

## EASTER MESSAGE 2024

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

### VICTORY FOR HUMANITY IN THE RISEN LORD JESUS

*At this Easter time, we proclaim to the ends of the earth the victory won for humanity in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.*

Recent Popes describe war as a defeat for humanity. No one wins in war. It seems to make things worse than better. We see this, at present, in the Middle East, Ukraine and parts of Africa.

The same could be said for the scourge of euthanasia, at present being legislated throughout Australia. It is so unnecessary. The best response to terminal illness and great human vulnerability is widely available palliative care. Here tenderness and closeness replace the brute and sinister lethal jab.

Into this developing culture of hopelessness comes the extraordinary hope and joy of Easter!

Easter is God's ultimate victory over threats to living out our humanity to its full. It is the victory for humanity that is permanent and universal.

It is love made flesh in the victory of the Resurrection of Jesus on the Calvary Cross. The tree of our defeat has become the tree of victory in Jesus rising from the dead.

In our YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT let us, therefore, "exult ... and let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph." Let us breathe in the joy and hope the Risen Lord's transformation of our humanity into its lost innocence.

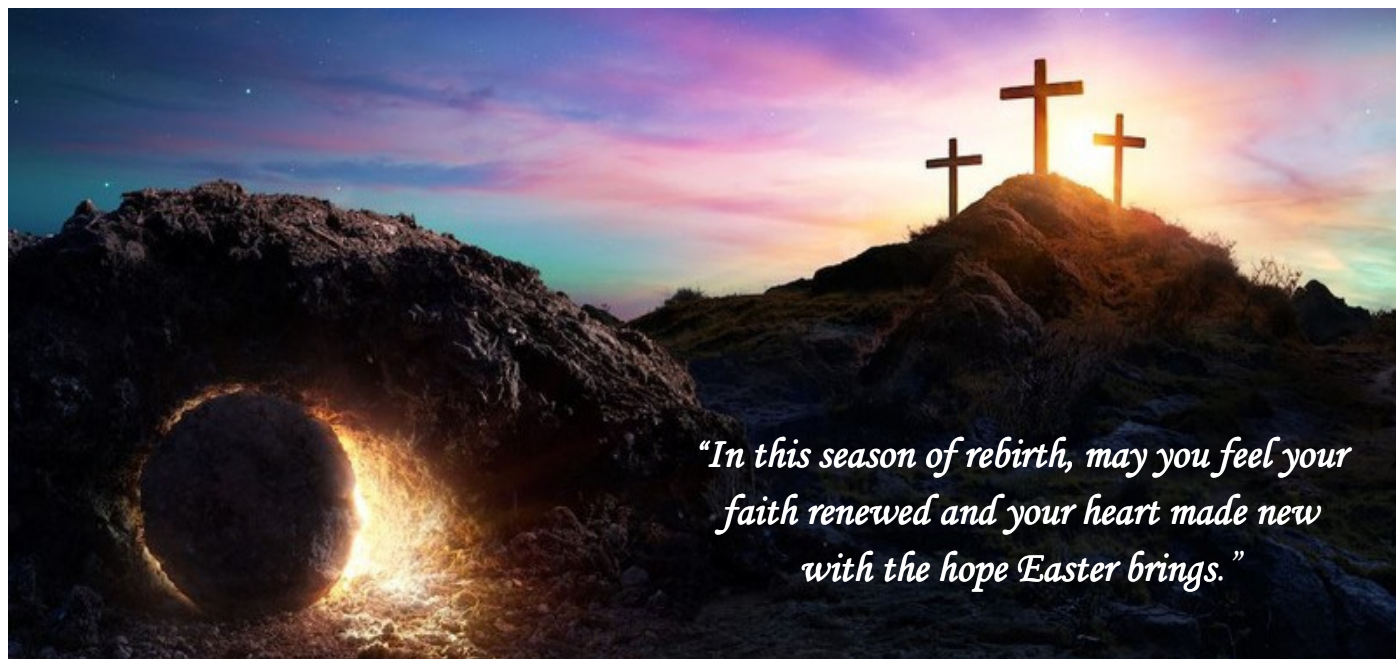
In announcing this hope to the world, let our first efforts be directed at those who struggle in the homelessness of body and soul. May our joy be practical to those most in need. Let us be Easter peacemakers in both our families and our fragile world!

***Alleluia! He is Risen!***

***Happy Easter to all!***

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn



## SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537

Phone: 4474 2024 Email: [moruya@cg.org.au](mailto:moruya@cg.org.au)

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm

**Mass Times:**

**Moruya:** Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

**Tuross:** Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am

**Reconciliation:** Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass

1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am

**Devotions:** Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass

**Schools:** St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

**Caring Groups:** Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993



Easter Sunday

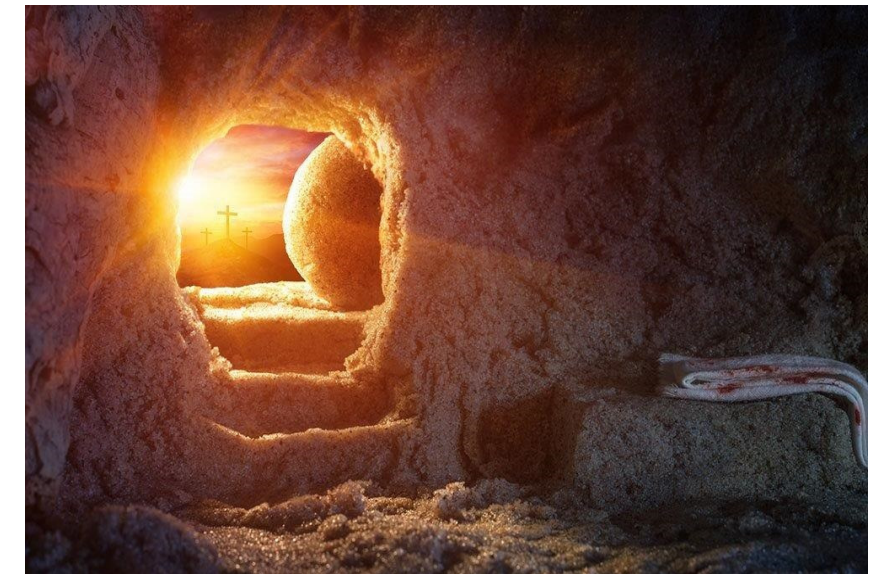
- YEAR B -

31 March 2024

### The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church "Easter" literally means "the feast of flesh flowers". We celebrate it with pride and jubilation for three reasons.

The **Resurrection of Christ** is the basis of our Christian faith. It is the greatest of the miracles—it proves that Jesus is God. Without the **Resurrection**, Jesus would have remained forever a good person who met a tragic end. People would remember some of his teachings and a handful of people might try to live according to them. All the basic doctrines of Christianity are founded on the truth of the **Resurrection**. "**Jesus is Lord, he is risen**" (Rom 10-9) was the central theme of the kerygma (or preaching) of the apostles.



Easter is the guarantee of our own **resurrection**. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus "**I am the resurrection and the life**"; **whoever believes in me will live even though he dies**" (Jn 11:25-26). Christ will raise us up on the last day, but it is also true, in a sense, that we have already risen with Christ. By virtue of the Holy Spirit, Christian life is already a participation in the death and **resurrection** of Christ (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1002, #1003m p261).

Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. It is our pain, sorrows and tears. It is our belief in the real presence of the risen Jesus that gives meaning to us personally, as well as to our common prayers. Our trust in the pervading presence of the risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations, and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The prayer of St Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland reads "**Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part**".

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, 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.

**Prayer after Communion:** Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

**O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment Thine**



## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.’

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

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 corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

### Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

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 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel John 20:1-9

P: The Lord be with you

**All: And with your spirit**

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

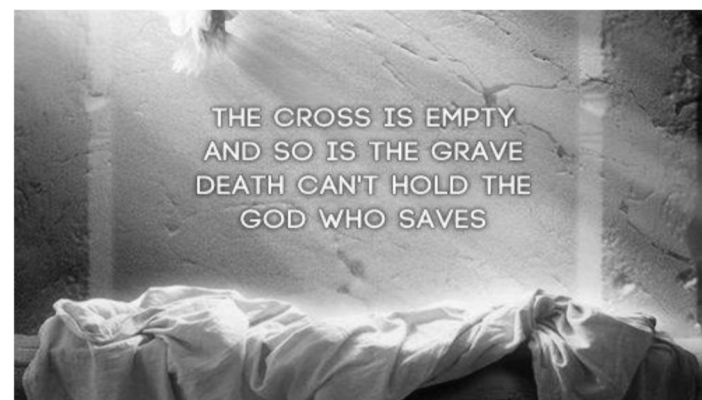
**All: Glory to you O Lord**

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

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



1) **We are to be resurrection people:** Easter, the feast of the resurrection, gives us the joyful message that we are a “resurrection people”. This means that we are not supposed to live buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits and dangerous addictions. It gives us the good news that no tomb can hold us down anymore—not the tomb of despair, discouragement or doubt, nor that of death. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the resurrected Lord in all the events of our lives.

2) **We are to be transparent Christians:** We are called to be transparent Christians, showing others, through our lives of love, mercy, compassion and self-sacrificing service, that the risen Jesus is living in our hearts.

3) **Inspiration for self-control:** Our awareness of the all-pervading presence of the risen Lord in and around us, and the strong conviction of our own coming resurrection, help us control our thoughts, desires, words and behaviour. This salutary thought inspires us to honour our bodies, keeping them holy, pure and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction about the presence of the risen Lord in our neighbours, and in all those with whom we come into contact, should encourage us to respect them, and to render them loving, humble and selfless service.

4) **Easter gives us the assurance that Good Friday is not the end:** Easter reminds us that every Good Friday in our lives will have an Easter Sunday, and that Jesus will let us share the power of his resurrection. Each time we display our love of others, we share in the resurrection. Each time we face betrayal of trust, we share in the resurrection of Jesus. Each time we fail in our attempts to ward off temptations but keep on trying to overcome them—we share in the resurrection. Each time we continue to hope—even when our hope seems unanswered—we share in the power of Jesus’s resurrection. In short, the message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us—not pain, sin, rejection nor death—because Christ has conquered all these, and we too can conquer them if we put our faith in Him.

5) **We are to be bearers of the Good News of resurrection power:** Resurrection is good news, but at the same time, it is sometimes painful because it involves death. Before the power of the resurrection can take hold in our lives, we are called to die in sin, to die to self. We may even have to die to our own dreams, so that God can do what He wants to do with our lives. Resurrection is about seeing our world in a new way. Early that Easter morning, Mary did not find what she was looking for, the dead body of Jesus. But she found something better than she could have imagined: the risen Jesus. When those moments come, we must spread the news—just as Mary did: *We have seen the Lord!*

## NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

We continue to extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Barry Morris, Christopher Morris, John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, John Nader, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave, David McWilliams, Paul Ryan and Sue Holmes Murphy.

**OFFICE HOURS:** The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday, 3 April and open on Thursday and Friday, 4 and 5 April from 9am-2pm

**BIRTHDAYS:** Happy Birthday to Kathleen Hodge who turns 97 on 31 March. Pauline de Grave will be celebrating her Birthday on 4 April and Maree Turnbull on 7 April. We hope you all have a lovely day with family and friends.

**GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL:** Please give generously to the Good Friday Holy Land Collection. Envelopes are available on the church pews

**LAST CALL FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION BEFORE JUNE:** Engaged couples marrying before July should register now for one of the following courses: *FOCCUS* - Tues, 9 April 5-9pm, plus a private follow up session at Marymead CatholicCare; *Engaged Encounter*- Sydney, Sat 18 & Sun 19 May *SmartLoving* – online, 9 lessons, flexible timing. More information and to register [www.marriagefamily.org.au](http://www.marriagefamily.org.au) Enquiries: Text Helena Zobec on 0405 440 463

**WORD OF THANKS:** A heartfelt thank you to all who helped with their time and service at Liturgies, especially during Holy Week and all who attended and participated in this special time in our liturgical year.