



THE SAVING WORD

EASTER SUNDAY / A

5 APRIL 2026



MASS OF EASTER NIGHT

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117

R. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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 cornerstone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

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.

MASS DURING THE DAY

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



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
Parish Office: 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162 ☎ 95238407 ✉ elsternwick@cam.org.au
📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC
Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-mins before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm J Lam

Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am La Bonne family

Counters: No Counting

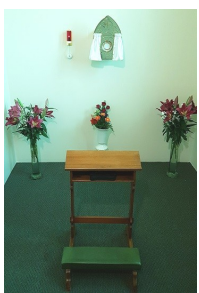
Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 12 Apr: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Thanksgiving



Perpetual Adoration Chapel



The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag.

Contact the Parish Office to apply. A refundable deposit will be required. Concessions available on application.

Trivia Lunch - 8th April 2026

Join us at the Holy Cross Parish Hall every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12-noon.

Bring your own lunch and enjoy the Trivia session and a catchup.

All are welcome.

Project Compassion

Easter continues for quite a few weeks and, in a way, the celebration never stops.

The risen Lord calls us to be life givers ourselves.

Please return all your Project Compassion Boxes during Mass collections, latest by Sunday 19th April.

Thank you for your support.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 138:18, 5-6)

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (1 Cor 5:7-8)

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: -

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -



HAPPY EASTER
HE HAS RISEN ALLELUIA!
LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD

A Prayer to End Wars and to Restore Peace!

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace! At this time of global uncertainty and instability caused by wars, conflicts and violence among various nations and peoples, we come to you in prayer to ask for your intervention.

Let peace and unity be restored throughout the world. Amen.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please register only ONE organization for our amalgamated Parish, using the following details:

Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

2. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

Divine Mercy Novena & Feast at Holy Cross Church



Come and be part of “The Greatest Gift of God to Our Time”. The World is in desperate need of God’s Mercy.

Let us implore the Mercy of God on ourselves and on the whole world.

Novena - Nine Nights

Given by Jesus Christ Himself

7:00pm from Good Friday, 3rd April to Saturday, 11th April

Feast of Mercy

Complete Forgiveness of both Sin and Punishment

1:00pm Sunday, 12th April

Confessions - 6 Priests

1:30pm Adoration, Prayers, Hour of Mercy, Holy Mass

* 1st Class Relics: St Faustina, St John Paul II, Bl. Fr Sopock

* Inspiring Divine Mercy Polish Priest Fr Gregory Szumera, Professor from Czestochowa.

Combined Societies of Mary

Joy Hunt 95092207 www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com



Building the Synodal Way Together

As we enter the Easter season, we are invited to continue growing as a Church that listens, learns, and walks together. The Synodal Way calls each of us - clergy, religious, and lay - to participate actively in discernment and dialogue, guided by the Holy Spirit.

In the coming weeks, we will focus on deepening our commitment to:

- Listening with an open heart to the experiences, hopes, and concerns of others.
- Engaging in meaningful conversation, grounded in respect, humility, and prayer.
- Strengthening our sense of communion, recognising Christ at the centre of our shared mission.
- Discerning pathways forward, so that our parish and wider Church can respond more faithfully to the needs of our time.

Reflection question: How can we deepen our understanding of synodality in our parish life?

The first meeting of the Diocesan Synod Commission will be held on Thursday 9 April. We ask for your prayers as we gather to discern and plan for the work of the Synod.

If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod email: Synod2026@cam.org.au



Permanent Diaconate Information Session



The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and the 50s, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service.

This information session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. It is an opportunity to further discern your vocation. Wives most welcome.

If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison, Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with your full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome.

Event Date: **Saturday 2 May 2025 10.00am–11.30am**

Venue: **Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne**



2026 EASTER MESSAGE

Easter offers a way forward

Friends,

Easter invites us to stand at the threshold from night into dawn. In the Gospel, we meet Mary Magdalen arriving at the tomb while it was still dark (Jn 20:1). She carries grief and confusion, yet a fragile hope. What she finds is not an ending but a beginning: the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty. And before her stands the One who knows her name: Mary.

As dawn breaks, a quiet truth emerges: death has not had the final word; life has arisen.

The resurrection unfolds like morning light. It does not blind, but illumines. It does not erase wounds, but transfigures them. Christ, the Light of the World, comes to meet us as the light we need. Christ is present; Christ is life.

Yet many today experience absence. For the young especially, the world can feel stripped of mystery—flattened, reduced. Meaning feels distant; hope can seem lost. Our lives can appear dark and empty. Conflict and war confront us.

And yet, it is precisely there that Easter speaks our name. The empty tomb is the sign which awakens us to the truth that God is still with us; Jesus is still for us. This Easter, we are called not only to receive Christ’s light, but to rediscover its wonder—and to bear that light for others.

Here in Melbourne, we see both vitality and vulnerability: generosity among neighbours, yet distance towards others. Into this world comes the risen Christ, shining light into every

darkness and upon every life. To be a light is to reflect the One who brings hope, and to keep it alive in a world that can forget to hold in safety those in need.

In our divided and conflicted world, Easter offers not escape but a way forward: to live with compassion, seek truth, build peace, and stand for hope.

To the steadfast in faith: may this Easter renew your joy and courage. To those who feel distant: the light of Christ is already seeking you. To people of goodwill: Easter proclaims that life is stronger than death, love stronger than fear, and hope stronger than despair.

May the risen Christ bless Melbourne and all its people this Easter. And may we rediscover his company as we walk from darkness into his marvelous light.

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

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

(see front page)

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 may be 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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © **St Pauls Publications**, 2026. No 2137. Website: www.stpauls.com.au