



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRES OF PAMBULA

Parish Bulletin

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, 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 10 April 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

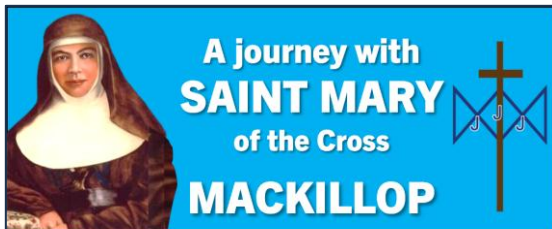
Rosary

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



A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP

May God help me to do what is
right.
(March 1898)

COMING EVENTS/NOTICES

Aged Care Facility Mass

14 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.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule 2026

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

St Joseph's Church, Merimbula

Usual Sunday Mass times

2.30-3pm Confession

3pm Divine Mercy Service (short)



Our heartfelt thanks to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, North Belconnen for generously donating to our church the St. Paul's Holy Week Missal.

Special Notice

Please follow all the readings from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday using the St. Paul's Holy Week Missal provided in the church.



SOLEMNITIES/FEAST DAYS

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:

Marykitty 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: \$924.15 - Support Clergy in Parish & Archdiocese

Second: \$1089.40 - 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.



Weekend Mass Collection – New Arrangement

Please note from this weekend onwards, there will be only one collection during Mass

Please Pray

Please keep in your prayers the children of our Parish who are preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the coming months. May the Lord bless them on their journey of faith.

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-

Catechism Corner

Why should Christians choose the names of saints at baptism?

There are no better examples than the saints and no better helpers. If my namesake is a saint, I have a friend with God.

St Peter's Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people to have their say, to be listened to and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking.

COMMUNICATING CONCERNS: You are encouraged to raise any concerns by emailing Fr Kose, the Parish Office, the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer or directly to Maria Hicks at the Institute Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) on ipss@cg.org.au



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Gospel Mt 21:1-11

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

First Reading Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

- All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
- Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
- They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
- I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself

to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high

and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mt 27:11-54

- N** One of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said:
- O** What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?
- N** They paid him thirty silver pieces, and from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray him.
- Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say,
- C** Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the passover?
- N** He replied:
- J** Go to so-and-so in the city and say to him, 'The Master says: My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples.'
- N** The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover. When the evening came he was at table with the twelve disciples. And while they were eating he said:
- J** I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me.
- N** They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn,
- C** Not I, Lord, surely?
- N** He answered:
- J** Someone who has dipped his hand into the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!
- N** Judas, who was to betray him, asked in his turn,
- O** Not I, Rabbi, surely?
- N** Jesus answered:
- J** They are your own words.
- N** Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:
- J** Take it and eat; this is my body.
- N** Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them saying:
- J** Drink all of you from this, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. From now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father.
- N** After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,
- J** You will all lose faith in me this night, for the scripture says: I shall strike the shepherd and the flock will be scattered. But after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.
- N** At this, Peter said:
- O** Though all lose faith in you, I will never lose faith.
- N** Jesus answered him,
- J** I tell you solemnly, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.
- N** Peter said to him,

- O** Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.
- N** And all the disciples said the same.
- Then Jesus came with them to a small estate called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,
- J** Stay here while I go over there to pray.
- N** He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And sadness came over him, and great distress. Then he said to them:
- J** My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me.
- N** And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed:
- J** My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.
- N** He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter:
- J** So you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- N** Again, a second time, he went away and prayed:
- J** My father, if this cup cannot pass by without my drinking it, your will be done!
- N** And he came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy. Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and said to them,
- J** You can sleep on now and take your rest. Now the hour has come when the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is already close at hand.
- N** He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them. He had said:
- O** 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge.'
- N** So he went straight up to Jesus and said:
- O** Greetings, Rabbi,
- N** and kissed him. Jesus said to him,
- J** My friend, do what you are here for.
- N** Then they came forward, seized Jesus and took him in charge. At that, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus then said:
- J** Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father who would promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defence? But then, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?
- N** It was at this time that Jesus said to the crowds:
- J** Am I a brigand, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I sat teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me.
- N** Now all this happened to fulfil the prophecies in scripture. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away.
- The men who had arrested Jesus led him off to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance, and when he reached the high priest's palace, he went in and sat down with the attendants to see what the end would be.
- The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus, however false, on which they might pass the death-sentence. But they could not find any, though several lying witnesses came forward. Eventually two stepped forward and made a statement,
- O** This man said, 'I have power to destroy the Temple of God and in three days build it up.'
- N** The high priest then stood up and said to him:
- O** Have you no answer to that? What is the evidence these men are bringing against you?
- N** But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him:
- O** I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.
- N** Jesus answered:
- J** The words are your own. Moreover, I tell you that

from this time onward you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

- N** At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said:
O He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?
N They answered:
C He deserves to die.
N Then they spat in his face and hit him with their fists; others said as they struck him:
C Play the prophet, Christ! Who hit you then?
N Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him and said:
O You too were with Jesus the Galilean.
N But he denied it in front of them all, saying:
O I do not know what you are talking about.
N When he went out to the gateway another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there:
O This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.
N And again, with an oath, he denied it,
O I do not know the man.
N A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter:
C You are one of them for sure! Why, your accent gives you away.
N Then he started calling down curses on himself and swearing:
O I do not know the man.
N At that moment the cock crew, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, 'Before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly.
When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound, and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor. When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer was filled with remorse and took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, saying:
O I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.
N They replied:
C What is that to us? That is your concern.
N And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off, and went and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said:
C It is against the Law to put this into the treasury; it is blood money.
N So they discussed the matter and bought the potter's field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me.
Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question:
O Are you the king of the Jews?
N Jesus replied:
J It is you who say it.
N But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:
O Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?
N But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.
At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at this time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered Pilate said to them,
O Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Christ?
N For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,
O Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.
N The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:
O Which of the two do you want me to release for you?
N They said:
C Barabbas.
N Pilate said to them:
O What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?
N They all said:
C Let him be crucified!
N Pilate asked:
O Why? What harm has he done?
N But they shouted all the louder,
C Let him be crucified!
N Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said:
O I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.

- N** And the people, to a man, shouted back:
C His blood be on us and on our children!
N Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified. The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying:
C Hail, king of the Jews!
N And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.
On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothes by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:
C So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!
N The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:
C He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God'.
N Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.
From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:
J Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?
N That is: 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:
C The man is calling on Elijah,
N and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:
C Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.
N But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.
All kneel and pause a moment.
N At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people,
Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:
C In truth this was a son of God.
N And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.
When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. Now Mary of Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.
Next day, that is, when Preparation Day was over, the chief priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate and said to him,
C Your Excellency, we recall that this imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I shall rise again.' Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead'. This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.
N Pilate said to them:
O You may have your guards. Go and make all as secure as you know how.
N So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must to be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.

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