



# Mary Immaculate Parish

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## BULLETIN

**18TH APRIL 2025**

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

#### **BISHOP VINCENT'S EASTER MESSAGE 2025**

A message for Easter 2025 from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta. Dear sisters and brothers, the Resurrection isn't simply something we look forward to in the afterlife! The Resurrection of Christ affects us right now, existentially and fundamentally. That is what happened at our Baptism. We didn't simply go into the water to express our intent to die to sin and then come out of the water to express our intent to try to live a new life anchored in Christ. There's more to it than that. Jesus didn't die a peaceful death in his sleep. His body was subject to torture and humiliation in the last hours of his life. On the cross, he was naked, beaten, tormented and completely broken. But in death, Jesus underwent a total transformation. On Good Friday he was a wreck, and on Easter Sunday his broken body was transfigured. As St Paul puts it, "the perishable has been clothed with imperishable and the mortal with immortality". The crucifixion, death and glorious Resurrection of Jesus teach us that our human existence is not simply extended. It is transformed by virtue of our being made with one with him. Christ emerged from the tomb with a transformed, human, risen life. We emerged from our Baptism with a participation in the same life Christ received when he rose from the dead. This is the only life Christ has, and it is this life that he gives to us: his transformed, human, risen life. Think about it. This is the life that is nourished within us at every Eucharist. At the Eucharist we join with Christ in his dying and rising. At Communion we come forward and sacramentally unite with the Risen Christ. What we celebrate at Easter then is too big to be put into mere words. That's why the main Easter celebration - the Easter Vigil - is full of symbols: darkness, light, fire, the Easter Candle, candles held by everyone, water, oil, Baptisms, Confirmations, Alleluia's, music everywhere. That's why we have all those readings that tell the core stories of Creation, Abraham, the Exodus, the prophets... And to really appreciate

what we celebrate at Easter time, let's never forget to think of the real people who have died: our parents, grandparents, children, loved ones, victims of war and violence. As we ponder and pray about our loved ones gone before us 'marked with the sign of faith', we take in all these symbols, and the full realization comes over us, "They're alive, really living. They're with God. They're with us in a living bond, and a love that still runs back and forth between us." And somewhere deep down inside us we say, "I really believe this. I know it to be true." Of course, we can only dare to believe in such a great mystery - because of our hope in Jesus of Nazareth. Perhaps that is why Pope Francis calls us in this Jubilee year of 2025 to deepen our hope. He wants us to become people of hope and encourage our fellow pilgrims on the journey of faith. That's not so easy at times! For so many in our chaotic world of 2025 - especially marginalised communities- life seems so hopeless, unjust and unfair. And our beautiful planet is being hopelessly damaged by those who put greed, self-interest and personal ambition before God. But take heart! Christ by his dying on the cross and his rising to a transformed human life, has opened the door of hope, and shown the way for us all. Let us live the hope of the Resurrection here and now as we journey towards its fulfilment in God's Kingdom. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Wishing you and your families a blessed and holy Easter.

### **ANZAC DAY**

**ANZAC DAY: FRIDAY 25TH APRIL**  
**MASS TIMES: 6.00AM & 9.15AM**

### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Everyone is invited to the **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** celebration on 27 April. There will be praying of the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet from 2:30pm. There will also be confessions during this time. The celebration of Holy Mass will be at 3.00pm followed by fellowship under the pergola area. Anyone who wants to bring a plate to share is most welcome.



**First Reading Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
See, my servant will prosper,  
he shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights.

As the crowds were appalled on seeing him  
- so disfigured did he look  
that he seemed no longer human -  
so will the crowds be astonished at him,  
and kings stand speechless before him;  
for they shall see something never told  
and witness something never heard before:  
'Who could believe what we have heard,  
and to whom has the power of the Lord been re-  
vealed?'

Like a sapling he grew up in front of us,  
like a root in arid ground.  
Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him),  
no looks to attract our eyes;  
a thing despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering,  
a man to make people screen their faces;  
he was despised and we took no account of him.

And yet ours were the sufferings he bore,  
ours the sorrows he carried.  
But we, we thought of him as someone punished,  
struck by God, and brought low.  
Yet he was pierced through for our faults,  
crushed for our sins.

On him lies a punishment that brings us peace,  
and through his wounds we are healed.

We had all gone astray like sheep,  
each taking his own way,  
and the Lord burdened him  
with the sins of all of us.

Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly,  
he never opened his mouth,  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter-house,  
like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers  
never opening its mouth.

By force and by law he was taken;  
would anyone plead his cause?  
Yes, he was torn away from the land of the living;  
for our faults struck down in death.

They gave him a grave with the wicked,  
a tomb with the rich,  
though he had done no wrong  
and there had been no perjury in his mouth.  
The Lord has been pleased to crush him with suf-  
fering.

If he offers his life in atonement,  
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life  
and through him what the Lord wishes will be  
done.

His soul's anguish over  
he shall see the light and be content.  
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,

taking their faults on himself.

Hence I will grant whole hordes for his tribute,  
he shall divide the spoil with the mighty,  
for surrendering himself to death  
and letting himself be taken for a sinner,  
while he was bearing the faults of many  
and praying all the time for sinners.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 30:2. 6. 12-13. 15-17. 25. R.  
Lk 23:46**

(R.) Father, I put my life in your hands.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge.  
Let me never be put to shame.  
In your justice, set me free.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit.  
It is you who will redeem me, Lord. (R.)
2. In the face of all my foes  
I am a reproach,  
an object of scorn to my neighbours  
and of fear to my friends. (R.)
3. Those who see me in the street  
run far away from me.  
I am like a dead man, forgotten in men's hearts,  
like a thing thrown away. (R.)
4. But as for me, I trust in you, Lord,  
I say: 'You are my God.'  
My life is in your hands, deliver me  
from the hands of those who hate me. (R.)
5. Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your love.  
Be strong, let your heart take courage,  
all who hope in the Lord. (R.)

**Second Reading Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme  
high priest who has gone through to the highest  
heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we  
have professed. For it is not as if we had a high  
priest who was incapable of feeling our weakness-  
es with us; but we have one who has been tempted  
in every way that we are, though he is without sin.  
Let us be confident, then, in approaching the  
throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him  
and find grace when we are in need of help.

During his life on earth, he offered up prayer and  
entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who  
had the power to save him out of death, and he sub-  
mitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Al-  
though he was Son, he learnt to obey him through  
suffering; but having been made perfect, he became  
for all who obey the source of eternal salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation Philippians 2:8-9**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel John 18:1 - 19:42

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**PLEASE JOIN IN THE READING WHEN (O) APPEARS IN THE NARRATIVE.**

### FATHER OLIVER'S ANNUAL LEAVE



Father Oliver will be on annual leave from Monday 28th April until 3rd June. During this time there will be **NO** 6.00am Mass and **NO** Wednesday evening Novena Mass at 7pm. 6.00am will resume Monday 9th June & Wednesday evening Mass will resume 11th June. We wish him a safe and restful time away. Please keep him in your prayers. Fr Ever will be our supply priest while Father Oliver is away.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

To apply go to the Parish website [www.maryimmac.org.au](http://www.maryimmac.org.au)  
Click on sacraments on top of the page.

Applications will close online on **19th April**.  
We cannot accept late applications.

**PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BEFORE CLICKING APPLY**

### MOTHER MARY PILGRIM STATUE

The Legion of Mary (LOM) has resumed visitation to homes with Mother Mary statue and Rosary prayers. If you would like to be visited and pray the Rosary, the visitation can be arranged by the LOM at agreed times. Please write down your details in the book on the table at the foyer. You will be contacted to arrange the visit.

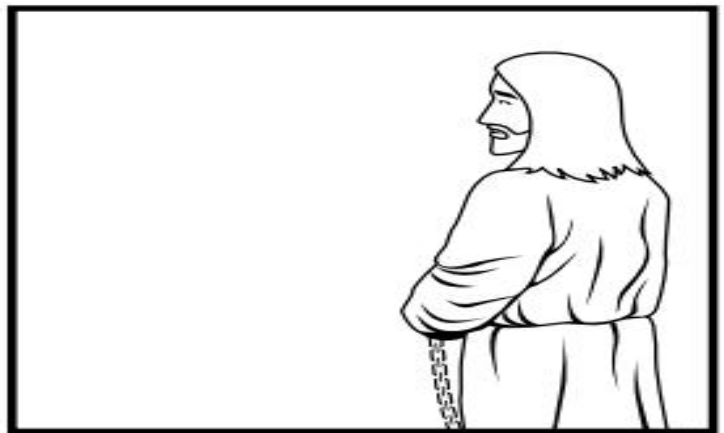
### PARISH LADIES GROUP


The Ladies Group are looking for some more ladies to join them. Are you free on a Thursday morning once a month to have some fun and help the parish. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

Complete these Good Friday events by drawing in the missing pictures and colouring in.




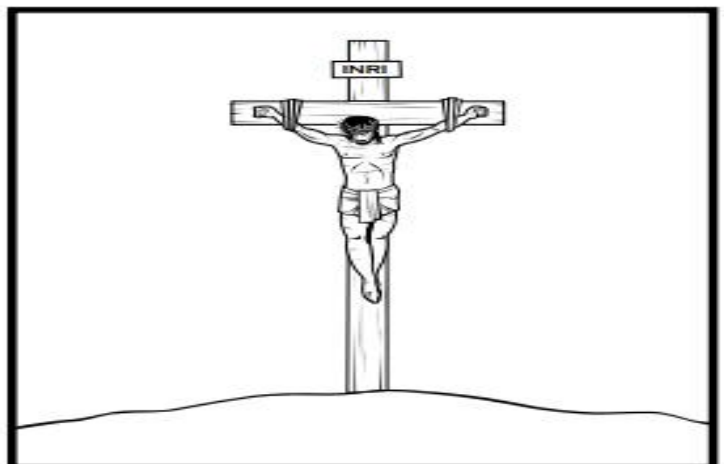
Jesus was arrested in the Garden at Gethsemane, after he was betrayed by Judas



Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate and was condemned to death. Draw Pontius Pilate. 



Jesus carried his cross to the place called Golgotha where he was crucified. Draw Jesus carrying his cross. 



The skies turned dark and Jesus died on the cross so that we may have eternal life.

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER: 19th /20th April ~ EASTER SUNDAY						3rd Sunday of the Month
Ministries	7.30pm	7.30am	9.00am	10.30am	12.30pm	5.30pm
Senior Server	Tony A John B	Angelo C Romany D	Patricia H Ralph H	Isaac Z Lina Z	Ding M	Arnel R Lawrence F
Junior Servers	Kiana F		Aviel F, Yavniel F, Hadriel F, Gabriel E Lucia C, Olivia C	Katrina C Jeremy A Johan A	D & D De Leon Heleni M Johan M	P Marcial, M Georgie A Dass
Readers	John F Jeana B Divine M Belen B Bernadette W	Mere S Laurinda A Rachelle L	Amila F Mary F Rose B	Eleanor O Cora M Pat O	Divine M Bruce M Fasa M	Gary C Paea E Perpetual F
Special Eucharist Minister	Ralph H Jane A	Maria M Mary Mathew	Aida L Katherine C	Lucy V Patricia Z	Rudy Hartanto Tasnia H	Juvy E Edgie A
Greeters	Jerry A Pompey F	Peter S	Brad & Angela A		A Aquini	
Music Ministry	Paul Macaraeg & Choir	Recorded music	Blacktown Philipino Choir	St Pedro Calungsod Devotees	Recorded music	Recorded music
PowerPoint	Jess P	Delyse P	Tanishq A	Mercee M		Choir
Piety Store	Merlyn F	Sherry	Therese B	Joe A		Patricia D

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER: 26th / 27th April						4th Sunday of the Month
Ministries	5.30pm	7.30am	9.00am	10.30am	12.30pm	5.30pm
Senior Server	Tony A	Angelo C Michael C	Conrad F Ruwanal F	Rommel D Isaac Z	Arnel R Louis E	Ryan H Arthur W Ralph H
Junior Servers	Kiana F Ezekiel D Katrina C		Aviel F Yavniel F Hadriel F Gabriel E	Katrina C Jeremy A Johan A	Heleni M Johan M	Allenth E Samisoni W
Readers	John F Perpetual F Jada P	Mercy E Pen B Mere S	Therese B Paea T Fe H	Rukshan A Therese D Ariel or Faye D	Nerissa T Remy H Veronica B	Cheryl Z Patricia H Bernadette W
Special Eucharist Minister	Pompey F	Maria M Anna Z Belen B	Eva C Charmaine A	Ariel or Faye D Juvy E Eleanor O	Angela D	Lita W Edgie A
Greeters	Jerry A Pompey F			Aubrey J	Ines A	
Music Ministry	Fusion	Recorded music	Divine Hope Choir	C.F.C Choir	Ray Pineda's group	S.C.M.I Choir
PowerPoint	Jess P	Delyse P	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir
Piety Store		Sherry	Therese B	Joe A		Patricia D

### PARISH TEAM

**Priest of the Parish:** Rev Fr. Oliver Aro MSP

**Deacon:** Rev. Leon Decena OFS

**Parish/Finance Administrator:** Anthony Saliba OFS

**Administrative Assistant:** Marthese Sultana

**Sacramental Coordinators:** Anthony OFS & Marthese

**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday—Friday 9am to 4pm

**Office Email:**

parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au

**Accounts Email:**

accounts@maryimmac.org.au

**Sacramental Email:**

sacramental.coordinator@maryimmac.org.au

**Our current Mass services are as follows:**

Monday – 6.00am only - Tuesday to Friday - 6.00am

and 9.15am - Wednesday 7pm - Saturday - 7.30am

Sunday Masses – Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm

Sunday- 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 12.30pm and 5.30pm

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday's 4pm to 5pm

### THE SACRAMENTS

**Baptism & Preparation for sacrament:**

**Baptisms on Saturdays at 10:00am & 11:00am**

Parents must attend a preparation session prior to baptism.

**Preparation session on the 1st Tuesday of each month**

**If you want your child baptized, please call Marthese in the**

**Parish Office marthese.sultana@maryimmac.org.au**

**First Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation:**

Please contact sacramental coordinator for details.

**Weddings:** By Appointment.

### ALL THE YOUTH GROUPS

Email: miyouthgroups@maryimmac.org.au

**R.C.I.A: Patrick D. 0435038281 or 96263326**

**Enroll for 2025 online via our website!**

### PARISH SCHOOLS

#### Mary Immaculate Primary School

125 Barrier Drive, Quakers Hill  
Ph: 9626-3999. Principal: Sharon Mizzi.

#### St. Joseph's Primary School

78 Alex Avenue, Schofields  
Ph: 9626-1328. Principal: Lesley Studans.

#### Saint John Paul II Catholic College

85 Hambleton Road Schofields  
Ph: 9208-7200. Principal: Robert Muscat