

WELCOME TO

# ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

## Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

9 April 2023

### First Reading Acts 10:34, 37-43

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself; and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23. R. v.24**

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.  
or  
(R.) Alleluia.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

### Second Reading Col 3:1-4

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

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

**or: 1 Cor 5:6-8**

*Throw away the old yeast, that you may be new dough.*

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, then, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

### Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.**

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel Jn 20:1-9

*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.*

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.'

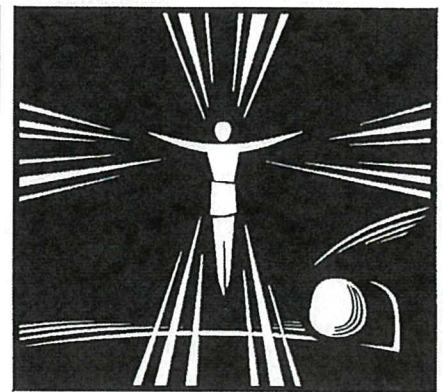
So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, 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.

**or Mt 28:1-10**

*He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.*

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'



### Reflection by Greg Sunter

On this, the most important celebration in the Christian calendar, it is a shame that the reading chosen for the Lectionary is something of a let down. Certainly, within the gospel reading we have the discovery of the empty tomb by Mary of Magdala; the disbelieving disciples running to find things exactly as Mary had described; and the dawning realisation of what Jesus had meant when he so frequently spoke about rising from the dead. However, if the editors of the Lectionary had chosen to also include the next nine verses of the gospel we would have also heard the magnificent encounter between Mary and the risen Lord, confirming that it was a woman, Mary Magdala, who was the first witness to Christ's resurrection. As it is, we never hear this account as part of the cycle of Sunday readings.

The discovery of the empty tomb – although so simply told – is an astounding event that completes the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death AND resurrection of Jesus. Whilst Christ's willingness to go to his death on the cross was an extraordinary statement of God's love for humankind, it is his rising again from death that offers all Christian people hope. It is the second disciple – the one whom Jesus loved – who is the first to grasp the meaning of what has happened inside the tomb. The gospel tells us that upon entering the tomb and seeing Jesus' burial cloths lying there, 'he saw and he believed'. Unlike the later encounters with the risen Lord, this disciple recognised the truth and significance of what he saw in the empty tomb. He didn't need to see the risen Lord to believe. Perhaps it is he that we today can best identify with. Not in a position to physically encounter the risen Christ, we are capable of seeing the signs of his resurrection and continuing presence in the world and choose to believe.

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# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



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 Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor  
 Priest in Residence: Fr Joseph Kunnackattu  
 Associate Priest: Fr Jackson Saunders  
 Deacon: Francois Baguma  
 Office Manager: Diane Teitzel  
 Child Safe Officer: Jason Giuliani Ph: 5821 2633  
 Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



*Christ in community ...  
 the heart of our faith*

**Recently Deceased:** Steve Hines, Valda Ryan

**Readers & Commentators** 15 & 16 April 2023

6pm	C. Villani	TBC
8am	H. Martin-Lefevre	L. Martin-Lefevre
11am	S. White	P. White

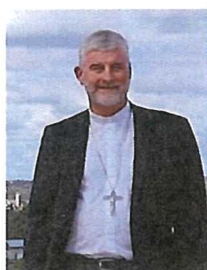
**An Easter Message from Bishop Shane Mackinlay**

Hot cross buns have been available for a couple of months now, and Easter eggs appeared not long after them. They were both a long way ahead of Easter itself! But it's clear now that the season is turning and Easter is approaching. We're enjoying the very last flush of summer roses, while tree leaves are changing colour and preparing to drop from their branches. Evenings have become chilly, and the mornings are getting darker. Daylight savings has ended just in time! The change of seasons is a reminder that we are constantly moving between light and darkness, flourishing and fading away, growth and decline, hope and disappointment. We experience that movement in our health, in our family lives, in the projects we invest in at work or at school, and in our relationships with those around us. Most dramatically, we are reminded of that movement in the contrast between our sadness when loved ones die and our joy at the birth of a new child.

Easter is a spring festival – timed to fit the Northern hemisphere, of course! It celebrates that, no matter how deep the darkness or disappointment might be that we face in any particular struggle or suffering, the final word belongs to the new life opened to us by the faithful love of Jesus that we see on the cross. Jesus remained true to his

commitment to the poor and suffering, whatever it might cost him personally; and the new life of his resurrection opened the joy and hope that God longs to share with us. As we commemorate Jesus' death and resurrection, we recall our own mission to live with the faithfulness and commitment that we see in him.

I wish each of you and your loved ones all the blessings of this year's Easter celebrations.



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years.

We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

We are blessed in welcoming our RCIA participants to the Catholic faith this weekend at our Easter vigil Mass.



**Kelly Smyth, Karlene Kirby and Ethan Jones**, have completed their nine months of preparation, learning, discovering and gathering with our Parish community.

**Louis Schenker** has also completed all the preparation but has decided the time is not right for him to receive the Sacraments of the Catholic faith at this time. We support Louis in this decision and will continue our support of his faith journey.

We have in some ways come to the end of one stage but are just at the beginning of a new stage of faith.

This is a continuing pattern of the faith journey, always beginning, never quite feeling we have made it.

I would like to thank the sponsors and the RCIA team for the effort, love and support they have given to the RCIA process this year.

We feel very special to walk this journey of faith discovery with the participants. Our own faith is enlivened by what we are part of each week.

Anthony Kilmartin

The **Men's group** plan to join a fundraising breakfast in Dookie at 8.00am, Saturday April 15, to help raise funds for "Kids with Cancer".

We can gather in the Church car park at our normal meeting time of 7.30am. We can car pool to Dookie. This event is open to all parishioners and their families.

\$15.00 pp or \$30.00 per family, questions please call Anthony on 5821 2633 Tuesday or Thursday.





**Weekend Mass Times**

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am **PRAYING WITH CHILDREN**  
SUNDAY LITURGY

Saturday 8.30am *Syro Malabar Rite*, Sunday 5.30pm *Syro Malabar Rite*

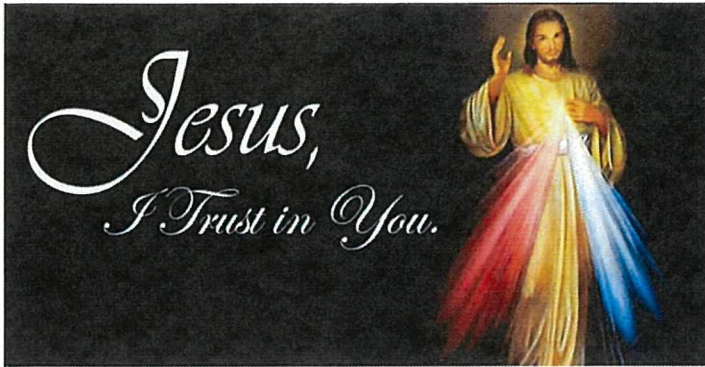
**Rosary**— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

**Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**: Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and Fridays 5pm to 6pm

**Weekday Mass Times**

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

**Reconciliation** Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)



St Brendan's Church  
121 Knight Street, Shepparton

2.00-3.00pm Reconciliation  
3.00pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy Benediction  
3.30pm Mass  
After Mass Veneration of Divine Mercy

**Compulsory Training for ALL volunteers**

Thursday April 27 (5.45—6.30pm)

Saturday May 6 (11am—11.45am)

We will be providing training for all volunteers.

The training will cover the expectations of ALL volunteers in relation to Child Safe compliance.

The training is also available online. If you prefer to complete it online, you can register your email with the office and the module will be sent to you.

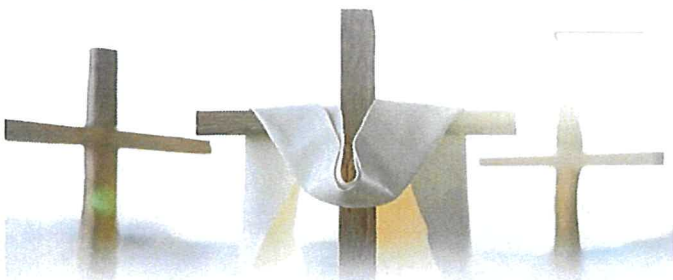
If you prefer to attend a session in the Church on one of the above dates, you only need to attend once.

This training is supposed to be completed every two years to ensure we are all up to date with current laws.

However, due to Covid, we haven't been able to offer this for 4 years. All questions to Kathy Hunt on 0416 058 431.

#ChildSafeStandards

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
HE HAS RISEN



**PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME 2023 – 2026**

Our Planned Giving Team is led by Fr Joe Taylor with Julie Kelly (Chairperson), Fr Jackson, Peter Fitzpatrick, Brendan Lindsay and Diane Teitzel.

Our Theme for the 2023 – 2026 Programme is SOIL SEED HARVEST.



In the well-known 'Parable of the Sower' we read of the scattering of seed by the farmer. Some seeds fall on the path, some in rocky places and some, once grown, are caught in thorns and grow no further. Some of the seed, however, falls on good soil which allows the farmer to reap a good harvest.

In our parish at St Brendan's we are fortunate to be a faith community who find ourselves in good soil. We have planted many seeds in our rich history which has allowed for continually strong harvests. From our parish buildings and schools to the many ministries we support, there's been years of rich harvesting that has allowed thousands of people from many cultures to flourish in our community over the years.

Financial contribution to our parish may be made using any of the following methods:

- Direct Debit | Credit Card \*Preferred method\*

Direct Debit is the safest and most convenient method to financially contribute, alleviating the hassle of finding money each week and helps the parish with the security of cash handling. Contact the Parish Office to arrange a plan.

*Currently, we have 173 families contributing electronically and we would love to see this number rise to 225 families.*

- Tap and Go payment terminals are located in the front entry of the church and the piety stall
- Collection plate during Mass



After Easter there will be an opportunity for all to take part in our next Planned Giving Programme. It is also a time for those currently on our Programme to review and renew their financial commitment.

**The next L'Arche gathering at 8 Duncan Court will be at 12.30pm, Sunday, April 16.**

To assist with catering please email us if you intend to join us.

[holland2012@bigpond.com](mailto:holland2012@bigpond.com)





A **bequest** is a very special donation. It's a powerful gift that shows those left behind the things that were of deep importance to you. Leaving a bequest to St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton is so much more than a financial contribution. It reflects your heart for the needs of our Parish and leaves a legacy that benefits future generations. For many years St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton has supported people in need, providing them with pathways of support. This is only possible because of the generous support of people like you.

Will you help St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton to continue to grow and service our in our Parish and Community?

By leaving a bequest to St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton you can help make a significant and lasting difference to the future of our Parish. If you would like to know more, please contact the Parish office on 5821 2633.



Today's Marists want connection, they want to belong and to know they have a place in a strong spiritual family that nourishes and supports their faith, life and vocation.

Parishioners are welcome to join the NDC Marist Association.

Typically, our Marist Association gatherings at NDC offer Marists an opportunity to connect, celebrate a liturgy and/or Mass, and share a light supper.

The Marist Association is a 'spiritual family' that is spread across the country that includes both teachers and parishioners.

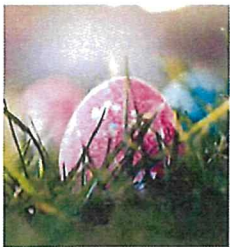
Parishioners are encouraged to consider this opportunity and note the following meeting dates that have been planned for 2023.

May 2 & 25, June 6, August 1, October 3, December 5.

Members of the Association seek to live out their vocation in ways that are inspired by Marist spirituality and values.

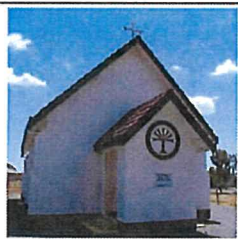
Further information will be available as we draw closer to our first gathering.

Please contact Jason Giuliani or the Parish office on 5821 2633 if you would like more details.



**SALE OF KATANDRA WEST CHURCH**

This site will be auctioned at 11.00am on April 22



**SAVE THE DATE**

St Brendan's Parish will host a Zoom session with constitutional lawyer, Anne Twomey, on Wednesday, April 26, from 6pm until 7pm.

The session will provide an opportunity to learn more about the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum later this year. Anne is originally from Shepparton and grew up in St Brendan's Parish. Professor Twomey has practised as a solicitor, worked for the High Court of Australia and in various Government roles.

More details about the Zoom session will be included in our bulletin in coming weeks. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have supported the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

<https://www.catholic.au/article/Bishops-Back-Call-for-Indigenous-Voice>



**'Alpha in the Catholic context'**

On 27 February, 2023, St Brendan's commenced its 3<sup>rd</sup> Alpha program.

Our Alpha program runs for 11 weeks presented in a format of

sharing a meal, watching videos on set topics and discussing the content with a wonderful mix of individuals looking to explore their faith.

Our participants come from a wide range of backgrounds, both professionally and spiritually, including our RCIA program. We have 13

participants including 3 couples and up to 10 children being cared for each Monday night.

We have 3 amazing teams supporting the program covering childcare, meals and presentation of the program content. We thank the Holy Spirit for His watchful care in this work we are blessed to do.

Thank you to all who contributed to the St Brendan's Caritas collection of \$4,638.55.



**We wish all in our Parish a very safe and Happy Easter.**

**St Brendan's Parish Friendship Group Lunch: 12.30pm, Sunday April 16 Shepparton Club, 455 Wyndham Street, Shepparton**

All Welcome, Contact Margaret 0427 267263

Our Church received \$940 through Tap-N-go during March 2023, Thank you.



**AFL Footy tipping update**  
We have a league of 33 tipsters in this year's competition. After 3 rounds, the leaders are Clare Coppinger and Margie Preston on 18. Fathers Joe and Jackson are in the chasing pack on 14. This year's first prize has been raised to \$265.





# Along the track

## Who Do You Say I Am?

The road to Emmaus is a beautiful story ([Mark 16:12–13](#) [Luke 24:13–35](#)). It is unusually long so, when Mark and Luke chose to include this story, they did so for a purpose. It was, in their view, something we all needed to hear.

The two companions were followers of Jesus. He had inspired them with both his message and his presence and but now they had left Jerusalem confused, disappointed, disillusioned, ready to abandon it all. They had walked with him, listened to him, laughed with him, got angry with the injustices he spoke about, they saw what a difference he made to the sick and the outcaste, how he ate with sinners, how inclusive the vision he preached and lived. This wasn't just some charismatic preacher – this was one who really engaged with people, the one who offered them hope, a vision for the future.

In short, they loved him. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people,” one of them said. Could he be the Messiah? Their hearts had burned within them! They had pinned their hopes on him. They could see a way forward. Instead, he has been crucified, a cruel death designed to inflict maximum pain and complete humiliation. Despite what the women who had gone to anoint the body for burial had seen, despite their message that Jesus was still alive, they just wanted to get away from it all.

The two followers are shattered firstly by the pain of their loss, the grief of losing a friend in such a brutal and callous way. A few short days before, people had hailed him as the hope of Israel, the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Then they turned and cried out for him to be put to death. Their loss of hope added further weight to their grief and disillusionment.

On this road to Emmaus Jesus listened to them as they poured out their sorrow and doubts. They were so blinded by grief and disappointment, so obsessed with their own agendas they could not even recognise who was walking with them.

Is that true for today too? Is that why Mark and Luke included this story, for the times we have felt let down, disillusioned, especially by the church that perhaps once made our hearts burn within us too? There are those who suggest that Jesus did not really exist, that he is rather a composite of the hero stories

of the Hebrew scriptures and other such legends in the surrounding cultures, something like our super hero stories. He was a myth.

Has Jesus become a myth for us too, in reality someone who is not real in our lives but just another story which evokes memories and offers ideas that may inspire us to do better, to be better?

The road to Emmaus is a story about Jesus and our need to come to know him, to spend time with him. So often our image of Jesus comes from some dreadful artwork, stories from our childhood, from ancient doctrines communicated in words we may not really understand. We learn about Jesus but we don't come to meet him, we don't come to know him.

On this journey, Jesus encourages these two followers to tell him about their anxieties and pains, why they grieve and mourn. But then he 'opened' the scriptures so that they could better understand the reason for the suffering he endured and its place in his life and message. In the words of Luke: And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. And their hearts began burning within them once again.

It is again not by chance that three of the four Gospels include Jesus asking the question: “Who do you say I am?” We can spend so much time speculating about theology or we can study the Bible in great depth but, in the end, each one of us has to answer for ourselves the central question of life: “Who do you say I am?” In the words of Pope Francis "It is important to study and to know. But knowledge alone is not sufficient. Rather, what is necessary is a daily meeting with the Lord, every day, with (like these Emmaus disciples) our victories and our weaknesses. Many times, Jesus turns to us and asks, 'but who am I for you?'"

Regards  
**Jim Quillinan**

Email: [jquillinan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:jquillinan@dcsi.net.au)



EASTER SUNDAY 2023

*He is risen!*

**Reflection and Prayer for Lent with Sunday readings and a spiritual teacher from our Catholic tradition - Saints Bernard of Clairvaux, Francis of Assisi, Julian of Norwich and Hildegard of Bingen.**



# SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Loving God, there is no need for us to be afraid.

We are looking for Jesus, who was crucified and has risen, as he said he would.

## FROM THE READINGS

**Gospel:** After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them was Jesus. 'Greetings' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my disciples that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

## SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX 1090–1153

At age 21, **Bernard**, from a well-off French family, went to become a Benedictine monk at the very poor, strict monastery of Citeaux and later founded a new community at Clairvaux ('Clear Vision'). He taught that God's love is the origin of all love and only God can satisfy the deepest longings of human hearts. He encouraged the Benedictine tradition of prayerful reading of scripture, 'Sacred Reading' (*Lectio Divina*), a balanced approach to spirituality and prayer to Mary, Mother of Jesus, in times of need.

**Everywhere in this song, the speaker is love.** To understand what it is saying, we must love. Unless you love, do not bother to listen to love's song – you will not understand it. A cold heart cannot understand words of fire ... For someone who does not love, the language of love is babble ... Those to whom the Holy Spirit has given the grace of loving will understand this language. They know its words well and they respond in the same tongue, that is, by works of love and devotion. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, *Sermons on the Song of Songs*, 83.3.

————— SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI c.1182–1226 —————

**Francis**, came from a prosperous family in Assisi, dreaming of a military career, fame and fortune. After a year as a prisoner of war, he renounced all riches to live a poor, simple, Gospel - based life, depending only on God. He loved God's creation and shared Jesus' love for the poor. Many joined Francis to become deeply prayerful people, serving others, 'contemplatives in action.'

**Be praised Lord, with all Your Creatures**, especially Sir Brother Sun ... Sister Moon and the stars ... Brother wind ... Sister Water ... Brother Fire ... Sister Mother Earth ...

*Francis of Assisi, "Canticle of Brother Sun"*

**Where there is love and wisdom**

There is neither fear nor ignorance.

Where there is patience and humility  
there is neither anger nor disturbance.

Where there is joy in poverty,  
there is neither covetousness nor avarice.

Where there is inner peace and meditation,  
there is neither anxiety nor dissipation.

Where fear of the Lord guards the house,  
the enemy cannot gain entry.

Where there is mercy and discernment,  
there is neither excess nor hardness of heart.

*The Admonitions*

————— ('LADY') JULIAN OF NORWICH 1342-c.1416 —————

In May 1373, while ill and expecting to die, a 30-year-old Englishwoman experienced great peace and joy because of visions regarding Jesus' life, suffering and God's love. We know her writings as Showings or Revelations of Divine Love. 'Julian', whose real name we do not know, became an anchoress, living alone in a small hut attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich. Many came to her for spiritual guidance.

**I saw a marvellous compassion** that our Lord has for us for our sufferings.

*Revelations of Divine Love.*

**I was taught that love was our Lord's meaning** ... that before God made us, he loved us ... And in this love our life is everlasting ...

*Revelations of Divine Love.*

**And so our good Lord answered all the questions**

and doubts which I could raise, saying ...

"I may make all things well, and I can make all things well,  
and I will make all things well; and you will see yourself



that every kind of thing will be well ... ”  
and in these words God wishes us to be enclosed in rest and peace.

———— HILDEGARD OF BINGEN 1098-1179 ————

Born into a noble family, Hildegard became a Benedictine nun with expertise in theology, music, art, poetry, medicine, leadership and teaching. Many came to ask for her advice. Her insights about God’s creation and the role of human beings in the created world have much to offer us today.

**Glance at the sun.** See the moon and the stars. Gaze at the beauty of earth’s greenings. Now. Think ...

**The mystery of God** hugs you in its all-encompassing arms.

## PRAYER OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

*In you, Father all-mighty,*

*we have our preservation and our bliss.*

*In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.*

*You are our mother, brother, and Saviour.*

*In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvellous and plenteous grace.*

*You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.*

*You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.*

*Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well,*

*and all shall be well,*

*and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.*

*Adapted. Prayer of Julian of Norwich*



Prepared for Lent Year A 2023 for the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic. 3552 Email: [adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au). To learn more about Saints Bernard of Clairvaux, and Francis of Assisi, Lady Julian of Norwich and Saint Hildegard of Bingen: <https://www.capuchin.org.au/about-us/st-francis-of-assisii/> OR <http://www.franciscans.org.au/spirituality/st-francis-and-st-clare/>; <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/julian>; [http://www.orderofjulian.org/RDL-Motherhood\\_of\\_God.html](http://www.orderofjulian.org/RDL-Motherhood_of_God.html); Search for Revelations of Divine Love, by Julian of Norwich. <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/med/hildegarde.asp>;



# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



Easter Sunday

9 April 2023 - Year A

**“The teaching of Scripture is that Jesus must rise from the dead.”**

### Something to Think About

Jesus is risen. Alleluia!

How does it feel to know that Jesus is risen from the dead and gives new life to us all?

### The Story

After Jesus died, his body was placed in a tomb. The disciples were all very sad and afraid. Early on Sunday morning, so early that it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away. The tomb was empty! She ran to tell Peter and another disciple, and they ran back to the tomb. The disciples saw the strips of cloth which had been covering Jesus' body, but Jesus was not there. He was no longer dead, but alive!

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John** 20:1-9

On Sunday morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favourite disciple and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him."

Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. They ran side by side, until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first. He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb, but he did not go in.

When Simon Peter got there, he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth. He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face. It was rolled up and in a place by itself.

The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb, and when he saw it, he believed.

At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video: [The Story of Easter](#)



## Group Discussion

Easter is a time of celebration, joy and new life. Jesus' resurrection shows us that nothing is impossible for God. This fills us with great hope.

We hope that all people will have enough food to eat and people to love them. We hope that the world will be a fair and safe place for everyone to live in.

What is your hope for the world this Easter? What can you do to make it happen?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Gathered as one with all creation, let us pray for the needs of the world:

*Reader 1:* We pray that we will be filled with Easter joy. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for families who are welcoming a new baby. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who bring comfort and hope to others. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray that we will always trust in God, even when things look hopeless. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will live with respect and love for all people. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



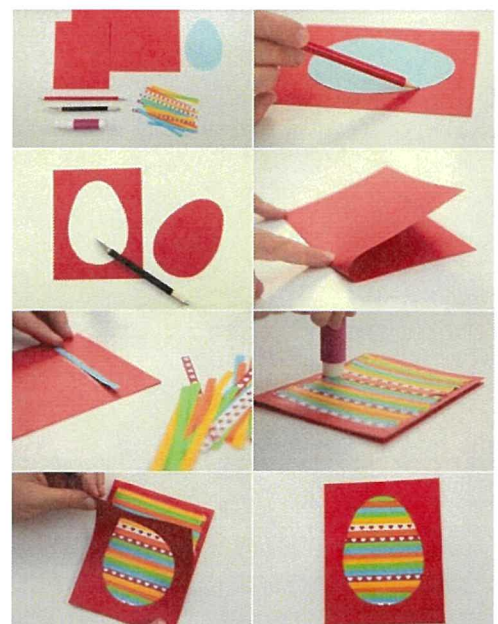
Dear Jesus,  
We rejoice that you have risen to new life! Help us to be filled with Easter joy, and to recognise your presence in the world around us.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

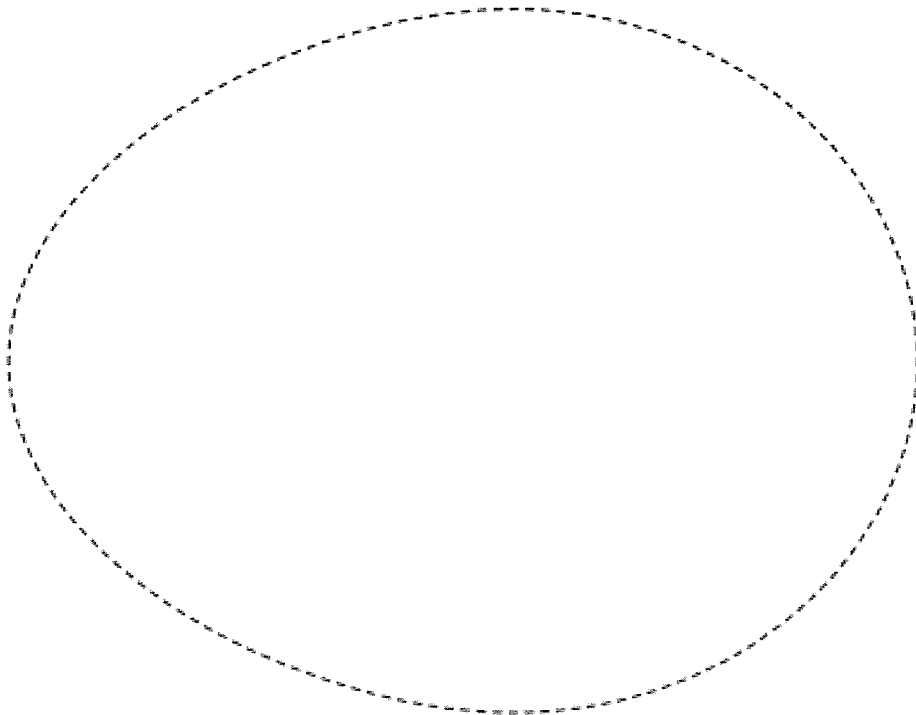
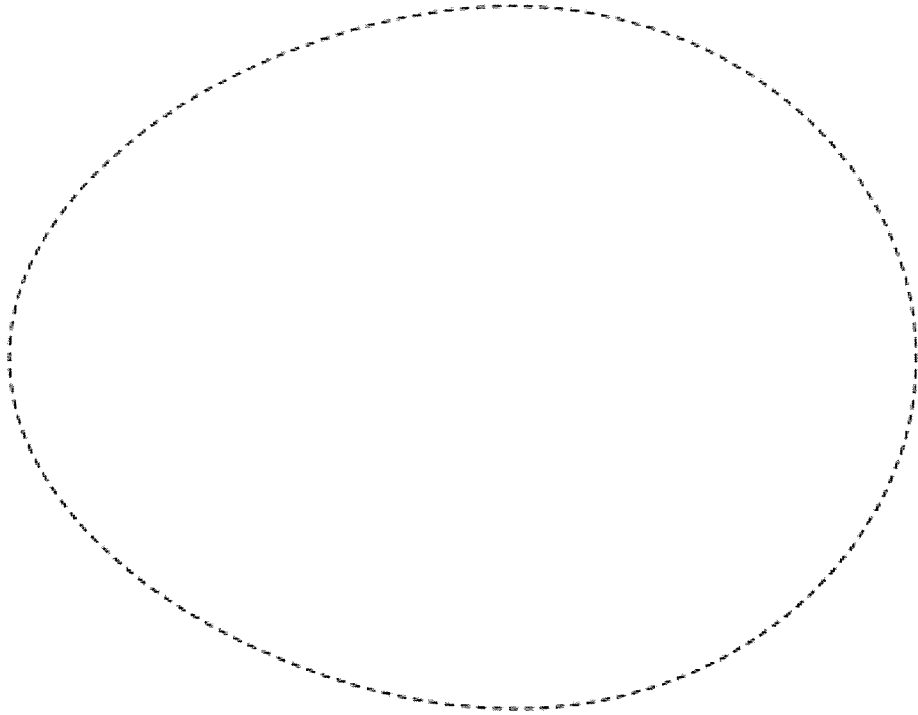
### Easter Cards

*For each child you will need: egg shaped template, two pieces of coloured paper (A4 and A5), patterned construction paper in different colours cut into narrow strips approximately 14 cm long, glue, markers, scissors.*

1. Trace the egg template onto the A5 piece of paper and cut it out.
2. Fold the A4 paper in half to make a card.
3. Glue coloured strips of paper one under the other, down the front of the card.
4. Glue the A5 piece of paper, with the egg cut out of it, over the front of the card so the coloured strips show through.
5. Children write or draw an Easter message inside and give it to someone special.

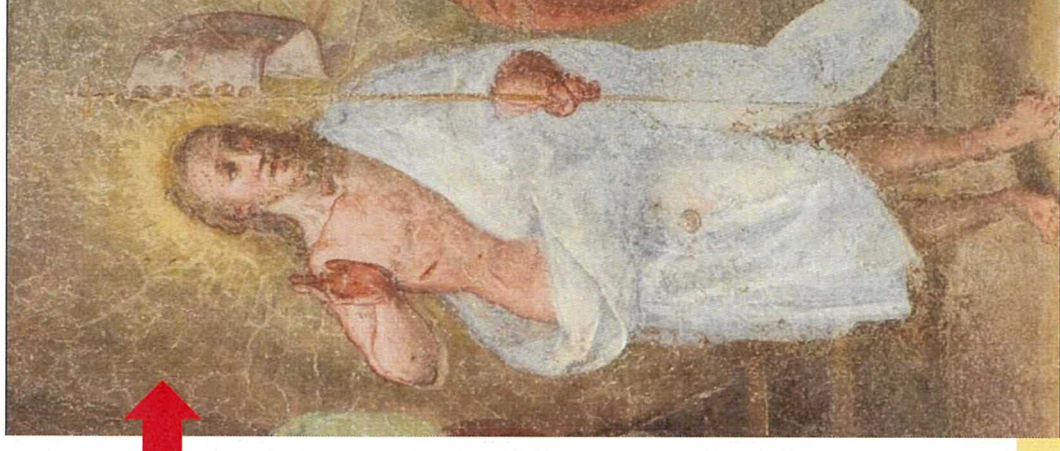
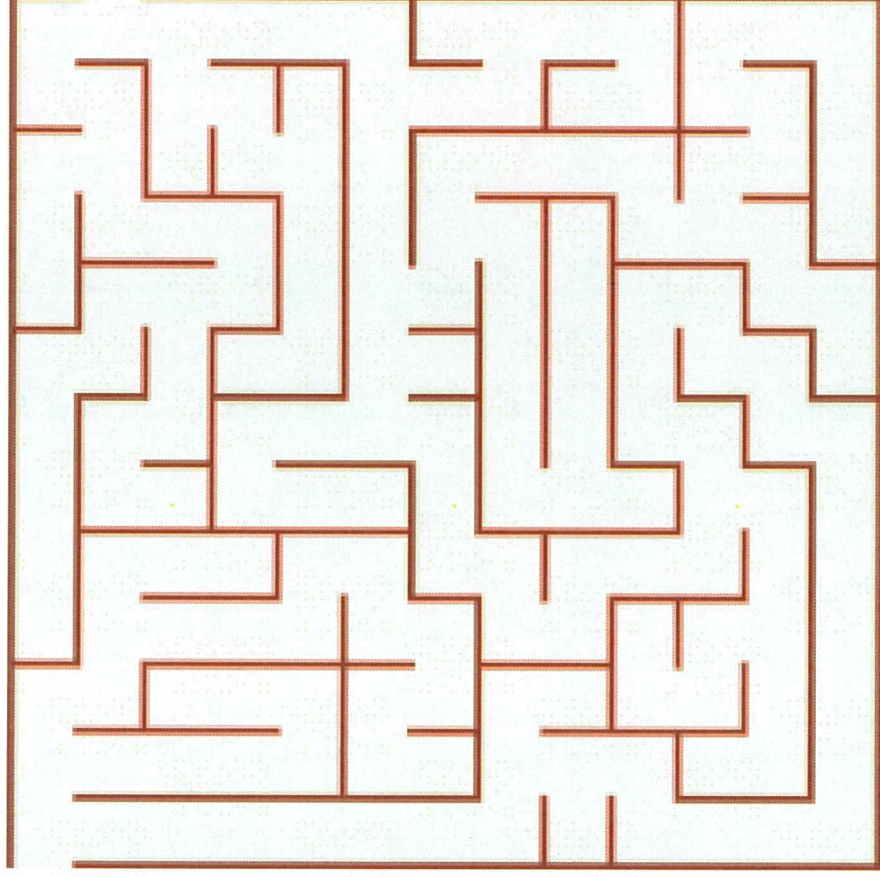








# THE TOMB IS EMPTY. WHERE HAVE THEY TAKEN JESUS?



FIND THE WAY FROM THE EMPTY TOMB TO THE RISEN CHRIST.

## JESUS IS ALIVE: NO ONE TOOK HIM AWAY!