

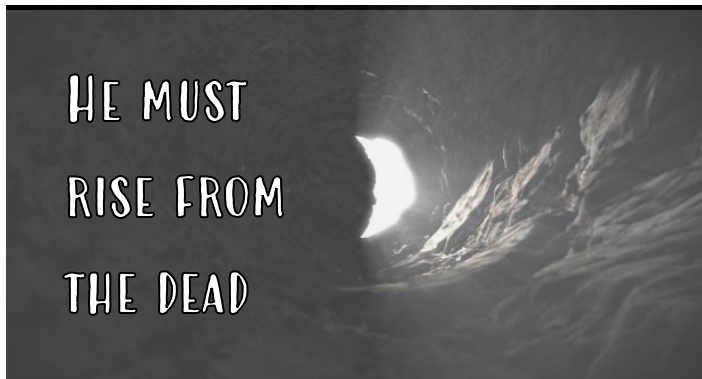


Our Lady of
Mount Carmel
Wentworthville

Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 31 March 2024

Easter Sunday



Reflections

John 20:1-9

This is my body

Mary runs to the tomb, heart racing at the sight of a stone rolled away. She imagines Jesus has been taken by enemies, and the thought propels her through the darkness. Next it's Peter and another disciple who are running, on fire with the idea that the tomb has been defiled. All of the characters in this story anticipate the worst, their hearts set on bad news. But what they find, when they lift their eyes, is the best news ever.

John presents one of the main characters in this event in a peculiar way: *the other disciple*. Why would this person remain nameless and indistinct, if they were one of only three people privileged to stand at the tomb on Easter morning? Scholars suggest John invites us to put ourselves in the silhouette of *the other disciple*, for we too stand at the tomb and declare what we see from here. Is the empty tomb bad news, the work of an enemy, a sad end to a tragic story? Or do we "see and believe," finding the good news that even in the cemetery, death loses? What we see in the dark, we must speak with our whole lives. Happy Easter.

To Ponder: Don't be afraid. Feel free to be astonished. Jesus is risen, angels are singing, and death just lost its sting. There's nothing to lose now. We can be as brave as we dare, risk all that we have. No matter what they tell you, the tomb is empty. The reign of death is over, we can go now. Become an Easter witness. Carry light into the darkness of someone you know, with a word of hope, a warm meal, an answer to prayer. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too – the real you, the glorious you. *Used with permission from GPBS eNews*

Bishop Vincent's Easter Message

Dear sisters and brothers,

Once again, we are entering the most sacred, grace-filled and transformative time in the Church's liturgy. The long and sombre Holy Week ceremonies that culminates in the celebration of Easter is a powerful re-enactment of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Everything we believe and hold dear is grounded in this paschal mystery.

Easter gives us the meaning, strength and power to transform the world in which we live. Easter provides us with the horizons of hope within which we strive for the full realisation of the reign of God.

At the heart of the Easter message is the summons to a new future against the background of entrenched hopelessness. As with Mary and the disciples, who were emboldened to move from the shadows of crucifixion into the light of the resurrection, the Church today must be a pioneer leading humanity to new dawn of greater justice, equality and fraternity.

We cannot be an inward-looking institution but a missionary and prophetic community of disciples. The God who raised Jesus from the dead leads us beyond our limited horizons to a new future of life to the full. This life to the full is not static or a closed system but ever expanding and evolving.

In fact, the essence of Christian hope is contained in the abundant life

that Jesus brought about through his death and resurrection. The whole point of the Risen Christ is our human capacity to become a new type of person who can do new things for a new heaven and a new earth.

Hence, we must release ourselves from religious individualism and confront the general religious experience, which is cosmic and evolutionary, and involve ourselves in the divine mandate of the flourishing of the whole of life. Without bringing these understandings into a new religious story that animates our lives and focuses our energies in a new direction, we will have diminished our mission.

Easter is not merely about our own salvation and the afterlife bliss. Easter is God conquering the forces of evil and darkness. Easter is God reconciling the estranged creation. We are called to partner with God in bringing the victory of the cosmic Christ to fulfilment. Easter therefore obliges us to work for both personal and cosmic transformation.

"Cosmic transformation" means working for the community of life of which we are a part. It means working for the whole of creation that God created, sustains and destines for flourishing.

It means that we become a place where the poor and the forgotten can be brought into a new unity; a Church that advocates life at all costs and promotes peaceful life in a war-torn and violent world; a Church that models justice in an age of greed, consumerism and power; a Church centered on the risen Christ, empowering a consciousness of the whole.

In the words of Pope Francis, let's pray in Easter 2024 that the risen Jesus of Nazareth: "*May open us to the newness that transforms, to the beautiful surprises of God. May he help us to feel his presence as the one who is alive and at work in our midst. And may he teach us each day, dear brothers and sisters, not to look among the dead for the Living One.*"

[Click here to view Bishop Vincent's Easter Message on YouTube.](#)

Parish News

Thank you

Through the combined efforts of many people, our parish were able to share in the sorrow, the mystery and, ultimately, the excellent joy that is Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

It cannot be overstated how much work occurs behind-the-scenes into creating a prayerful, reverent and blessed celebration. Thank you to all the families, friends, volunteers and Ministers who have given so much of their time, energy, effort and spirituality to ensure that our celebrations are the sacred, reverent and joyful occasions that we enjoy.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and safe Easter. The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Fr. Janu, the Carmelite Fathers and the Parish Team

East Timor Easter Raffle

Thank you to everyone who participated in the East Timor Easter Raffle, which raised \$2451 much-needed funds to go towards East Timorese Scholarship Programmes. Congratulations to the following people who won a prize in the East Timor Easter Raffle:

Dwayne	Stella Grech
Jen Udan	Lucy Warwar
Jessica Reddy	Jake
Annette Craddy	Phil Dingli
Denise Alderman	Lisa
Marie Tuyan	Christian Alama
Sylvia Grantuco	Fiona M

Prizes can be collected from the parish office if you haven't already done so.

Pontifical Holy Land Good Friday Collection

Every year on Good Friday, the Catholic Church asks us to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years. This Holy Week, you can make your donation using the envelopes provided or via Commissariat of the Holy Land, 47 Victoria St. Waverley NSW 2024 or holyland@franciscans.org.au.

Planned Giving envelopes now available

New Planned Giving envelopes which begin from 1 April 2024 are now available for you to collect from the Parish Centre.

Thank you to all those who contribute to our community using this method.

Planned Giving is a very convenient and practical method of contributing to the parish, even if it's just \$5 a week.

If you would like to receive a receipt for your Planned Giving please contact Gennie, our Finance Officer, on ocarmswentyaccts@gmail.com as soon as possible.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Congratulations to Ruchika and Olivia who will be received into full communion with the Catholic church at the Easter Vigil. Ruchika was baptised in the United Church and has been attending regular Mass and RCIA sessions. Ruchika has demonstrated she has an enduring and deeply sincere relationship with our Father.

Olivia was baptised in the Anglican Church and is in Year 4 at OLMC School, this year, and is being presented this Saturday by her parents. She is looking to celebrating her sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation with her friends over the next couple of years.

We look forward to sharing our faith journey with these two young people and their families.

Office closed

Please remember that office hours are from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Thursday, and that it will be closed on Monday 1 April for the Public Holiday.

Fr Janu will be on leave from 1 April to 6 April 2024.

Goodbye to old friends

We were saddened to hear recently that two past parishioners have passed away.

The funeral of **Rob McMenamin**, late husband of Lynne, will be celebrated at 10:30am on 4 April at St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Charlestown.

And while we don't have any details of the funeral of the late **Paul Crollick**, we remember him and his family in our prayers.

Daylight Savings ends

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings ends next week; turn your clocks back one hour from 3am on Sunday morning.

For sale

Double Crypt Level 4 in Pinegrove Cemetery.

\$60,000 negotiable. Genuine offers only. For more information, please phone 0417 088 887.

MCC Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Centrelink – *Downsizing & Aged Care Specialist*. Monday 8 April Door open @ 10:30am. Members & Friends always welcome. Contact: Marisa 0414863123

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's donation to the Parish: **\$3369**

Planned Giving (cash): \$ 730

Planned Giving (credit cards): \$ 100

Loose cash: \$ 1459

Direct Deposits: \$ 320

Tap & Go: \$ 760

Parish Online Banking: If you would like to pay fees or are able to make a donation, our online banking details are:

BSB: 067 950

Account Number: 000 00602

Account Name: Wentworthville Catholic Church

Reference: [YourSurname]DONATION NAME

Fees for special Services

Please see below, a simplified guide to our fees for special Services. These fees include both the Parish and Carmelite Father's fees:

Wedding: \$700

Funeral: \$700

Baptism: \$50

Memorial service: \$400

Please pray for

Those who are sick, especially Bernadette Stevens, Mark Cotter, Lina Galpin, Lucy & Rosine, Rita Ientile, Vivian Sultana, Roseline Fernandez, Yolanda Gonzales, Edwin Macwan, Sharon Dolan.

Recently deceased, Rob McMenamin, Paul Crollick, Jennifer Kelberg, Charmaine Kelberg, Baby Egan, Rachael Sumagui, Matthew Spiteri, Tony Campton, Thea Flynn, Robert Howe, Joanne Tabone, Charlie Bonnici, Duyen Tran.

Our special intentions, especially Carmelita Perez & family, Inday Fisherman & family, Anthonipillai Saverimutti, Dr Julia Lee, Francisco Pier, Michel, Joe & family, Marianna Felice, Theresa Borg, Franz Tito, Mary Rose Perez, Teresa & Charlie Zammit, Stella Galea, Noreen McLean, Prince William & Princess Kate, Ben & Rachael Sumagai, Remigio & Fidel Perez, Elmer Ayuste & family, Vimmela, Yoland & Donald Muir, Abraham, Agnes & Fr Augustus Patacsil, Clivin family, Joyce, Tony & Antonia Cini, Mary & Frank Teuma, Anthony, Monica & Catherine Kong, Charlie Zammit, Charlie Sultana, Vicitms of war, Holy Souls in Purgatory, and in honour of St Anthony and St Jude.

Names published with permission from families.

Coming events

1 April: Public Holiday – Parish office closed.

4 April: Church cleaning after the 9am Mass

5 April: Anointing at 9am Mass followed by shared Morning Tea

Rosters for 6 and 7 April 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm (Vigil)	Reader Commentator Communion	Janine Hanna Bob Hanna Elena Fernandes
8am	Reader Commentator Communion	Michelle Rodrigues Cat Paulo Cecilia Cotter (Assembly) David Rodrigues
10am	Reader Commentator Communion	Youth Minister Youth Minister Volunteer needed (Assembly) David Touma
6pm	Reader Commentator Communion	Ramona Grimm Bimy Baby Fran Sharpe

Next week's readings

6 and 7 April – Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-6

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

Around the Diocese and beyond

Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

This edition invites us to practise silence, deepen our interior lives and pray for a Gospel change of heart, how our communities celebrate Easter, seminarians preparing to 'go out into the deep', a handy Holy Week Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 21 April

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, on Sunday 21 April for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact Sr Christine Ramada CSFN on csfn.cristina@gmail.com

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**Our Lady of
Mount Carmel**
Wentworthville

in the care of the Carmelite Friars

Connect with us

Online at www.olmcwenty.org.au

On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @olmcwenty

Email ocarmswenty@gmail.com

Parish Office

Open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Parish Office is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Phone 9631 8302

Parish Priest: Fr. Januario Pinto, O.Carm

Assistant Priest: Fr. Albino Dos Santos, O.Carm

In Community: Fr. Anthony Scerri, O.Carm,

Fr. Paul Gurr, O.Carm (Carmelite Prior),

Fr. Wayne Stanhope, O.Carm (at Jamberoo),

Fr. John Powell, O.Carm (in Aged Care)

Parish Secretary: Paola Yévenes

Finance Officer: Gennie Cosgrove

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School

Principal: Olimpia Pirovic

Phone: 8832 1100

Liturgy times

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8am, 10am, 6pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Thursday and Saturday: 9am

Friday: 9:15am (except on the first Friday of the month)

Reconciliation

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday: 8am

Rosary Group

Monday - Friday: 8am

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

Anointing within Mass

First Friday of the month at 9am Mass followed by a shared Morning Tea

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

On request

We acknowledge the Darug people as the original custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders; past, present and emerging.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, together with the Diocese of Parramatta and the Carmelite Friars, are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and ensuring that they feel and are safe.