

Happy Easter.

Here is a parable for Easter. The world is at war. The British Isles are cloaked in darkness. Into the midst of this black night a German pilot, his aircraft disabled by hostile fire, bails out to save his life. Perhaps he prays as he plummets to the ground into the heart of enemy territory. Perhaps, as he struggles to release his parachute, he has a flashback image of the girl he left behind and dares not hope to see again. Minutes later his parachute becomes entangled in a tree, and he lies unconscious on the ground.

Dawn breaks. A young woman passes by. She is lost in thought. Her lover has asked her to marry him. She longs to say yes. But who can afford to celebrate a wedding in these dark days? Where will they find the ingredients for a wedding cake? Whatever could she wear for a bridal gown? Warning voices tell her to wait until the war is over—but who knows when that might be, and she loves him and longs to be his bride now...for tomorrow may never come.

And then her reverie is brutally interrupted. She almost stumbles over the German airman lying in her path. Her heart knows what she must do. She covers him gently with her coat and places her jersey under his head. There is still a pulse. There is still life. She fetches help. The casualty will be cared for—at least in his immediate need. Beyond that, who knows?

The next day her path takes her back past the spot where she found him. The torn parachute is still there, caught in the branches. She gazes at it but now, in her mind's eye, she no longer sees a parachute hanging there in the tree but the possibility of a silk wedding gown, a gift from God.

Easter Greetings from Fr Greg

I wish everyone the experience of forgiveness, healing, joy and purpose at Easter. You might find this quote from our Pope helpful as you reflect upon the meaning of the greatest moment in our Church Year. I thank God for each of you.

"At Easter, God finally reveals His glory: He takes away the last veil and astonishes us as never before. We discover, in fact, that God's glory is all love: pure love, mad and unthinkable, beyond every limit and measure...True glory is the glory of love, because it is the only one that gives life to the world. Certainly this glory is the opposite of worldly glory, which comes when one is admired, praised, acclaimed. The glory of God, on the other hand, is paradoxical: no applause, no audience. At the center there is not the ego, but the other." (POPE FRANCIS, ANGELUS, APRIL 2019)

Easter Vigil Readings

First Reading

Genesis 1:1 - 2:2

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-7, 12-13, 20, 22



Second Reading

Genesis 22:1-18

Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:5, 8-11

Third Reading

Exodus 14:15 - 15:1

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

Responsorial Psalm

Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18

Moses Parts the Red Sea
by Andrew Doane (CC BY 3.0)



Fourth Reading

Isaiah 54:5-14

But with everlasting love I have taken pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

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

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-6

Sixth Reading

Baruch 3:9-15, 32 - 4:4

Walk in the way of God and you will live in peace for ever.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11

Seventh Reading

Ezekiel 36:16-28

I shall pour clean water over you and I shall give you a new heart.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 41:3, 5; 42:3, 4



Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.

ALLELUIA

Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

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.'



Gospel

Mark 16:1-7

Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has risen.



COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND ON GOOD FRIDAY. The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2023 Australian Catholics were once again extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land nearly \$1.4 million [\$1.4 million (2022), \$1,126,098 (2021), \$406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial and spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you.

ASSOCIATION OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL MONTHLY MASS AND NOVENA, Sat 6 April at 10am, starting with rosary at 9.45am. All are welcome.

(AED) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING, SUNDAY 14 JULY 10.30AM, ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH. Dear Parishioners, in 2020 St Anthony's Parish was gifted by the Michael Hughes Foundation with a defibrillator AED device, a potential life saving device for Cardiac arrest. This device is located at the back of the Church. The training of using the AED device was held by Julie Hughes in August 2020. ***The Parish is holding another refresher course led by Julie Hughes on Sunday 14th July at 10.30am*** after the 9am mass in St Anthony's Church. Training generally runs for 1-1.5 hours, depending on the number of participants and questions raised. The training covers what is cardiac arrest, basic first aid principles, CPR, use and maintenance of the defibrillator and risk assessments for our church. ***We encourage parishioners who are regulars at other mass time slots to attend this training*** to gain basic knowledge of how to use an AED in an emergency. A victim's chance of survival decreases by 10% every minute after a sudden cardiac arrest. The course is free to parishioners. It is important that as many people trained in using this device, at St Anthony's Church and anywhere an AED device is located. The Michael Hughes Foundation is now called the "Heart of the Nation": heartofthenation.com.au. Email Roseanna roseanna@rgmusic.com.au or the Parish office, to attend.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

1st collection: supports the Parish Priest, presbytery upkeep, food, utilities, support of the Archdiocese, care of elderly priests.

2nd collection: maintenance & upkeep of Parish buildings & grounds, pastoral works, Parish administration, insurance, utilities, salaries, priest car expenses & Charitable Works Fund shortfall.

IN WHAT WAYS DOES
THE RISEN CHRIST
APPEAR IN YOUR
LIFE?

WHAT DOES THE
RESURRECTION
MEAN TO YOU
PERSONALLY?

WHAT AREAS OF
YOUR LIFE NEED
TRANSFORMATION
THROUGH THE
RESURRECTION?

HOW HAS THE
MESSAGE OF
EASTER
TRANSFORMED
YOUR LIFE?

HOW CAN YOU
BE A SOURCE OF
NEW LIFE AND
HOPE FOR THOSE
AROUND YOU?

HOW CAN YOU SHARE
THE MESSAGE OF THE
RESURRECTION WITH
OTHERS
EFFECTIVELY?

WHERE DO YOU TURN
FOR GUIDANCE AND
CLARITY WHEN LIFE
BECOMES CONFUSING?



REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR

EASTER

more reflections at <https://young-catholics.com/686/easter/#quotes>



WEEK 6: 24 MAR 2024

In this final week of the Jesuit Refugee Service's Lenten Foodbank Drive, you gave:

234 litres of milk
3 boxes of laundry powder
4 bottles of laundry liquid
3 bottles of dishwashing liquid
1 bottle of oil and a packet of lentils

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON
TO THOSE IN NEED!**

S. FRANCESCO DI PAOLA. Il Comitato dell'Associazione di S. Francesco di Paola ricorda ai fedeli devoti di questo grande Santo, che Martedì, 2 Aprile, alle ore 7.30 sarà celebrata una santa Messa in onore di S. Francesco di Paola, patrono di Vazzano e della Calabria. ***The Committee for the Association of San Francesco (St Francis) di Paola would like to remind all the faithful devoted to the saint, that on Tue, 2 April at 7.30 pm, Mass will be celebrated in honour of the Patron Saint of Vazzano and Calabria.***

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, 7 APRIL, ST THERESE'S, DENISTONE. Starts at 2 pm with Reconciliation & Devotion. Followed by Mass at 3pm. All welcome.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE, 20-21 JULY, PARISH HALL. The Rotary Club of Macquarie Park will run a Mental Health First Aid Course, with an experienced facilitator. The highly-subsidised cost is \$50. It would be suitable for Carers. Places limited. Contact Roseanna Gallo (roseanna@rgmusic.com.au) if you are interested.

Please pray for Sister Judith Greville DC, formerly of Marsfield, who died in England on 22 March 2024.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Click here
for more
information



ENROLMENT OPEN FOR SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

Parents, if you have children in Year 6 and above who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, you are invited to register them for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Visit saintanthonys.org.au and click on the image on the landing page to download the enrolment package. Email rachel@saintanthonys.org.au for more information.

Registration closes Mon 8 April



Thank you

FOR SUPPORTING THE JRS FOODBANK

To St Anthony's Parish, Marsfield,

Wishing you a very happy start to the new year! We are so grateful that 2024 has started with such thoughtful and generous donations from your community. This has meant that our clients are set up with food and essential items as they begin a new year and have their children starting school.

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia team would like to say a big thank you for supporting the 150 families who access our foodbank weekly. You have spread so much joy through this donation and shown great solidarity to those doing it tough.

Thank you for your incredible support, we couldn't do this work without you!

Kind regards,
Zoe Grant
Community and Schools Engagement Coordinator

PRAYER MINISTRY PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER:

Those who are sick

Bee Ho, Angelica Owczarek,
Moonki Nam, Margaret Cusack,
Barbaro family, Maria Younis,
Michael Brincat, Lim Siew Ching,
Susan Lim Hui Siang, Jac Smits,
Ambrosio "Jing" Feleo,
Lim Liang Chin, Victoria Cook,
Marienoelle Permal,
Sr Monica Simmons RSM

The recently deceased

Teresa Sheehan

(Mother & mother-in-law of
Vicky Sheehan & Andrew Hill,
grandmother of Cassie,
James & Mitchell Hill)

Ferdinand Fernandez

(Uncle & uncle-in-law of
Gerard Miranda & Pauline
Jasudason)

Those with anniversaries around this time

Due to privacy laws, if you would like the name of a family member or friend printed in the Good Oil, please contact the Parish Office.

The Catholic Weekly
31 MARCH 2024

ARCHBISHOP FISHER'S EASTER MESSAGE:

Share God's love with those
needing forgiveness

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY
is available at the church
doors. Please put \$2 in the
Poor Box.

Peace comes from
carrying the Cross

12-13

CALLED & GIFTED DISCERNMENT PROCESS, 29 APRIL – 15 JULY 2024, EIGHT SESSIONS DELIVERED ONLINE VIA ZOOM—

The path to discovering your charisms! Once again, the Called & Gifted Discernment Process is being offered exclusively for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. The process is designed to help Christians discern the presence of charisms in their lives, and to motivate and equip them to participate in the mission of the Church more fully. Don't miss this opportunity to discover how you have been blessed by the Holy Spirit to build the Kingdom of God! COST: \$140 plus booking fees. For more information, and to register, go to:

[gomakedisciples.org.au/
called-gifted-discernment-process/](http://gomakedisciples.org.au/called-gifted-discernment-process/)

PASTORAL SESSIONS • Mon: Rosary (Italian) 7pm | Tue: Cenacle 2.30pm | Wed: Adoration 9.30am |
Wed: Meditation 10am | Fri: Adoration 5pm | Saturdays (or by appointment): Reconciliation 5.30-5.50pm

CAPTAINS, PLEASE REMIND YOUR TEAM: COUNTERS ROSTER MAR/APR

31/3-Team 9; 7/4-Team 10; 14/4-Team 1; 21/4-Team 2; 28/4-Team 3

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS A CRIME. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or at (02) 9390 5810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policy Overview:** sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-the-Policy.pdf

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

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For the next weeks she spends every spare moment with her needle, painstakingly transforming an abandoned parachute into a uniquely beautiful wedding gown.

From his bed in the military hospital, a lonely young German airman, recovering from disaster, sees the bridal couple pass by. His heart leaps with a sudden surge of hope. This time next year, perhaps, he will be with his own young bride once more. He little guesses that this English bride is wearing his parachute.

This time next year! Easter is a time to look forward. Too often the Christian story is told backwards, as if it were solely about God's rescue mission, God's parachute, bailing us out of the wreckage of our sin. Easter is the time to change the direction of our gaze and see the rescue mission for what it can become: an invitation to participate in the great adventure of becoming the people God is dreaming we can be and of transforming planet Earth into the seedbed of God's kingdom.

The parachute in the story did not change overnight by magic into a bridal dress. The transformation took time, effort, energy, patience and perseverance, as the bride-to-be changed it, stitch by laborious stitch, into something radically new. God invites each of us to work at this transformation. We do it every time we speak or act in ways that increase, however slightly, the level of hope and trust and love in the world—by a word of encouragement, a small act of courage in confronting injustice, a refusal to join in the general grumbling about life that leads us and others down the track to despair and cynicism.

Stitch by stitch. Choice by choice. Moment by moment. These are the ways we are called to work with God to transform Good Friday into Eastertide.

