



# St Michael's Church - Meadowbank The Parish Bulletin

## Sunday of the Resurrection C/1

### He is Truly Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!



#### [Mass during the Day]

#### **Entrance Antiphon:**

*Cf. Ps 138: 18, 5-6*

**I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.**

#### **1st Reading:**

*Acts 10:34,37-43*

'We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection'.

#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

*Psalm 117(118):1-2,16-17,22-23*

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

#### **2nd Reading:**

*Colossians 3:1-4*

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

#### **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*

He must rise from the dead.

#### **Communion Antiphon:**

*1 Cor 5: 7-8*

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.**

#### **Gospel for Easter Sunday Morning**

*John 20:1-9*



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.

#### **Easter Blessings and Gratitude to All CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

*May the salvation and redemption in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ bring joy to you and to all your loved ones. Happy Easter and blessings to all.*

*Thank you to all who have helped make our ceremonies so beautiful and prayerful during the last week - to our singers and musicians, our servers and acolytes, readers, altar society and flower arrangements, liturgy committee, altar of repose team and everyone who has prayed and contributed to our celebrations and collections.*

*May God bless you for your faith, hope, love and devotion to Jesus Christ.*

#### **Reflection by Father James McCarthy**

**Let us sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!** (cf. Exodus 15:19-21)

These words are joyfully sung every year at the Easter Vigil. They echo the ancient hymn of praise sung by the Israelites after crossing the Red Sea, when they escaped slavery in Egypt. As Christians we are no longer slaves to sin but redeemed people in Jesus Christ.

I have often heard people claim that as Christians we shouldn't talk about sin or about the possibility that a person could turn against God and head towards hell. In our post-modern relativistic secular world, it is claimed that everyone is good



**Acknowledgement of the land**

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Wallumattagal clan, part of the Dharug people of the Eoiria nation. We walk gently on the land, sharing it with them as we now work and live on it.

**Parish Directory**

**Parish Administrator:** Fr James McCarthy

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**Parish address & contact number:**

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9:00am-4:30pm

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Please submit requests for publication by 12 noon Wednesday.

**Acolytes:** Arthur Lee

**Readers & Special Ministers of**

**Communion:**

Sue Metzmacher

(Weekdays & Special Roster)

Felicity Donnelly (Vigils & Sundays)

**Music Ministry**

**Coordinators for 6pm Saturday Masses:**

1st Saturday - Richard Borges (Family Mass)

2nd Saturday - David Foong

3rd Saturday - Prescilla Luzon

4th Saturday - Aneela Pereira

**Music Ministry - Sunday Masses:**

1st & 3rd SUN 8am - Maree Twomey

2nd SUN 8am - Muntia Gouw

2nd SUN 10 am - Peter & Jenchris

1st & 5th SUN 10am - Mary Towers

3rd SUN 10am - David Foong

4th SUN 10am - Muntia Gouw

**Children's Liturgy** - Cindy Francis

**Sacramental Coordinators:**

Marisa Squadrito & Liz Mulcare

**Ushers/Collectors** - Michael Wixted

**Altar Society** - Marie Bennett

**Liturgy Committee** - Sue Metzmacher

**Finance Committee** - Stephen Topple

**St Vincent de Paul Society** - Jim Lemcke

**Catechists** - Judith Orrock

**Parish Safeguarding Support Officer** -

Lou Temprosa

**St Michael's Primary School**

**School Principal** - Mr Brian Story

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**Welcome to St Michael's Church - Meadowbank!**

A warm welcome to all attendees and visitors to our church! May you find our parish community a place where your faith life will be nourished and you will take up the invitation to share your special gifts and talents. Your prayers, presence, talents and skills are most welcome.

**REFLECTION ....CONTINUED**

and ultimately, everyone will go to Heaven, even those who have no belief and make no real attempt to live the ways of God.

As Christians, we know that no one is good except God, and ultimately there is nothing that any of us can do that will get us into Heaven. As Christians we do all sorts of things including charity, attending Mass, being involved in ministries and so on. But these actions do not make us good and these actions do not change our ultimate destiny, even if we might feel or think they make us good.

Our future is changed because of what Jesus has done for each of us. Jesus Christ has freed us from our radical slavery to sin and the destiny to a life sentence of damnation that we deserve for our sins and offences. Jesus, through his death and resurrection has opened for us, individually and as a community, the way towards the promised land, the universal Kingdom of justice, love and peace. This "exodus" (a breakout from imprisonment to sin) begins first all within our hearts, where we are led beyond ourselves for God to make us something greater than which we could ever achieve. This "exodus" consists in a new birth in the Holy Spirit, the effect of the baptism that Christ has given us. Our old lives are left behind, and a new life now begins (cf. *Rom 6:4*); the old wrinkly face is given a face lift to show a new, youthful and joyful face. But this spiritual "exodus" is only the beginning. It is the beginning of a complete liberation, capable of renewing every person in every dimension of life – human, personal, social and spiritual.

Easter is the true salvation of humanity! But some unfortunately ask "What do we need to be saved from?" or "I don't feel that Jesus does anything for me!" If Christ the Lamb of God had not poured out his blood, we would be without hope and our destiny and the destiny of the whole world would be death and destruction. But the Easter mysteries have reversed the destiny of humanity: Christ's resurrection is a new beginning for everything. Through Easter we are renewed and we become new creatures created in the image and likeness of God.

Easter is an event that has profoundly changed the course of history, tipping the scales once and for all on the side of forgiveness, life, goodness and love, and these are offered to everyone – to the saints but especially to the sinners. But Easter and the resurrection do not work magic. Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them on the far side of the Red Sea, so the Church after the resurrection always finds history filled with joy and hope on the one hand, and grief and anguish on the other. And yet, this history is changed, it is marked by the new and eternal covenant, it is truly open to the future – a future in the eternal life of Christ. For this reason, because we are saved by Jesus Christ, let us continue our pilgrimage of faith, bearing in our hearts the song that is ever ancient and yet ever new: "Let us sing to the Lord: glorious his triumph!"

On behalf of the whole parish, I extend Easter blessings to all people in Meadowbank and the surrounding areas, to your friends, families and loved ones, to people of faith, to people of goodwill and to the entire community.

**Download/Sync Parish Calendar** - view and download from the Parish Website. It is updated on a daily basis. If you use a google calendar, you can easily add the calendar to your calendar by pressing the + button on the homepage: [www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au)

## Collections Update from 14 April

Thank you for the generosity of all parishioners. Please note the new adjusted weekly targets in order to reach our budget.

**1st Collection (assists clergy): \$1457**

*New 1st Collection weekly target to cover costs: \$1324*

**2nd Collection (parish costs): \$2206**

*New 2nd Collection weekly target to cover costs: \$2400*

### DIRECT TRANSFER GIVING

Please consider using a direct recurring automatic transfer for Sunday offerings. It is a safe, secure process that each person can easily setup via their own online banking to give to the parish on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

**Parish First Collection Details:** BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04292002; Account Name: St Michael's Pastoral Revenue

**Parish Second Collection Details:** BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04295003; Account Name: St Michael's Church

Please use your envelope number (if you have one) as a reference for the transaction.

## Outstanding Recognition for St Michael's as a "High Gain School."

Recently the MySchool Website was updated with school NAPLAN results from 2018. NAPLAN is administered by ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) and our school received a letter congratulating us for "demonstrating substantially above average gain in numeracy achievement, as measured by NAPLAN." The letter stated that "Improvement in student literacy and/or numeracy of this magnitude, as measured by NAPLAN, is significant and worthy of highlighting and acknowledging."

All of our community should be extremely proud of this recognition. The teachers in our school have certainly focussed on meeting the learning needs of each student by setting realistic learning growth targets for every child and by implementing specific interventions for any particular needs.

Congratulations to our teachers and to our students!!!

## Thank You for your Generosity During Lent and during the Easter Triduum

A big thank you to all parishioners who supported the *Project Compassion* Appeal and the *Jesuit Refugee Services Food Drive* during Lent this year.

Thank you also for your generosity in supporting the Good Friday appeal for the Holy Land and Holy Places and for supporting the Easter Offerings for Priests in other ministries.

## Easter Holy Water Gift to Parishioners

Every year at the Easter Vigil, water is blessed for use in baptisms, for placement in the holy water fonts at the entrances to the church and for blessing of objects, especially houses.

The parish has provided a small bottle of blessed holy water for every family in the parish as an Easter Gift. Please take one of the Easter Holy Water Bottles and the accompanying House Blessing Prayer - these are located at the Baptismal Font.

Please pray the Easter Offering Prayer at your home and sprinkle some of the Easter Water around your house.

Please only take one bottle of Easter water per family, so that every family will have an opportunity to receive the Easter water.

## PULPIT POINTS 21-April

- A NEW LIFE: Former politician with Parkinsons finds a new lease on life
- A Crossroads for religious freedom?
- Pro-lifers slam Court decision
- How Christ died ... A doctor's view
- Movie review: Shazam
- Why seminary life appeals

## Easter and the Easter Bunny

Christian art has several examples from the 2nd century through to the 16th century of rabbits being associated with Christ. In the early eastern Christian Church the rabbit was used on tombstones as a symbol of Christ. Some early Christians viewed the rabbit's hole as a symbol of the tomb of Christ, and thus the rabbit became associated with Easter, and the presence of the rabbit was a sign that life had emerged from the tomb.

The idea of rabbits as a symbol of vitality, rebirth and abundance of life also derives from the early Church. There is a curious and strange phenomenon called superfetation, which is most common with rabbits, although there is some suggestion of this occurring in other animals and even once or twice in humans. Superfetation is when a female animal falls pregnant on more than one occasion from different menstrual cycles – thus carrying embryos of significantly different ages during the one pregnancy. For example, the rabbit is pregnant for one month and then becomes pregnant and carries additional embryos after one month for the rest of the pregnancy cycle. This is how we get the expression "Breed like rabbits!"

Prior to scientific study and knowledge of this phenomenon, it was widely believed (by Ancient Roman and Greek Scholars including Pliny, Plutarch, and others) that the rabbit was a hermaphrodite that could spontaneously reproduce without loss of virginity. This led to an association with the Virgin Mary, with rabbits often being depicted in manuscripts and Northern European paintings of the Virgin and Christ Child.

Artwork: **The Madonna of the Rabbit** (1530), Titian.



**NEXT WEEKEND**

**Roster: 27 / 28 April 2019**

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
<b>5:00PM Vigil</b>	Jim Lemcke	Faby Lobo Sr M Barry	1 Gemma Martin 2 Prescilla Luzon 3 Joseph J K 4 Liz Paricka 5 Henaa Jawher 6 Pam Keenan
<b>8:00AM</b>	Meynardo Talisayon	Agnes Aldana Chris Twomey	Joseph D'Mello Judith Orrock
<b>10:00AM</b>	John Fillion & Joel Tabuso	Sean V Wyk Kathleen Ryan	1 Maureen Richardson 2 Danima Grace 3 Joel Tabuso 4 Lala Tabuso 5 Devonna Gonsalves 6 Joan D'souza

**Liturgy for this week (22 - 28 April 2019)**

**Sacraments:**

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 4:15pm-4.45pm (AEST)

**Devotions: Prayer for Priests:** 8:45am every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday

**Morning Prayer:** 7:40AM every Sunday

**Rosary:** 8:50am on weekdays before the Mass (except Friday)

Friday before Mass : **Silent Prayer**

**Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

8:30am-9:15am every Friday

8:15am-9:15am every Saturday (with Benediction at 9.05am)

**Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet** - Wednesdays after AM Mass

**Weekday Services this week:**

9:15am - Monday: Communion Service

9:15am - **Weekday Mass:** Tuesday to Saturday

**Weekend Masses:**

5:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass (AEST)

8:00am & 10:00am - Sunday Masses

(10am with Children's Liturgy during School Term)

**The Piety Stall**

will be open after Masses on HOLY SATURDAY and EASTER SUNDAY. Beautiful religion items and images are available to help celebrate Easter.

**Church Cleaning, Altar Linen & Flowers**

We have a great team of helpers who arrange flowers, clean and vacuum the church on a weekly basis. We always need more help. Contact Marie Bennett on 0447 830 551 to volunteer.

Flowers cost about \$100 per week. Please consider donating to the Altar Society. Donation boxes are at the church doors or can be made through the Parish Office.

**New Roster for Readers & EOMHC.**

Please pick up your new roster from the table at the foyer of the church.

**Divine Mercy Sunday Celebrations**

28th April at St Therese Denistone - All Welcome

2 pm - Reconciliation & Devotion followed by 3pm Mass



**Prayer to St Michael the**

**Archangel.** Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

*Parish Weekly Mass Offerings*

**Tuesday 23rd April 2019 8:15am**

Mass of Remembrance for

Ernestine & Lawrence Menezes

**Wednesday 24th April 2019 9:15am**

Mass of Remembrance for Neville Gittany

**Thursday 25th April 2019 9:15am**

Mass for the Holy Souls (ANZAC DAY)

**Friday 26th April 2019 9:15am**

Mass of Remembrance for Robert Curness

**Saturday 27th April 2019 9:15am**

Mass of Remembrance for Martin Dexter Tan

**NOTE: Only one Mass offering is permitted per day.**



**Baptism:**

**Children:** Zion Gonçalves Tsuyuki  
Hannah Elizabeth Vidmar

**Date:** 21st April, Sunday

**Time:** 10am

**St Michael's Catholic Primary**

**Kindergarten 2020 Enrolments**

Enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2020 are currently being accepted. Enrolment packs can be obtained from the school office. Packs can also be mailed out - simply call the school office (9808 2658).

**Liturgy Volunteers needed**

We are looking for volunteers to conduct children's liturgy as a leader or a helper for the Sunday 10.00 am Mass.

It involves introducing gospel to children in a manner that is fun and easy to understand. Materials will be provided to the liturgist. If interested, kindly contact the children's liturgy coordinator Cindrella Francis 0481320454 or the Parish office

**Consider becoming a Catechist**

Ring Judith Orrock on 98742825 if you are interested. You will be trained in conducting a class, what to teach and provided all teaching materials to make you a successful catechist.

**Are you new to the Parish?**

Welcome. It is great to have you here. Please make our parish your home. Feel welcome to share experiences and ministries from your previous parish with our community. Please complete a parish registration & census form at the office. Consider volunteering and joining the parish planned giving.