Easter Message from Father Shane

Easter is about fresh starts, and new beginnings – full of hope and possibilities. This is especially true for the Catholic Church this Easter as we celebrate the recent election of Pope Francis.

Some 1700 years ago St Augustine said: “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!” Yes, we are an Easter people, but that does not mean we deny or turn away from the evils that surround us: the wars that have killed over 100 million people in the past century; the poverty that grips more than half of the human race; the hunger that kills millions every year and ruins the lives of millions more; the discrimination that divides the human family into contending parties.

In our own Parish this Easter the Cortez family have been struck by tragedy. Rey and Myra Cortez have been blessed by five lovely daughters: Emeren, Eliza, Emeliza, Emily and Erica. Just when they thought that was all the children God would entrust to their care, there was one more beautiful surprise – a boy! After 5 girls God blessed the Cortez family with a son and a brother, Bien. I baptized Bien in November 2011. On the Tuesday of Holy Week, I was called to the Campbelltown Hospital to be with his grieving family as we prayed over his little corpse. Bien Dominic Cortez was just 16 months when he died. There are no words to describe the sorrow, the grief, his family is experiencing at this time. Let us hold them up in our prayers.

We do not deny these tragedies, these miseries, but we refuse to surrender to their power because of our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Suffering will be vindicated; death will be overcome; a new life will arise: that is the Easter message. May we all be touched once more by the joy of the good news that Jesus Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ. ... For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no principality, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.’

St Paul’s Letter to the Romans, 8:35-39

Easter Sunday
31st March 2013 Year C

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

Response to the Psalm:
This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

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

1st Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43
Psalm Ps117:1-2,16-17, 22-23. Rv.24
2nd Reading from letter of Paul to the 1Cor:5:6-8
A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 20:1-9

Next Week - Year C - 7th April
2nd Sunday of Easter.

Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD
Parish Associate: Sr. Ines Comiling CM
Parish Office Ph: 9603 7373
Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-4.30pm
Web: www.olmcarroville.org.au
Email: vville@parish.woll.catholic.org.au
**MOUNT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE:** Day Retreat Saturday 13th April "Where is your God" God is hidden in our daily lived experience yet he is open to being found –Father Aloysis Rego OCD

**SEWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in need of volunteers to sew 2 Acolyte gowns. We will supply you with the materials needed. If you are able to assist us please contact the Parish Office on 96037373.

**DIVINE MERCY:** The Feast of Divine Mercy is on Sunday 7th April. The Divine Mercy Group will meet in the Church on that day at 1.30pm.

**CATECHIST SMARTBOARD TRAINING:** for ILLAWARRA-SHOALHAVEN on Friday, 5 April 2013 at Xavier Centre, Wollongong and MACARTHUR-HIGHLANDS on Monday, 8 April 2013 at Micah House, Campbelltown. 9.30am – 12noon. Contact Cindy (02) 4640 8550 email cindy.oliver@dow.org.au

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** The Friendship Group meets this Tuesday 2nd April in the Parish Meeting Room. All welcome!

**MASS FOR YOU AT HOME:** From 7 April the Catholic program "Mass For You At Home" will be broadcast throughout Australia in both city and regional areas on Channel 11 on Sunday mornings at 5.30am. This program benefits those who for various reasons are unable to attend Mass including the elderly, nursing home residents and people in prison. The website for Mass For You At Home is http://www.mfyah.com.au/ and the most recent Sunday Mass is available for viewing at any time.

**GRACED TO EVANGELISE & THE ROAD TO PENTECOST**/ Input Sessions at the Diocesan Xavier Centre, Wollongong. An invitation is extended to members of Parishes throughout the Diocese to attend the Graced to Evangelise afternoon with Bishop Julian Porteous. This key event will be held on Saturday 20 April from 1.00pm to 4.30pm at the new Diocesan Offices, Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour St Wollongong and is a perfect way to move from our Lenten Season into preparation for Pentecost. It is sure to be an inspiring afternoon that equips those who attend with the skills and enthusiasm to share the most precious gift of all, our faith. This will be followed by four evening sessions called the Road to Pentecost on Thursday evenings 2, 9, 16 and 23 May from 7.30-9.00pm at the Xavier Centre, focusing on openness to God’s grace as we participate in the mission of the Church. For bookings contact Vince Fitzwilliam 0413 126 095 or Jude Hennessy 2422 2407 / jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

**TRANSPORT:** If you know of anyone who needs transport to come to Mass please phone 0434863864 and we will do our best to provide transport

**RCIA NSW State Conference 2013:** Theme: To know Jesus and to make him known! Hosted by the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle from Friday 14 June to Sunday 16 June, 2013 at Diocesan Centre, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. Contact Loretto Lynch, RCIA Coordinator for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle on (02) 4933 7425, email: loretto.lynch@exemail.com.au or visit www.mn.catholic.org.au

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLMENTS:** Enrolments are now being accepted for our Catholic Primary and High Schools. You may pick up an enrolment package from any catholic school in our Diocese and return it to the school of your choice. Our local Catholic Primary School is Mary Immaculate at Eagle Vale P:46267880 or Holy Family at Ingleburn P:96058649.

**MEMORIAL CEREMONY:** to remember the Dharawal people killed in the massacre of 1816 will be held at Cataract Dam picnic area on Sunday, 14 April 2013, 12noon – 3.30pm. Sausage sizzle lunch will be provided. Please note: the ceremony involves a short walk to the site. Appropriate footwear, hats, sunscreen and bottled water are highly recommended. As the site has limited seating available, feel free to bring your own fold-up chairs. The event will take place regardless of weather conditions.

**GOD IN THE GONG** – Tuesday 9 April 2013 For ages 18-35 years (Age limit does not apply to Clergy, Religious and Youth Ministers) Venue: Macarthur Tavern (cnr Gilchrist Drive & Kellicar Road, Campbelltown) Speaker: Peter Turner, Director of Schools, Catholic Education Office Topic: Faith and the Future: Can we learn to be Catholic? Dinner available at the venue from 5:30pm. Enquiries: youth@dow.org.au or 4222 2460

**REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS – PARISHES WORKING TOGETHER – HAVE YOUR SAY** Bishop Peter Ingham invites parish communities in each region to now gather and have our say about what we believe is the best way to configure ourselves to be bearers of Christ’s love. Come along to consider Mass times, the number of priests, parish boundaries and support for sacramental preparation and the many ministries and services in our region. Let us gather with other Catholics in our region to celebrate the strength of our unity, and the many gifts we can offer to share God’s love and build up the church:

- Eastern Macarthur 18 April, St John’s Hall, Campbelltown, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
- Western Macarthur 23 April, St Paul’s Hall, Camden, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Can’t make your regional time? 24 April, Xavier Centre, Wollongong, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Please RSVP to Jane Edwards email jane.edwards@dow.org.au or 4222 2404 and indicate

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After 10 am Mass on Easter Sunday there will be an Easter Egg hunt and some activities for the children. All are welcome to stay and participate.
REGULAR PARISH DEVOTIONS & MEETINGS

Young Adults Group: Sunday night 7pm contact Nick Turner 0458 303 379
Legion of Mary: Monday night 7.30pm contact Shirley 9824 7990
Friendship Group: 1st Tuesday of the month after 9am Mass contact Anne Migus 0434863864
Bible Study Group: Tuesday 8pm contact Aida Roma 96035612
Play Group: Wednesday 10.00-12.00 noon contact Lee Scales
Fatima Group Friday 7.30pm contact Allan & Anita 0404 058 133
Pastoral Care 2nd Tuesday of month contact Anne Migus 0434863864
Youth Group Friday night 6.30pm- 9pm. contact Tiffany Roma 0406631198
St Vincent de Paul: 1st & 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm contact Amanda Merideth 0427117864
Readers In Service: last Friday of each month in meeting room contact John McDermott 0407 949 500.
Church Cleaning 8:30am contact Robert Muscatello 0407 266 653
Choir Groups: 6pm Practice on Tuesdays 7:30pm contact Joe Spinnato 0407 662 110.
Altar Servers Dana, Ronan, Jeremiah & Jaya contact Peter Mau.
Altar Flowers T.Russell / K.Lisone Church Vacuuming T.Feilokitohi Family

Youth Group Parent Roster 5th April Patricia

LENTEN SHARING GROUPS: You are welcome to attend any group
Parish Wednesday 9.30am Parish Meeting Room
Young Adults Group Sunday 7.00pm Parish Meeting Room
Aida’s Group Tuesday 8.00pm Parish Meeting Room
Shirley’s Group Monday 7 –3.30pm Shirley’s Home (phone office for address)
RCIA Group Sunday 9.00am Parish Meeting Room

For the sick & homebound: Sam Glavan, Dianne Garland, Kayla Harris, Gil Gutierrez, Marian Owens, Dylan Parker, Tracy Bautovich, Joan Wilson, Jessie Garrad, Betty Suweto, Jason Stanmore, Sister Joanna, Hilda Young, Jacqueline Lander, Elizabeth McCleary. May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.


And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Veni Menezes, Mary & Paul Vella, Josephine & Sam Azzopardi, Joyce McIntyre, John Cloran, Rachelle Cuomo.
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace

Sunday Mass Times: Weekday Mass Times:
Sunday 8.30am & 10am Stations of the Cross during Lent:7pm Friday
Saturday Vigil: 6pm Healing Mass: 1st Sat of each month 9am
Marriage: by appointment only 7.30pm Thursday
Infant Baptism: 2nd & 4th Sun. of each month by appointment only. Personalised Baptism & Wedding Candle sets can be ordered at Parish Office

Parish Ministries and Group Meetings

Week: 7th April 2013

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Youth Group Parent Roster 5th April Patricia
Gospel for the Easter Vigil

Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, ‘Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?’ And they remembered his words.

When the women returned from the tomb they told all this to the Eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but this story of theirs seemed pure nonsense, and they did not believe them.

Peter, however, went running to the tomb. He bent down and saw the binding cloths but nothing else; he then went back home, amazed at what had happened.

He is not here; he has been raised!

Gospel for Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:8-15

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.’

While they were on their way, some of the guard went off into the city to tell the chief priests all that had happened. These held a meeting with the elders and, after some discussion, handed a considerable sum of money to the soldiers with these instructions, “This is what you must say, “His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.” And should the governor come to hear of this, we undertake to put things right with him ourselves and to see that you do not get into trouble.” The soldiers took the money and carried out their instructions, and to this day that is the story among the Jews.

Notes on the Text

Why was the empty tomb so important? One of the attacks on John’s audience could have been a challenge to veracity. ‘Did your Jesus really rise from the dead?’

Witness to the empty tomb during burial rites would have supported Christian claims for their Lord. Preparing the body for burial was a cultural privilege and duty that ranked with care for the widows and orphans. The discovery of the empty tomb took place in the context of a charitable act. This alone cast the sceptre of shame on those who publically criticized Christians.

But John added another twist. There were two male witnesses to the event (which, in an ancient Jewish court of law, verified the fact of the case). With two male witnesses to the empty tomb, the onus was back upon the critic. The Christian could claim, ‘We know the body from a sealed tomb was missing.’ It would have been only a small leap of faith to conclude the Lord had truly risen! The vision of the angels to a woman and the appearance of a dead man to his followers could not be so easily dismissed as the signs of lunacy or a mass hallucination.