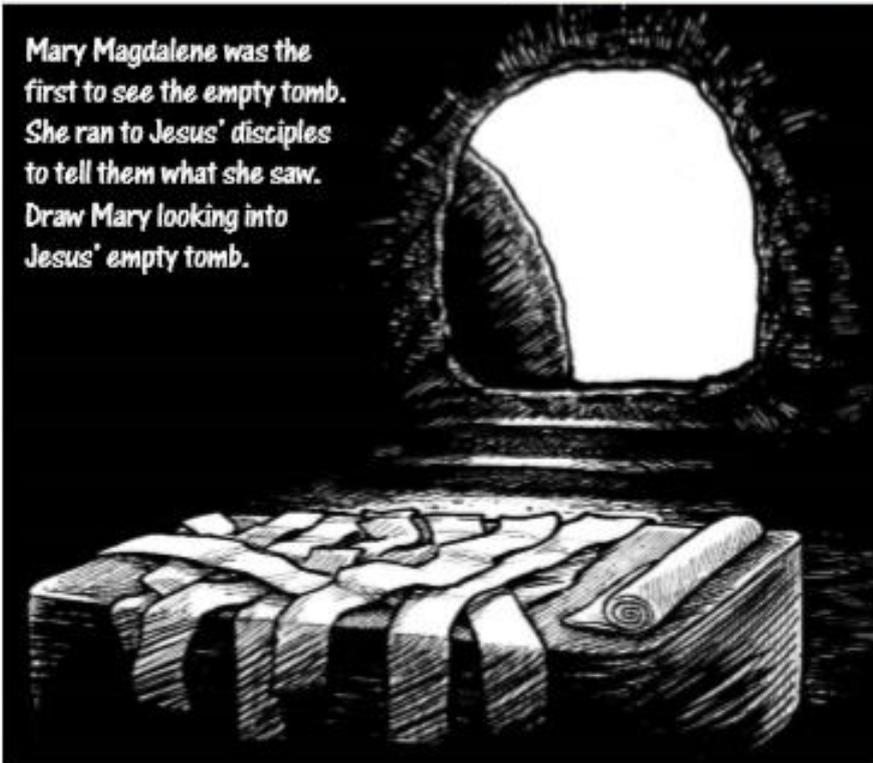


# He is risen! Alleluia!

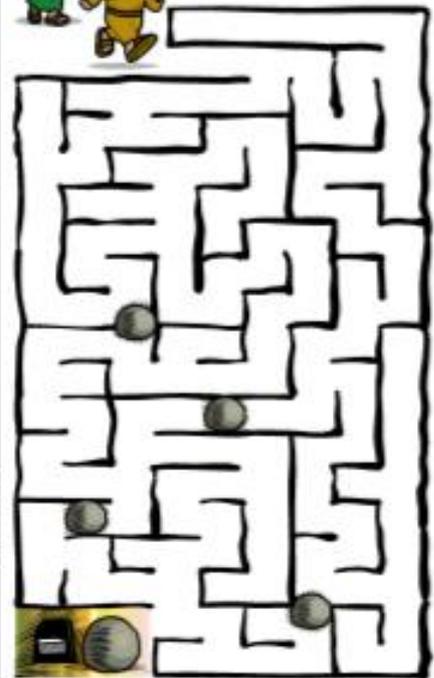


Easter Sunday

Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb. She ran to Jesus' disciples to tell them what she saw. Draw Mary looking into Jesus' empty tomb.



Help the disciples find their way to Jesus' empty tomb.



**This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice!**



What can you do to make people glad today?

---

---

---

---

---

Fill in the missing words below to find out what the letters in the boxes spell.

Mary M  went to the tomb.

"They have taken the  from the tomb", she said.

Peter was a d\_  of Jesus.

The other disciple ran f\_  than Peter.

He saw the strips of  cloth lying inside the tomb.

B  he did not go in.

When he saw  he believed.

The Scriptures s  Jesus would rise to life.