

Easter Sunday—Year A

16 April 2017

First Reading

Acts 10:34, 37-43

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.’

Second Reading

Col 3:1-4

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.

Gospel

Mt 28:1-10

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.’

Historical context

Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.

Different View

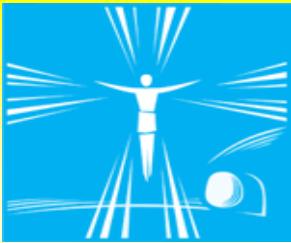
An empty tomb?

There are some writers who have questioned the historical accuracy of the empty tomb account of the resurrection. Some theologians and biblical scholars (e.g. members of the ‘Jesus Seminar’) argue that historically, it is far more likely that the victim of Roman crucifixion would be left to rot on the cross or buried in a shallow criminal’s grave – not laid to rest in an expensive private tomb. However, they do not argue against resurrection. They maintain that Jesus’ body was not ‘resuscitated’ or ‘reanimated’. What happened to his corpse, they argue, is irrelevant to Christ’s resurrection.

gospel focus

The disciple Jesus loved

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.



He has risen! May this Easter bring untold happiness and joy in your life, knowing that even when we feel like giving up, there is still hope for resurrection.
Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Parish Priest

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Priest in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari, Cor Bishop
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M 0418 459 431

Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria
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T (02) 9644 7787

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Tommy Francisco
tommy.bolin.francisco@gmail.com

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Mariana Tannous

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)
Karim Kassis (Vice Chair)
T. 0402071849
Maureen Hynes (Secretary)
Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),
Micheline Botham (Social Committee)
Jenny Michael (Liturgy Committee)
Pat Kavanagh (Social Justice),
Jann Rockliff (Hospital Visit) ,
Joe Moses, Rhia Victorino, Arthur
Doumit (SVDP) and Principals of the
Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Motte (Chair)
T (02) 9644 8859
Micheline Botham (Secretary)
0422939342,
Joe Moses, Ingrid Scharenguivel &
Brendon Nazareth (Finance Controller)

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
T. 96449083
Principal - Phil Townsend
Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South
T. 96461434
Principal - Gai Melville
Family Educator - Angela Finnane

Parish Diary This Week!

Monday	6.45am Mass
Tuesday	6.45am Mass
Wednesday	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass
Thursday	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass 7.00pm Psalmist Practice (8 Wallace St, Sefton) 7.30pm General Practice for Parish Choir (8 Wallace St, Sefton)
Friday	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass
Saturday	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary 9.00am Novena Adoration Confession 5.00pm Mass (Sunday Vigil)
Sunday	8.00am Mass at SJW Church Auburn Sth 10.00am Mass

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased: Lee Kong Wan

Deceased: Mark Man-Wah Chiu

Deceased members and friends of : Erwin & O'Dwyer Families, Ross & Mitchell Families, Orlovic Family, Lisica Family, Duong Family

"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel

at the Facer Family
2/65 Regent Street, Berala
Please join them any evening at 7.30pm
for the Rosary

We need more families to host the Pilgrim Statue
from St Peter Chanel.

Please contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

ROSARY STATUE from St Joseph the Worker
To host the Rosary Statue from St Joseph the Worker contact the Legion of Mary.

Fr Thomas will be visiting and praying with the Families who are hosting Our Lady' Statue during the Marian Month (month of May).
We are encouraging the families to get together and pray the Rosary at least during the month of May, it is the prayer that keeps the family bonded together.

Alcohol and Drug Information Service: (Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats Ph: 4236 0533

Carmelites Varroville - www.carmeliteretreats.com.au Ph: 8795 3400

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby - www.divineretreatcentre.org.au Ph: 4372 1598

Sara's place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 9699 8190

Celebrate the Light and Joy in Our Risen Lord



Christ is risen. Alleluia. May the peace and joy of Easter fill your hearts and life.

Easter is the most profound celebration. It is the celebration of how Jesus won victory over death for us.

Wouldn't you tell everyone this good news – death has no more dominion on us.

Spread this good news far and wide. That is what Jesus told his disciples. Do you think you are not worthy to speak of the life in Risen Christ. You are not alone in it. When Jesus as his disciples to go and tell everyone that he is risen, he was not choosing the people who stood by him all through his trial, persecution and crucifixion. He included even the disciples who betrayed him when he needed their support most. Peter who denied Jesus at the time of trial was among them. This aspect of the Gospel is very encouraging.

Many of us may have lost our trust in God and Jesus Christ at different times of our life. We may have been denying Jesus at the time of trials. It does not matter anymore what kind of past commitments or lack of it we had. Now as the people of the blessed hope, we all shall share our faith in “the manifestation of the glory of our great god and Saviour Jesus Christ”.(Tit 2:13)

Announcing the resurrection , the angel told the women “ There is no need for you to be afraid.” Then again appearing to the deserted disciples in Galilee, Jesus said, “Do not be afraid”. (Ref Mt 28:5,10). Therefore take courage my dear friends in the face so much violence done to Christians. Do Not be afraid. Jesus who had good news for the deserted disciples, has good news for us too.

The greatest of the joy is that Christ has promised you and me also a life beyond our death on earth. We can have the foretaste of it during our life on earth through the newness of life and spirit we experience in our day to day life. The fellowship we encourage in the parish is part of it. Our charity we extend to the needy is also helping it. Most of all our communion with the Body of Christ is helping us to have the foretaste of godly and glorious life we are called to. With Paul we too can say: “‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?’” [1 Cor. 15:55]

The stone that seals us in the doom of the tomb is our craze for worldly gains and fame. Having joined Christ in his sacrificial suffering, let us now come out darkness in life to a life of light and joy in our Risen Lord.

Fr Thomas on Holidays

Fr Thomas will be on holidays from 17 April - 4 May. In his absence, Fr Simon Kitimbo, Vice Rector of Good Shepherd will do the weekend Masses. Monsignor Michael Berbari will do all the weekday Masses. Lea will be minding the Parish Office. Therefore most of the business of the parish will be as usual.

Feast of St Joseph the Worker

The Feast of St Joseph the Worker is an optional celebration according to the Liturgical Calendar. One of the two patron saints of our Parish is St Joseph the Worker. One of our Parish Schools is also named after St Joseph the Worker. Therefore there will be a celebration of feast on Tuesday 2 May. A Memorandum of Understanding between Sydney Catholic Schools, Maronite Bishop, Berala Parish, St Raymond's Parish, inviting greater involvement of St Raymond Parish in the Pastoral Care of St Joseph the Worker School. This year being the first opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the Patron Saint after the MOU signed, Fr Sam Wehbe from St Raymond Parish is invited to celebrate the Feast Mass on Tuesday 2 May at St Joseph the Worker Church. It will be a Maronite Rite Mass in English. All parishioners are invited to this special celebration of the Feast.

Fr Thomas as the Parish Priest of SJW School will be doing most of the other school Masses during the Year.

ANZAC Day Mass

Holy Mass for ANZAC day will be at 8 AM on Tuesday, 25 April. It will be the only Mass on that day. There will not be an early morning Mass on that day. After the ANZAC Mass there will be morning tea to celebrate this national day.



Thank you for the great effort many have put into making the Holy Week very special.

The Parish Choir under the leadership of Maureen Hynes did a lot of training and delivered very well. Elmer's Choir and the Samoan Choir also put their heart and soul to liturgical singing, especially for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Frank Attard prepared the special PowerPoints and organised Music for 8 AM Mass. Arthur and team brought the palms for the Passion Sunday which was cut into pieces by a team of people. Jenny Michael, Charlie Scully and team

did Lenten decorations. Margaret Heys and Alicia Moore did the floral arrangements for the great Easter Feast. John Fensing and team did the Altar of Repose. Lea Baldoria the executive personnel did most of the preparation program. Then there's Brother Tony Vaughan and team helping with Rite of Christian Initiation of the Adults at Easter. People who prepared the social celebrations, did cleaning of the church, God's House Keepers, Altar Servers, Liturgical Ministers, Joyce McDonald and team who prepared the church for early morning Mass. Fr John Sullivan gave a wonderful Holy Week reflection and encouraging messages on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Thus goes the list of the people who helped making the Holy Week a great experience. Our parishioners are so generous that it is not easy to mention a full list. I know none of you have done this for any approval from others. You all have done it out of your love for God and for the parish. I can only say a Big Thank You to all of you for a job well done! Such generous and mutual support within the parish promotes greater vitality for the parish life. Therefore keep up your volunteer spirit!

Transition of St Joseph the Worker Church

The Transition of St Joseph the Worker Church to the Maronite Diocese for the use of St Raymond's parish is now settled. Bishop of the Maronite diocese, Most Rev Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, has permitted us to continue to use the Church for 8 AM Mass on Sundays without any payment for 2 years. That means, though Berala Parish does not own SJW Church any more, we will continue to celebrate 8 AM Mass on Sundays at SJW. We as a parish, congratulate St Raymond Parish on the acquisition of church and pray God's blessings on all the good pastoral initiatives of St Raymond's Parish.

Formation & Training Course For Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

This programme is for those who, with the support of their Parish Priest, are or will soon be assisting as **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION** in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

It is also a **pre-requisite** course for those men who wish to attend the Acolytes training courses.

WHEN: Wednesday 3rd & 10th May 2017

WHERE: St Augustine of Hippo Eaton Street Balmain NSW 2041

Other Notices

Australian Catholic Youth Festival This three day festival will be held in Sydney **7-9 December 2017**. We look forward to the whole Parish Community being involved. For more information, please go to www.acyf.org.au.

Lismore Flood Appeal Archbishop Fisher is supporting the Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal that was launched by Bishop Gregory Homeming to help those who have suffered in the recent floods on the North Coast of NSW. To donate to the Appeal see www.dioceseoflismorefloodappeal.org

St Anthony's Clovelly Centenary Mass Past parishioners, students and friends are cordially invited to the Centenary Mass on Sunday **21 May 2017 at 10.00am**, For more information or to indicate attendance, email: centenary@stanthonyclovelly.org.au; Facebook: St Anthony's Clovelly Centenary

Nigerian Catholic Women's Retreat A one day retreat on 30 April, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. For more information, Chaplain Fr Akamadu, 0451174438 or Stella Nwosu, 0405478472.

CatholicCare have employment opportunities to work with our ageing clients and those with a disability. To find out more call **13 18 19**, email connect@catholiccare.org or visit www.catholiccare.org.

Sequence

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.

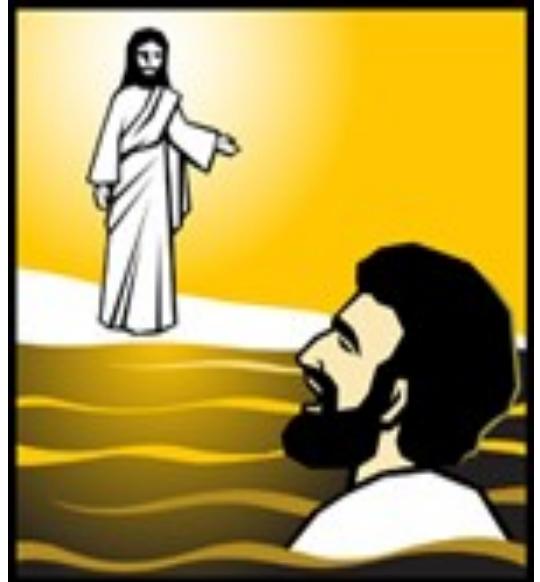
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

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!



Congratulations to Rossan Dawoonarain, Lisa Phoung, Abbey Mae Thatcher, and Alicia Maree Moore who were initiated into Catholic Church at Easter Vigil.



Planned Giving Request Form

Your financial contribution to the Planned Giving of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the financial year you will receive a receipt for your contributions. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate

Your Name:.....

Telephone NoEmail

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.

Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (*An authority form will be sent for completion*)

Antiphons & Readings

Responsorial Psalm:

(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)**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Next Week's Readings:

Acts 2:42-47

1 Pt 1:3-9

Jn 20:19-31


Holy Mass at Berela

Monday to Friday 6.45am
Wednesday to Friday 9.15am
Saturday 8.00am
Saturday 9.00am Adoration & Novena.

Holy Mass at Auburn South

Tuesday 9.00am
(during school term only)

Lord's Day Mass Berela

Saturday 5.00PM (Vigil)
Sunday 10.00AM

Lord's Day Mass Auburn South

Sunday 8.00AM

Reconciliation at Berela

Saturday 9.00AM - 10.00AM.
Or contact the parish office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office.

St Peter Chanel & St Joseph the Worker Rosters - Next Week

23 APRIL 2017
2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	William ANDREWS	Robert JAKSIC
ORGAN	Kate PARISH		SAMOAN
CANTOR	S EAMIGUEL & PARISH CHOIR		YOUTH
LECTOR/S	John DONNELLAN	William ANDREWS	Pam SNELL
	Noelene DONNELLAN	Michael CHOW	Sharon IACONO
COMMENTATOR	Katrina YIP	Ingrid SCHARENGUVEL	Rhia VICTORINO
GIFTS	Carol MABON Family		VICTORINO Family
SP. MINISTER	Christine KENSEY		Hilary NGUYEN
SP. MINISTER	Phirum DUCH		Karen NGUYEN
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY		Margaret THAM
GREETERS	J ROCKLIFF & J ZHANG	Joe MOSES	A FACER & P KAVANAGH
HOSPITALITY		T LANGI & S SORIC	Sharon IACONO

HOSPITAL VISITATION SAT: D Simon & J Fahd

ALTAR: Group 5 M Heys; C Mabon; M Wood

HOSPITAL COMMUNION SUN: B & C Kensey

COUNTERS: Group 1 J Le Mottee, J Shanley

CLEANERS - SPC: N & G Sitchon **SJW:** T Langi & I Kula & Friends

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: School holidays

SATURDAY
22 APRIL

LECTOR FOR MASS

Christine KENSEY

