


Jesus Christ is Risen!

Happy Easter!



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

LET US PRAY FOR

Recently Returned to the Father: Adriano Ros, Rikki Doumit, Donald Harris, Bol Deng, Fr Xavier Orappan, Priscilla San Pedro Burges, Edward Catania, Beth Tudehope, Robert Antonio M. Aquino

In Loving Memory of: Elsa De Souza, Fr Raymond Farrell, Betty Bukirwa, Rhoda Fernandez, Cyril Sattrukalsinghe, Susan Tiru, Louis Naudi, James Doumit, Tony Shomar, Dominic Wang, Maria Huang, Joseph Wang, Maria Yu, Maria Zhang, Maria Wang, Lourdes Wang, Fr Raphael D'Cruz, Norman Chestney, Joseph Xue, Mary Weng and Taniela Funaki

“May their souls through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

Prayers for the sick: Latifi Joseph Bishara, Susan Abood, Eileen Smith, Olivia Sheilds, Jessica Tungul, Antony Lisica, Navjot Singh, Roger Shi, Mary Zheng.

“Mother of God, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted. Pray for them”

Roster for 1st Sunday

<u>Time</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Saturday 5pm	Jackie Daniel Nicole Daniel	Tony Allan
Sunday 8am	Nina Saulekaleka Karen Abood	Elia Saulekaleka
Sunday 10am	Velonika Vakauta Illuminada Manalili	Sione Anasi

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS We take this opportunity to thank our choir groups, acolytes and altar servers team, liturgy team, the Parish Council, the parish secretary, the church readers, the Rosary group, St Vincent the Paul Society, cleaners and housekeepers, counters, palm leaf donators, mass co-ordinators, extraordinary ministers of communion, volunteers for the Paschal Triduum, and all other volunteers for making these Easter celebrations so successful for our parish community. May the peace of our Risen Lord fill your hearts and all your lives. HAPPY EASTER!

EASTER WATER Bottles of holy water will be available for you to take home after the Easter Vigil Mass and on Easter Sunday. These will be accompanied with a prayer card to be used in blessing yourselves and your homes. Please take a copy of the prayer card from the church foyer.

GREAT PARKING NEWS Parking is now available at the ex-Hospital via the entrance on Normanby Street, across the road. Parishioners are advised that if they choose to park there, they do so at their own risk. We also thank them for allowing us to use their car park for our purposes.

PARISH NEWS: Sacramental dates 2024

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – Years 6 & above - The Confirmation Sacramental Program at St John of God parish is available for Catholic children in year 6 upwards. The preparation will happen in the 2nd term of school.

Parent Information Night - Wednesday, 8th May at 7pm in the Church.
Celebration of **Confirmation: Saturday, 15th June at 5pm in the Church.**

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION – Year 3 & above The Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St John of God parish is available for Catholic children in year 3 upwards. The preparation will happen in term 3 of the school.

Parent Information Night – Wednesday, 31st July at 7pm in the Church.
Celebration of **First Reconciliation: Wednesday, 4th September** at 7pm in the Church.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – Year 4 & above

The First Holy Communion Sacramental Program at St John of God parish is available for Catholic children in year 3 upwards. The preparation will happen in the 4th term of school.

Parent Information Night – Wednesday, 23rd October at 7pm in the Church.
Celebration of the **First Holy Communion – Sunday 24th November at 10am Mass.**

Please Note:

- To **REGISTER**, fill in an application form from the parish office or from Fr Richard after the weekend Masses.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43 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 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.'

Responsorial Psalm: 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 R: **This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

Second Reading: Col 3:1-4 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.

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

Gospel Reading John 20:1-9 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.

REFLECTION

The pyramids of Egypt are famous because they contained the mummified bodies of ancient Egyptian kings. Westminster Abbey in London is renowned, because in it rests the bodies of English nobles and notables. Mohammad's tomb is noted for the stone coffin and the bones it contains. The Taj Majal was built as a memorial to a wife of one of India's Shahs. Arlington cemetery in Washington, D.C., is revered, for it is the honoured resting place of many outstanding Americans. The garden tomb of Jesus is famous not because of what is inside, but because it is empty!

Jesus' history comes to an end with the discovery of the empty tomb. Without faith, realities that should inspire hope and expectation only confuse. Jesus' empty tomb is the sign of the complete victory, the most extreme love, and the most powerful presence. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John all see the empty tomb. But their limited faith needs time to grow and ultimately accept the great gift that is offered to them. Jesus' resurrection helps his disciples revive their faith and hope. The disciples eventually develop an unshakeable conviction in the Resurrection and become messengers of the Resurrection.

In approaching the mystery of God on this glorious day, we too, must stoke up our faith. Otherwise, what should cause hope and courage will only wind up becoming a stumbling block for us. Only a sincere and generous faith in Christ enables us to take the circumstances of life in hope, confidence, and security. May the Lord Jesus grant us the joy of seeing our hopes always kindled by his power over sin and death. May the strength of his resurrection overcome the weaknesses of our human nature. Look to the empty tomb – you will see the resurrection.

Faith Matters: Holy Water

In her many rituals, the Church uses elements from creation: oil, ashes, burning incense, and more. Of these elements, water is one of the most common and the richest in symbolism. Holy water is a powerful sacramental and we ought to use it daily. To prevent us from using it without thinking, we should consciously find ways to use it more. In making the Sign of the Cross with the holy water, we are mindful that we are called to renew our baptismal promises. Holy water has the power to forgive venial sins. Occasionally, during the Mass, the priest sprinkles the congregation with holy water which calls for repentance. Finally, the Catholic tradition has long held that holy water is a substantial force for protecting us from evil. Therefore, Holy water can be used to bless people, places, and things that are used by humans in their goal of glorifying God with their lives.

A MESSAGE REGARDING SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. 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.

Our weekly bulletin is sponsored by:



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We acknowledge the Watergora people of the Darug Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which St John of God church stands. We pay our respects to the past, present, and emerging Watergora generations