



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRES OF PAMBULA

Parish Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year, Year A

Our mission as a Christian community of the Catholic Parish Centres of Pambula is enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that others may experience the love of Christ. We acknowledge the Yuin people and honour Elders past, present and emerging, and all First Nations peoples worldwide.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest

Fr Kuriakose Chennelil Joseph MS (Fr Kose)
kose.joseph@cg.org.au
Phone: 0470 498 321

Parish Office

Open to the public on Wed & Fri from 10am-2pm

Parish Secretary

Mrs Su Chantler
Phone: 0435 036 236 or 02 6495 0683
Email: pambula@cg.org.au
Web: www.cg.org.au/pambula
Address: 79 Main Street / PO Box 249
Merimbula NSW 2548

Parish Centres

Merimbula: St Joseph's
Pambula: St Peter's
Eden: Our Lady Star of the Sea

Sisters of St Joseph

Sr Marie Carson

Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood

Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffernan

Finance Chair

Mr Michael Wood

Parish Safeguarding Volunteer

Mr Philip Roach
pambula.safeguarding@cg.org.au

Lumen Christi Catholic College

Mr Shane Giles 02 6495 8888

PARISH INFORMATION

Reconciliation (Confession)

Merimbula: Friday before Mass,
Eden: Saturday before Vigil Mass
Pambula: Wednesday before Mass
At any other time by request

Anointing of the Sick

Merimbula: Friday 27 March 10am
Pambula: Wednesday 29 April 10am
Eden: Thursday 28 May 10am

Sacrament of Baptism

Families are warmly invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish. A Welcoming Mass is held on the 4th Saturday/Sunday of the month prior to Baptism, with the Baptism celebrated during Mass on the 1st Saturday/Sunday of the following month. For all enquiries and Baptism preparation arrangements, please contact the Parish Office.

Weddings

By appointment only: Minimum 6 months advance notice.

Adoration

Merimbula: Friday 9am followed by Mass at 10am.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Merimbula: Sunday 9:30am & Friday 9am
Eden: Thursday 9.15am

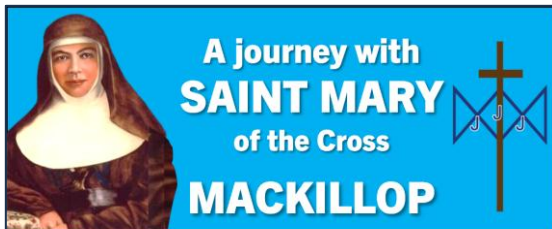
Rosary

Merimbula: Cenacle & Holy Hour 11am Monday
Pambula: Wednesday 9:30am
Eden: Thursday 9.30am followed by Mass at 10am.



PARISH CALENDAR/MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 5pm Merimbula
Wednesday: 10am Pambula
Thursday: 10am Eden
Friday: 10am Merimbula
Saturday: 5.30pm Eden
Sunday: 8am Pambula
10am Merimbula



He is a just and merciful God, you may be sure that the trial is sent in love. (6.8.1895)
Mary MacKillop returns from New Zealand, 1895.

COMING EVENTS/NOTICES

Aged Care Facility Mass

2 April 11.30am Imlay House, Pambula
7 April 2pm Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula
9 April 11.30am Uniting Age Care, Eden

New Parishioners

Could anyone new to the Parish contact the Parish Office or Fr Kose, so that the Parish has your contact details.
Thank you.

Weekend Mass Collection – New Arrangement from 28–29 March

From the weekend of 28–29 March, our parish will move to one collection at all weekend Masses. This is in line with the common practice across the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, where parishes with one collection share the funds between the Parish and the Central Presbytery Fund (CPF), which supports the clergy of our Archdiocese.

How the Collection Will Be Split

To the Parish:

- 100% of Planned Giving envelopes
- 70% of loose cash collections
- 70% of tap machine donations
- 100% of any special appeals (these will be transferred to the relevant appeal account)

To the Central Presbytery Fund (CPF):

- 30% of loose cash collections
- 30% of tap machine donations
- 100% of donations specifically marked for CPF

All money will be banked into the parish account by the counters, and the 70/30 split will be processed accordingly. This new arrangement is a simpler and clearer system. It ensures that our parish continues to meet its local needs while also supporting the priests of our Archdiocese. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of our parish and clergy.

Pastoral Visit

Fr. Kose together with the Parish Council will be visiting the sick and those who are house bound on 28th March in Pambula

LCCC library – 3:30pm for 3:45pm Monday 23rd March

Sadly, Sr Quintilia Trotta FSSA has had to return unexpectedly to Adelaide as one of her brothers is gravely ill. I look forward to seeing you in the library at LCCC 3:30pm for 3:45pm Monday 23rd March to share my experiences being with the Sisters in Tanzania.
-Teresa-

SOLEMNITIES/FEAST DAYS

25 March (Wednesday) The Annunciation of the Lord
29 March (Sunday) Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



PRAYER INTENTIONS



We pray for all the faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including:

Marykutty Joseph, Warwick Glendenning, Hugo, Tom Kennedy, Damien Lambourne, Ann Johnston, Irma Kelly, Jocilyn Petty

Let us pray for and support those who are sick and for all who have asked for our prayers:

Anne Cooper, Monica Paffen, Garry Moorhead, Cristina Embac, Beverley Ann Barr, Bernadette Wright
(The list will be refreshed every first week of the month. If you would like the names to continue, please inform the Parish office via email or phone)

COLLECTIONS

Last Week Collection:

First: \$1051.90 - Support Clergy in Parish & Archdiocese
Second: \$1017.40 - Support running the Parish

Planned Giving Collections:

THANK YOU to ALL parishioners who continually support our Parish through our plate collections at Mass, through the envelopes and direct banking. Without your financial help our Parish could not continue to function.



Way of the Cross

During this Lenten season, the Way of the Cross will be held every Fridays immediately after the 10am Mass at St Joseph's Church, Merimbula

Quiet in the Church after Mass

After Mass people are still praying. Could those who wish to talk and catch up with one another please move to outside the Church so that people who are still praying may do so in the quiet of the Church after Mass.

-Thank you-

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

Traditionally in Australia, a special Collection has been taken up on Good Friday to support the Franciscans who administer and maintain the Holy Land pilgrimage sites. The Franciscans also support medical centres, schools and suffering communities. With the horrific hostilities presently smothering the Holy Land and the Middle East, the need for support has never been greater. Please consider giving generously this Good Friday.

"The Collection for the Holy Land, sustained daily by the invaluable work of the Franciscans and those who serve local communities, may seem like a drop in the ocean. Yet the ocean, deprived of its drops, becomes a desert." Cardinal Gugerotti, Prefect.

Catechism Corner

Why is the Church called Apostolic?

The church is called Apostolic because it was founded upon the apostles, holds fast to their Tradition, and is governed by their successors.

Lenten, Holy Week & Easter Schedule 2026

Lenten Discussion Groups:

Merimbula – 12.30pm Mondays during Lent in Meeting Room.
Eden – 3.30pm Thursdays during Lent at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Eden

Solemnity of St Joseph – Thursday 19.03.26:

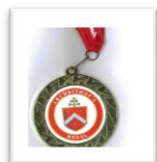
10am Mass – Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden
5.30pm Mass – St Joseph's Church, Merimbula followed by supper
Please bring some food to share

Holy Week & Easter Mass times:

Palm Sunday 28.03.26 – usual Saturday/Sunday Mass times.
Holy Thursday 02.04.26 – 7pm St Peter's Church, Pambula
Good Friday 03.04.26 – 11am Stations of the Cross at each Mass centre
2.15pm Commence Divine Mercy Novena – St Joseph's Church, Merimbula
3pm Good Friday Service - St Joseph's Church, Merimbula
Saturday 04.04.26 – Easter Vigil – 7pm Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden
Invite people to bring –
Bottles/containers to fill with Easter water after the Vigil
Candles to light from the Paschal Candle
Sunday 05.04.26 - Easter Sunday –
8am Mass – St Peter's Church, Pambula
10am Mass – St Joseph's Church Merimbula, followed by morning tea
Bring some food to share/celebrate Easter.

Divine Mercy Sunday – 12.04.26

Usual Saturday/Sunday Mass times
2.30-3pm Confession
3pm Divine Mercy Service (short)



Sr. Brigid McMahon Platinum Jubilee

**CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION
(1956-2026)**

**AS A SISTER OF THE SAINT JOSEPH OF THE SACRED
HEART**

We give thanks to God for Sr Brigid McMahon, whose dedicated and compassionate service has greatly enriched our parish community. Sr Brigid served as Principal of St Joseph's School, Eden, from 1972–1977. She returned to Pambula Parish in 1998, contributing to pastoral work while caring for her mother.

In 2009, she resumed convent life at St Joseph's Convent in Eden. Over the following decade, she was actively involved in parish ministries and assisted with the management of Mary McKillop Hall, formerly Eden's Catholic Church and now a museum honouring St Mary MacKillop and the Josephite Sisters. Towards the end of 2018, after feeling the years catching up with her, she felt it was time to relinquish her post. After a heart-warming and emotional farewells she went to retire in St. Joseph's convent in Goulburn. She currently lives there keeping close to her heart fond memories of her moments in our parish.



Rev Fr. Dermont Clinton

A former priest of our Archdiocese has died at home in his unit at the Bishop Dwyer Retirement Village, Wagga Wagga.

We request that you kindly include him in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto him O, Lord ;
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.
Amen





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First Reading Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 11:25. 26

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 or longer form Jn 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.

But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God.

You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death.

We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be *the Resurrection and the Life*.

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