



KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala ~ St Sebastian's-Merrigum

St Augustine's – Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620
Tel: 03 – 5852 1026 Email: kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Parish Priest – Fr John Paul Pasala

Fifth Sunday of Lent

26 March 2023



Readings for this week:

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45



Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66



Liturgical Jottings Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday begins Holy Week which embraces the last days of Lent (until Thursday) and the Easter Triduum. The Sacrament of Penance is an excellent way to conclude the penitential season of Lent. It is best celebrated before Holy Thursday evening so that, with heart and mind renewed, all may focus on the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. "Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, pro-longed throughout Holy Saturday, as a way of coming to the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection with uplifted and welcoming heart." (Constitution on the Liturgy # 110).

St Lazarus Feast day

was inserted into the General Roman Calendar in 2021 with St Martha and Mary, 29 July. He is revered as a saint by Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans and Muslims.

Looking at the Readings

The first reading from the Prophet Ezekiel is the last three verses of the passage of "The Valley of Dry Bones". The prophet is in exile with the people of Israel in Babylon. His words are both condemnatory because of their sins and consoling and encouraging for the forgiveness and the restoration coming from God through their liberation from captivity. Today's reading fits well with the Gospel passage and the character of these Sundays in which the Church accompanies the Catechumens towards baptism at Easter.

The raising of Lazarus from the tomb recalls Ezekiel's prophecy, anticipates Christ's resurrection for the tomb and prepares the Catechumens and all Christians for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection from the dead. This miracle of Jesus is the last of the seven signs in John's Book of signs (John 1:19 to 12:50) before the account of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. The passage is full of emotion and expectation, dangers and doubts, and faith, hope and love. It is our confrontation of our fears and hopes, but moreover our preparation for the celebration of the "Resurrection and the Life".

Pope Francis' Letter "Desiderio Desideravi"

The salvific power of the sacrifice of Jesus, his every word, his every gesture, glance, and feeling reaches us through the celebration of the sacraments. I am Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man possessed by demons at Capernaum, the paralytic in the house of Peter, the sinful woman pardoned, the woman afflicted by haemorrhages, the daughter of Jairus, the blind man of Jericho, Zacchaeus, Lazarus, the thief and Peter both pardoned. The Lord Jesus who dies no more, who lives forever with the signs of his Passion [2] continues to pardon us, to heal us, to save us with the power of the sacraments. It is the concrete way, by means of his incarnation, that he loves us. It is the way in which he satisfies his own thirst for us that he had declared from the cross. (Jn 19:28) para 11

On the Lighter Side: A Martha & Mary Story



In the fourth century a visiting monk arrived at a monastery during recreation time. He remarked to the abbot that the monks should be at prayer. He was shown to his room and left there. Many hours later he wandered out and asked why he was not called for the evening meal. The abbot replied: "We did not want to disturb your prayer with carnal activities!"

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Philip Bowman, Ainsley Lane, Sam Peyton, Kady Mitchell-Treacy, Shane McDonell, Samantha Kurilic, Trevor Peters, Fr Steve Bowhan.

Recently Deceased: Mario Scapin, Lesley Kennedy, Jean McGrath

Anniversaries: Bill Nicholson, Leo Cocks

(Please email the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list)



Parish Priest

Fr John Paul Pasala

Kyabram Presbytery: 5852 1026

Tatura Presbytery: 5824 1049

Parish Office

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Website: www.kyabramcatholicparish.org.au

Parish Administrator

Vicki Arnel – 0417 147 695

Principals

St Augustine's College

Jay Sutton – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary

Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr John Paul Pasala,,

Alana Brennan (Chairperson)

Maurie Finn, Veronica Fox, Mary D'Augello,

Carl Cabaraban. Brendon Lane, Finola Price,

Natalie Watt, Jackie Stockdale, Jay Sutton

Parish Finance Committee

Fr John Paul Pasala,

Wayne Mulcahy (Chairperson),

James Harris (Deputy Chair)

John Zobec, Naomi Hehir, Mary Zobec.

Mass Times

Kyabram

Week Day Masses (Tuesday and Thursday): see

Diary Dates

Saturday (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month):

6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am

Tongala

First Sunday of month 11.30am

Merrigum

Third Sunday of month 12.00 noon

Reconciliation – Second Saturday of the month at

5.30pm (before 6pm Mass) in St Aug's Church

Kyabram.

Mass of Anointing are held on the first Thursday of the month at 10am in St Augustine's Church.

FORTNIGHT MASS TIME TABLE

Thu 30th March - 9.15am - Foundation and Year 12 Mass
6.30pm - Communal Reconciliation followed by cuppa

Weekend Masses

Sat 1st April - No Mass

Sun 2nd April - 8:30am Palm Sunday Mass Kyabram, 11.30am Tongala

Tues 4th April - No Mass.

Tues 4th April - 11am Mass of the Oils - Bendigo

Thurs 6th April - 7pm Holy Thursday

Fri 7th April - 10am Ecumenical Combined churches service.

Fri 7th April - 3pm Good Friday.

Weekend Masses

Sat 8th April - Easter Vigil 6pm

Sun 9th April - Easter Sunday Kyabram 8:30am

ROSTERS

Sunday 2nd April at 8.30am

Commentator – N Watt

Lector – M Carver

Special Minister – M Elliott

Saturday 8th April at 6pm

Commentator – W Mulcahy

Lector – M Radanov

Special Minister – L Sorbello

Sunday 9th April at 8.30am

Commentator – V Fox

Lector – T Hehir

Special Minister – J Stockdale

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for your generosity and support for our Parish.
May God bless you always.

Last week's Collection is \$ 754.70

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults.

If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with the Parish Child safety officer Finola Price on 03 58521310.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we join and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

COMBINED CHURCHES – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

To be held on Good Friday 7th April, 2023, at the Memorial Gardens, Allan street, Kyabram at 10am. Free tea and coffee and Hot Cross Buns. BYO Chair.

EASTER TIMETABLE

Communal Reconciliation – Thursday 30 March 6.30pm
Palm Sunday - 2 April at 8.30am Kyabram and 11.30am Tongala.

Mass of the Oils – Tuesday 4 April 11am Bendigo

Holy Thursday – 6 April 7pm

Ecumenical Church Service at Memorial Park - 7th April 10.00am

Good Friday - 7 April 3pm

Easter Vigil - 8 April 6pm

Easter Sunday - 9 April 8.30am

Divine Mercy Sunday - 16 April 8.30am followed by Devotions

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation will be held on Thursday, 30th March at 6.30pm followed by a cuppa. Please bring a plate to share.

STATIONS OF CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed the remaining week of Lent as follows:

28th of March following 5pm Mass in the church. COME and journey with Jesus and fellow parishioners.

HELPERS NEEDED FOR EASTER

We are looking for people available to assist with the hot cross buns for the Good Friday Ecumenical Service (7th April) being held in the Memorial Gardens. Helpers to meet in the Parish meeting room at 9.00am to assist with buttering and wrapping the buns. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help. We are also looking for people to assist with the Easter Ceremonies. Sheets are at the back of the church if you are available to assist. Please fill out and ensure that you leave phone number so we can contact you.

SANDHURST DIOCESE CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass for 2023 will be at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday, 4 April, at 11am. Parish representatives will present oils to be blessed by the Bishop for the Sacraments during the coming year. All parishioners of the Diocese are warmly invited to this significant Mass for our Diocese. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided after the Mass on the Cathedral lawns. Please RSVP to your Parish Office by Thursday 30 March for catering purposes. Parking around the Cathedral will be limited so please allow time to find a suitable park in the nearby streets.

EASTER VIGIL

There will be a parish celebration with a cuppa following the Easter Vigil. Please bring a plate to share.

BE A GOOD EGG THIS EASTER

Did you know that much of the chocolate sold in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved or forced to work in exploitative conditions? The International Labour Rights Forum estimates that more than 1.5 million children are working in the cocoa sector in West Africa, where about 70% of the world's cocoa is produced.

We can all be 'good eggs' and commit to using our Easter chocolate dollars to buy slavery-free chocolate. It's also the right time to tell our families, friends and communities about the exploitation of children in chocolate production. **Look** for Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance logos on your chocolate wrapper. See poster on Noticeboard.

Download the **Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard!** to find out what's really going into your chocolate and how your favourite brands rate.

APOSTOLATE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Saturday 1st April – First Saturday Devotions in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at St Augustine's, Myers Flat, beginning with Adoration at 8:15am with Confession available, Mass at 9:15am and Rosary at 9:45am.

Friday 7th April – The first Friday for April is Good Friday, Stations of the Cross and Liturgy of the Lords Passion will take place, please check your local parish for times.

April the 26th is the feast of Our Lady of Good Council, patroness of the Sandhurst Diocese.



Feel good about the chocolate you purchase and consume this Easter!



for these symbols on your chocolate branding.



Be Slavery Free's Chocolate scorecard! www.chocolatescorecard.com. Look at the scorecard when shopping and buy Easter eggs and chocolate that are produced without child labour.



Your chocolate (only online). Be an influencer in your community.

1. Take a selfie/photo of you with your Easter chocolate.
2. Upload it on your favourite social media platform with the following text: "I'm a good Egg! I've joined ACRATH's 'Good Egg' Easter Campaign and have committed to buying only Easter chocolate from brands that commit to making slavery-free chocolate!" (don't forget to tag us @acrahn)

JOIN US!



Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

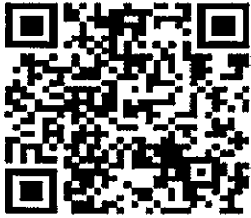


Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

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BULLETIN ADVERTISING

We are once again considering if any business would be interested in advertising in our Parish bulletin, website.

The costs are	Ad (5x6cm)	
	3 months (12 weeks)	\$16.67 per week \$200
	6 months (25 weeks)	\$12.00 per week \$300
	12 months (50 weeks)	\$10.00 per week \$500

Thanking you in advance for your support. If you would like any further details, please talk to Fr. John or any member of the Finance Committee.

Breaking Open the Word

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, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews 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.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, I:1-45

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GOD'S PLEDGE TO US

Lent is always an invitation to travel on the path of conversion. We are called to do our part and yet the work is not solely ours. One of the threads uniting today's readings is the encouragement provided by God's pledge to work with us as we journey towards the new life of Easter.

Ezekiel wrote to a dispirited and discouraged people far from where they wanted to be. In exile they felt powerless to change their situation and wondered whether God still had the power, or desire, to save them. Ezekiel has no doubts that God will bring them back from the grave to new life.

In writing to the Christians of Rome, Paul is led to reflect on the nature of conversion and the Christian life from two perspectives. From our perspective, we are challenged to open our hearts to what is of spiritual and lasting value. Lest we become disheartened by our weakness, Paul reminds us of the critical role God plays in our coming to spiritual maturity. The gift of the Spirit within us is a sign of God's pledge to enliven us so that we may share in the new life of Jesus' resurrection.

The moving story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a powerful reminder to us all that just as Jesus commanded, 'Unbind him, let him go free', so it is with us. The Lord is still working with us to liberate what is bound, and to bring to life that which is not fully alive.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters 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,