

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 26 March **MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK**
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Tuesday 27 March **TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday 28 March **WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**
Mass: 7am
At the Cathedral: 7.30pm
MASS OF THE CHRISM

Thursday 29 March **HOLY THURSDAY**
MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER
Mass: 7.30pm
Followed by Adoration until 10pm
Project Compassion Boxes
should be returned at this Mass

Friday 30 March **GOOD FRIDAY**
Day of Fast and Abstinence
10am: Stations of the Cross
3pm: Commemoration of the Death of Our Lord
(A collection for the Holy Places taken up today)

Saturday 31 March **HOLY SATURDAY**
By tradition, no Sacraments are celebrated today. The Church waits at the tomb.
7.30pm: The EASTER VIGIL and MASS of the RESURRECTION
Bring a candle and make sure you have a candle protector

Sunday 1 April **EASTER SUNDAY**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION — YEAR B 25th MARCH 2018

READINGS: Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a servant of God who would suffer on Behalf of the people but who would be sustained by his firm belief that God would not abandon him (FIRST READING). The Passion Reading will bear this out.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Joyce ROBINSON

Anniversaries: Wally SERELAK
Mother ANGELICA
Fr Patrick LANDERS
Mary GARVIN
Fr Peter HILL

As well as: Kathleen, Max and David POWELL
Connie and Victor TABONE
Mary and Charlie MICALLEF

Rosters of Next Weekend

31st Sat	Church Cleaning	M Lloyd, J Allen, J Haywood	
	Lawns	Peters Family, Winner Family	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6pm	EASTER		
1st Sun 7am	(See Roster Below)		
Sun 9am			
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	M Rodwell, S Michielin		

ROSTER — EASTER CEREMONIES

Holy Thursday – Washing of the Feet

(12 Volunteers — More Volunteers Needed, please!)

1. Paul Cundy	2. Elizabeth Walker	3. Colleen Walsh
4. Pauline Byrne	5. Nick Gandy	6. Sue Briscoe
7. Patrick Briscoe	8.	9.
10.	11.	12.

Holy Thursday – Mass 7.30pm

Acolytes	Readers (3)	Servers
Neil Dwyer	Kirra Calvert	Zali Calvert
	Sarah Walsh	Aidan Calvert
	Colleen Walsh	Joshua W
		Patrick Carolan
		Cormac Carolan

Good Friday – Stations of the Cross 10am

Cross Bearer	Reader	Servers
Paul Jones	Paul Gunning	Sarah Walsh

Good Friday – Service 3pm

Acolytes	Readers (2)	Servers
Mark Walsh	Sarah Walsh	Joshua W
	Elizabeth Walker	

Easter Vigil Saturday – Mass 7.30pm

Acolytes (2)	Readers (6)	Servers
1. Mark Walsh	1. Sarah Walsh	Joshua W
2.	2. Colleen Walsh	
	3. Nick Gandy	
	4. Roger Baxendale	
	5.	
	6.	

Easter Sunday – Mass 7am

Acolyte	Reader	Welcomers
Andrew C	Daisy F	A Browne

Easter Sunday – Mass 9am

Acolytes	Reader	Welcomers
Neil Dwyer	Vera Cleary	
Cormac Carolan		

MORNING TEA

Morning Tea will be served in St Joseph's room after 9am Mass on Palm Sunday (25th March). Helpers are Margaret, Sandra and Pat.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us!

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of the month, 10:30am
St Joseph's room. New members welcome.

Contact: Barbara 4271 1584 or Margaret 4271 5804

St Vincent de Paul Conference: Tues 7.30pm in St Joseph's room

Parish Pastoral Council: 2nd Monday of alternate months
7.30pm in St Joseph's room

Nursing Home Masses

Hillside Nursing Home: 1st Tuesday of the month, 2pm

Figtree Nursing Home: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:45am

Villa Maria Nursing Home: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 9:30am

Refreshments after the 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month

Gospel Reflection

I saw the Sun at midnight, rising red,
Deep-hued yet glowing, heavy with the stain
of block compassion, and I saw It gain
Swiftly in size and growing till It spread
Over the stars; the heavens bowed their head
As from its heart slow dripped a crimson rain,
Then a great tremor shook It, as of pain -
The night fell, moaning, as It hung there dead.

O Sun, O Christ, O Bleeding Heart of flame!
Thou giv'st Thine agony as our life's worth,
And mak'st it infinite, lest we have dearth
of nights wherewith to call upon thy Name;
Thou pawnest Heaven as a pledge for Earth,
And for our glory sufferest all shame.

JOSEPH MARY PLUNKETT

FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER FROM BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD'S 2018 LENTEN MESSAGE

"I would like to recognise and express my gratitude to all those who came forward and courageously spoke their truth to the Royal Commission. They have given the Church a significant opportunity to reflect on how we are called to be the face of God in our world today. They have been the voice of the Spirit challenging us to be real and authentic in who we are as God's people. Whilst it has been a difficult time for all, nothing compares to the courage of victims and survivors in coming forth and speaking truth — a truth that calls for action on the part of everyone."

INVITATION TO THE CHRISM MASS – WEDNESDAY 28th MARCH at 7.30pm

Each year during Holy Week the Chrism Mass is celebrated at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. If you have never participated, you are missing one of the most solemn and significant liturgies of our Church. During the Mass, the Priests of the Diocese renew their commitment to priestly service; Bishop Brian blesses the oil of catechumens (for Baptism) and the oil of the sick (for Anointing of the Sick) and consecrates the oil of chrism (for Baptism, Confirmation, the Ordination of clergy and the consecration of altars). The oils are then distributed to clergy to be used during the year with their local communities. Everyone is warmly invited to join Bishop Brian and our clergy to celebrate this significant event in the life of the Church.



“Let no obstacle deter us from proceeding with courage.”

St Mary of the Cross — 1893

CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS

A great range of excellent quality religious gifts are available from Cathedral Books and Gifts. A beautiful selection of bibles, books, missals, rosaries, plaques, crucifixes, medals, statues and greeting cards, candles, etc — perfect to commemorate Confirmation, Communion and Baptism. Enter the store via Crown Street, Xavier Centre, Wollongong. Enquiries phone 4222 2484.

CATHFAMILY

The home is the heart of the Church. CATHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their website cathfamily.org. Don't miss CathKids, weekly interactive experience with a two-minute animated reflection on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. Families in the Diocese of Wollongong are encouraged to utilise these resources at home to share faith with kids.

<http://cathfamily.org/praise-flags/>



FAITH CIRCLES – CONNECT WEEKLY RESOURCE FOR SMALL GROUPS

Small faith-sharing groups are at the heart of vibrant faith community, where each person can grow in their faith journey. They focus on the ways in which the Spirit is calling us to live a more active, loving and joyful relationship with God, our Church and our World. A weekly free small group resource called Faith Circles is available based on the Sunday Gospels as well as accompanying questions and prayer points.

It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

NEED HELP AT HOME OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

CatholicCare offers practical in-home aged care services, so you or someone you love can continue living a happy and healthy life in the comfort of their own home. For more information please call 4254 9342 or visit www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 25 MARCH 2018 –

This week on the Journey, as we draw closer to Easter, we reflection on the weekly Gospel with our Wollongong Diocese Lenten program, Trish McCarthy reminds us of Simplicity in her God spot, Milk & Honey, Sam Clear in his Walking the Walk, reminds us to hold on to what's Important. Our music is a wonderful collection of amazing Christian music artists helping us to create a show about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

THE WOLLONGONG CATHOLIC DINNER CLUB

- together with newly ordained Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD - are delighted to announce a keynote speaker The Hon Timothy Andrew Fischer AC on the topic of "From the Riverina to the Hub of Rome". You are invited to dinner on Friday 13 April 6pm for 6:30pm start at Centro CBD, 28 Stewart Street Wollongong (Opposite Aldi). For Tickets (\$45 each) please contact Cathedral Office 4228 6511 or mjcambo@gmail.com 0490 022 313 or Jim 4228 6791. RSVP by Friday 6 April.

VOCATIONS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL — Once we embrace Jesus Christ as the Lord of our life, the next question is to ask what is God calling us to be and do?

Please contact Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director, on 0401 621 591, priesthood@dow.org.au

WHERE ARE ALL THE MEN? – CAN YOU HELP? –

Under 40% of those who attend Catholic Parishes are male and the figures are getting worse. Our Diocese is connecting strongly with the MenALIVE movement to help Parishes bring men together, to renew their faith in God and to encourage them to become an active force within the Church. A non-residential weekend for multiple Illawarra parishes will be run on 5-6 May 2018 in Wollongong. We need 1-2 men from each interested Parish to help get men involved. If you can invite, cook a BBQ and make other men feel welcome, the MenALIVE team will do the rest. Can you help? Please contact Mr Jude Hennessy on 4222 2407 or jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE – YEAR 7 2019

Applications for enrolment into Year 7, 2019 close on Friday 13 April 2018. Anyone wishing to apply for enrolment into the College must have their application in by this date. For further information please contact the College Enrolment Officer Mrs Raelene Ware on 4285 2877.

PROJECT COMPASSION FOR A JUST FUTURE

PALM SUNDAY 25th March 2018



Project Compassion, the annual awareness raising and fundraising campaign of Caritas Australia, is continuing the journey through Lent. This is the time where we listen and respond to the voices of the marginalised and vulnerable. Project Compassion 2018 (PC 2018) continues to work towards and celebrate A Just Future for all in conjunction with the Year of the Youth.

If you have any questions or would like further information on remittance and receipting Project Compassion money please do not hesitate to contact Monica Ward-McCann, Caritas Diocesan Director, by email at monica.ward-mccann@caritas.org.au, on 4222 2480 or 0419 553 171. The Caritas Australia website www.caritas.org.au is also a great source of information and resources to support your Project Compassion Journey.

My dear people,

We have entered the week of Our Lord's Pasion, truly the most holy week of all time. These days have much to teach us—let us listen with love to what they have to say.

Today we began with the blessing of the palms, recalling Our Lord's entry in triumph into Jerusalem. But He weeps—He knows the hearts of men. Today they cry HOSANNA—in a few days they will cry CRUCIFY HIM. WE HAVE NO KING BUT CAESAR. Man's heart is a fickle thing. And our hearts? Have we ever cried out: "Away with Him" in the hour of temptation? Did Our Lord weep for me on that first Palm Sunday?



Tomorrow, we find Him in the Temple. It has become a market place, not a house of prayer. So He cleanses it in holy anger. Have we ever sold His love for some passing trifle? Let us ask His pardon.

Tuesday comes, one day closer to the end. His enemies throng about Him. He challenges them with the story of the vineyard and the unjust tenants. They do not listen. They plot His death even as the tenants plotted to kill the son in the story. The story is for us also—we are stewards of the gifts of God. Do we act justly towards Him who has made us just by the Death of His Son?

Wednesday is known as Spy Wednesday, because the Gospel of Judas is read. Judas is on the watch. If he cannot catch Jesus in His words he will take Him captive in the Garden. Greed has caught Judas. Temptation like this can hold us captive too. But why sell God when He offers us the everlasting wealth of heaven? We must not play the traitor. Let us ask His grace to remain steadfast and loyal in all our combats with Hell.

Then Holy Thursday, the very jewel of the week. Jerusalem is busy with the Passover preparations. Christ is the true Paschal lamb—the next day He will be the real Passover. That night He looks forward to that hour when He will give Himself in sacrifice. He ensures that all Christians of all time will be able to share in His sacrifice, and so He institutes the Mass and the priesthood. And He gives us His most precious gift—the gift of Himself in the Blessed Sacrament. He dwells in our Tabernacles so that we will never be alone.

Holy Thursday is a day of great joy—the mysteries of the Priesthood and the Mass are celebrated in two separate Masses: the Mass of the Holy Oils and the Mass of the Last Supper. Because very few people could get to a Mass on Holy Thursday morning, the Mass of the Oils, held only in Cathedral Churches, is held here in our Cathedral on Wednesday night. During that Mass the Bishop and all the priests of the Diocese renew the vows of their ordination, and the Holy Oils to be used in the Sacraments for the coming year are consecrated. For it is from the Death and Resurrection of Christ that the Sacraments receive their power.

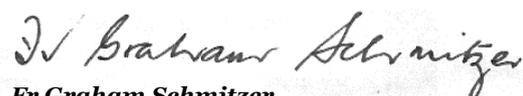
On Holy Thursday night it is the Mass and the Blessed Eucharist that are the focus. To highlight the permanent presence of Christ in the Eucharist, even after Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to the Altar of Repose. The Church invites us to spend an hour with Our Lord some time before 10pm. "Could you not watch one hour with me" Our Lord said to the Apostles in Gethsemane. In His agony He wished the company of His friends.

The trial followed. And, worse, Peter, the rock of the Church, denies he even knew Christ. On Friday morning we walk with Him as we follow the Stations of the Cross. In the afternoon we venerate His Cross and receive Holy Communion. Let us thank Him for His redeeming love.

So with Our Lady and the holy women we leave the dead Christ in His tomb. We spend Saturday in hope, waiting for the victory. By tradition the Church celebrates no Sacraments today—she waits at the tomb. You will notice on the Parish programme that there are no Confessions on Saturday. The Church presumes that all have already made their preparations, and have already been to Holy Communion on the Thursday and again on the Friday. Easter Sunday is not an isolated event—it cannot be celebrated apart from Holy Thursday and Good Friday. The three days are really part of one event.

On Saturday night, that most holy of nights, the great Easter Candle is blessed and lit, symbol that the risen Christ is the Light of the world. Bathed in its radiance, we are invited to once more give ourselves entirely to God by renewing the vows of our Baptism.

Let us spend this Holy Week better than we have ever spent one before. The outcome is worth it. Christ lives. He wishes to make His home in me.


Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest

