



The Divine Gardener

EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD



In the first Preface for Easter, we hear the words:

"...at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed."

Through this celebration of Easter, we are overcome with paschal joy and our churches resound with celebration and praise to our God whose love has destroyed death forever and filled us with the life of the Resurrection!

This Easter celebration beckons us to approach the empty tomb and encounter the risen Jesus, "The true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world" (Preface I for Easter). It is no accident that St John's account of Easter tells us that his crucifixion and burial occurred in the same garden (Jn 19:41), for to meet the risen Jesus, we cannot bypass the Cross. Our celebration occurs in the shadow of the Cross and Christ's victory for us—evidenced by the empty tomb. We cannot have one without the other.

On that first day of the week when Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb, she, in her grief, mistakes the risen Jesus for a gardener (Jn 20:11–18). Perhaps Mary was not mistaken. In many sacred artworks depicting this scene, Jesus is shown with the weeping Mary, a shovel or spade in hand, as if he is already set to work. But what is he working on? Jesus becomes a gardener, not of a physical place but of our hearts. Just as Adam,

through the curse of sin, was destined to work the land for food, Jesus, the New Adam, through his victory over sin, becomes our food, the Eucharist. Jesus, the Divine Gardener, comes to dwell in us—nourishing and feeding, pruning the branches that have become wild, and binding up all that is weak and broken—because he loves us and sees in us a garden that can, and will, bear fruit under the guidance of his gentle hand.

He does this for us individually, but he also tends the garden of our communities. Will we let him make something ever more beautiful with us? Will we allow

him to transform, nourish, guide and heal us? Can we become a place that draws people to the Good News of the garden where sin and death were conquered by Love himself? Is this not what it means to be "bearers of Christ's love"?

My prayer for you and us this Easter season is that we would allow the Divine Gardener to do in us what he did for those disciples

who had walked from the Cross and discovered the empty tomb: till the soil of our hearts and communities and allow us to bear fruit in his timing.

May he who is risen from the dead and alive in our Church bless you all at this time and always.

Amen! Alleluia!

Yours in Christ

+ Brian Mascord

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD

BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

Easter 2023



Holy Family Catholic Parish

INGLEBURN & MINTO

Holy Family Church

136 Oxford Rd
Ingleburn

Holy Trinity Church

57 Guernsey Ave
Minto

Parish Office: 136 Oxford Rd (PO Box 111) Ingleburn NSW 2565

Website: www.hfi.org.au

Email: ingleburn@dow.org.au

Hours: 8.45am–2.45pm Tues—Thurs

Phone: (02) 9059 4134

Email: ingleburn@dow.org.au

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Year A

9 April 2023



Dear Parishioners,

There's plenty to love about eggs, bunnies and chocolates, but Easter Sunday holds a much deeper meaning. Yes, this highly anticipated holiday offers an opportunity to gather with family, but it can be so much more. On Easter, we remember the love Christ showed mankind when he gave the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

Holy Week and Easter is not only about what happened to Jesus 2000 years ago but, to a great degree, it is about what happens to us as we live lives that are transformed by his dying on the cross and his rising. In Paul's letter to the Colossians, which we hear as our second reading on Easter morning, Paul speaks about Christians being so united with Christ that when he dies, we die with him. And when he is raised, so we too. Earlier in Colossians (1:18), Paul speaks of Christ as "firstborn from the dead." What God does for our brother Jesus, God will do for us as well. And not only for us, but for the whole of creation. In his letter to the Romans, Paul says all creation is "groaning in labor" (Rom 8:22) - God is re-creating not only human-kind, but the whole of creation.

We don't need to wait for death to experience resurrected life. We see it happen again and again that when we witness tragedy, we become, for the most part, kinder and more generous toward one another. We forget our own woes and rally around the most vulnerable and needy. We become more connected to and bonded with one another in the face of a common adversity. Every time we stand with and love the crucified peoples of our day, as did Mary Magdalene and the other women at Jesus' cross and dare to venture into the tomb, the places of death, the Risen One is alive in us, breaking the hold of death-dealing powers.

May the Spirit of the Risen Lord help us to always know that we are destined for Resurrection and share this Good News with the people around us. Wishing you a blessed Easter!

What's On

- 13 April SVDP Meeting - 7pm, Parish Meeting Room
- 16 April Appin Massacre Memorial Ceremony - 11am to 3.30pm, Cataract Dam
- 7 May Samoan Mass with Fr Feleki - 12noon, Holy Family Church Ingleburn
- 24 May Sorry Day Service - 10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Minto
- 4 June Samoan Mass with Fr Feleki - 12noon, Mt Carmel Church, Varroville
- 18 June Sacrament of First Holy Communion
- 2 July Samoan Mass with Fr Feleki - 12noon, Holy Family Church Ingleburn
- 12 November Sacrament of Confirmation



We pray ... For those who are affected by the droughts, floods, earthquakes and those affected by war: that God will grant peace, justice and healing to all involved during these times.

For all the forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory.

For the sick and homebound: Sybra Hunt, David Harrison, Noal Bornstein, Phil Clarke, Dawn O'Donoghue, Ann Marie Praud; our sick relatives, friends and parishioners and all who have nobody to pray for them.

May the saving power of the risen Lord bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies and send strength to their carers.

For our recently dearly departed: Mary King, Joaquim Lopes, Anthony (Tony) Heginbotham, Lally Sabater, Lesley McFarlane, Ezio Epifania, Josephine Ooi, Marian D'Cruz, Jennifer Malone, Lorraine Morrison, Margaret Rose, Michael Brezinski.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Aukusitino Chuang Kwan, Janet Kipling, Jeanette Morand, Gerald Barbara, Giuseppe Occhiuto, Joyce O'Keefe, Angelita Z Molano, Josefina Relojero Andres Relojero, Anthony William Eskett, Francisco Esplanada Jr., .

Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.

The **Piety Stall** is open after Mass.

There is a range of bibles & prayer books, Rosary beads & other religious items.

Many gifts for family, friends or yourself.

All profits go to the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

With joyful hearts, during March we welcomed the newly Baptised to our Holy Family parish community:

Aurelia Tapaau Sa, Sophia Livesey, Jackson Livesey.



Visiting the Sick and Homebound: There are an increasing number of people who, whether due to age or ill health, are not able to attend church, but would like to receive Holy Communion. If you know of somebody in this situation, please contact the Parish Office, so that a visit can be arranged.

Bible Sharing

Following the experience of the Lent program, some of us would like to continue sharing the word of God on a regular basis. Every Friday evening we will gather for bible sharing in the parish meeting room from 7pm (for approximately 1 hour) to focus on the coming Sunday readings. Text will be provided or you are welcome to bring your own bible.

Congratulations to Luisa Hautau who was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church in our parish this Easter.

Congratulations to Daniella Chioma Chukwulobe, Chikaima Ivy Chukwulobe, Jason Kenechi Chukwulobe, Celeste Angelina Scerri, Lucy Judith Hayman and Zoe Grace Keys who received the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish this Easter.



HOLY LAND COLLECTION 2023

For 800 years, the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus. The people of these countries face their own difficulties, but particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars have never ceased offering their pastoral care. The Holy Land Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. A donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region, and of course the recent pandemic. On their behalf, thank you all.

Thank You to Sr Monica and her team who hosted the Ministry Workshop for Readers/Lectors, Ministers of Communion and Acolytes on Saturday, 1 April. The workshop was well attended by those from within our parish as well as surrounding parishes.



Easter Sunday

9 April

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2023 Lenten appeal.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

