

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

communities of
LEARMONTH * LEXTON * MINERS REST * WAUBRA * WENDOUREE
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Reflection on the Gospel-Easter Vigil Year C, 27 March 2016 (Luke 24:1-12)

In the faith inspired liturgical re-telling at Easter, all the power and grace of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are present to us and to our world, writes Sister Veronica Lawson rsm.

It does not always pay to discount someone's story just because it sounds a bit fantastic. In Luke's resurrection account, that's what the "eleven and all the rest" do with the women's stories of a rolled-back stone, no body, and heavenly interpreters. The notion of resurrection was not in itself extraordinary in a first century Jewish context. The Pharisees believed in a general resurrection, but the idea that God would raise one person from the dead before the time of the general resurrection was quite unthinkable. From the men's perspective, therefore, the women are talking nonsense. Peter decides to go and confirm their testimony for himself, indicating that he suspects there is some truth in what they have to say. Their account checks out and he goes away in amazement (no apology, just amazement).

This gospel and the whole Easter celebration is about "the one who lives". Luke's account leaves no doubt about the death of Jesus: there are witnesses, there is evidence. The same goes for the burial. Now, in the story of the empty tomb, Luke wants to assert that Jesus is alive. The women (Mary of Magdala, Joanna the wife of Chuza, Mary the mother of James and unidentified others) are confronted with the question: "Why are you seeking among the dead the one who lives?" They are then entrusted with the message of resurrection: "He is not here, but has been raised."

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Easter Sunday Table Prayer

Creator God and Lord of Life,
You who call forth from the darkness of death
all those who love You,
We rejoice, on the Easter Sunday,
in the resurrection from the dead
of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Visit our home and this table
with Your bright blessing of peace and life.
We pause in the midst of this prayer
to remember all the holy dead of our family
who live now in You
and who await the final and
glorious resurrection of the dead.

Pause for silent reflection.

May they and we,
because of our faith in You,
our God, taste in the victory of life over death.
May the Risen Christ,
our Lord and Saviour,
Be our guest
as we celebrate His resurrection
with this Easter Sunday dinner.
Bless those whose work to prepare this meal
Has truly been a work of prayer,
and bless all of us
who share it with Easter love and joy.
May You, then, bless this table and this food,
and each of us in Your holy name.
Amen

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Leigh Bradshaw 5339 4726
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Gentle Dove Prayer Line Val 53331776, Sue 5339 4440

Baptism enquiries: Parish Office 5339 2302
Parish Centre Bookings: 0439 106 399
Exodus House: 8 Primrose St, 5338 2118
Mercy Sr. Maureen 5331 5504

Responsorial Psalm: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia.



Baptisms:
We welcome to the Life of Christ, Ian, James and Kate who are baptized in the new waters of baptism.

First OLHC parish get-together luncheon for 2016,
“All Welcome “ Wednesday April 13th, 12 noon at the Park Hotel (Bistro) Please note change of venue. For booking purposes, please add your name on the list in the Church foyer.

Divine Mercy Sunday.
Details available from the notice board.

Dates for Celebration of Sacraments. 2016
Confirmation: 14/15 May, Eucharist, 3/4 September.

Diocesan RCIA & Sacrament Facilitator
Applications are sought for a new position within the Ballarat Diocese - Diocesan RCIA and Sacrament Facilitator (3 days per week). Details are in the attached Position Description. Applications close March 15, 2016

Caritas - Project Compassion
Thank you for your generous support to the work of the Church through Caritas development programs for those in most need. If you wish to donate and have not done so, please return your envelope as soon as possible.



Photos Caritas Lebanon

Your support will also assist the Syrian Crisis, where over 12 million Syrians have fled their homes during the past 5 years. Seven million people are displaced within Syria with little access to humanitarian assistance,

Over 5 million people are seeking refuge in the surrounding countries, particularly Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Europe.

Young Syrian refugees in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon are receiving an education at a centre originally set up for marginalised Lebanese children. Caritas Australia is also supporting this program and others in the region.

Missy Higgins latest song 'Oh Canada' - Aylan's Song features drawings by children in Caritas programs in Syria. A Caritas and World Vision collaboration.

Diocesan Website: The new diocesan website was launched late last year www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. The website contains information on the diocese and parishes and also has a section for members to access resources relevant to diocesan ministries.

e-News: e-News is available to all members of the diocese and those associated with and with an interest in the life of the diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or you are welcome to submit items for publication to enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au. News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the diocese and include photos where possible.

Our Diocesan Community: ODC is published three times per year and delivered to parishes for distribution to those in the diocese. This magazine contains the good news stories of events and people in the diocese. You are welcome to submit items for publication to odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au and again, news items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the diocese and include photos where possible.

Prayer for Blessing of the Home

Lord God, this is our home.
It is a place of work and rest,
A place of noise and quiet,
A place of happy and sad memories.
Most of all, it is ours.
Come into our home, Lord.
Make it Yours too.
Make it a place of peace and joy,
Of fun and laughter,
Of healing and forgiveness,
Of welcome and belonging.
Let it never be a lonely place.
Make it a place full of life
So that all who come here
May know that it is a blessed place.
Amen.

Bottles of Holy Water are available as you leave the Church

(continued from page 1)

They are invited to remember the prophetic words of Jesus. They do indeed remember and they return to proclaim the good news. In line with countless prophetic figures before and since, their testimony is rejected, but is nonetheless effective through the telling and retelling of the story.

We take time at Easter to re-member, re-enact, and re-tell these originating stories of our tradition, to dramatise and celebrate in solemn ritual what we celebrate in lower key every Sunday of the year. In the faith inspired liturgical re-telling, all the power and grace of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are present to us and to our world. Resurrection faith is a commitment to life. For some, it may involve paying more serious attention to the findings of reputable climate change scientists who no doubt feel a bit like the women of the gospel when their work is discounted. For others, it may mean finding ways to redirect some of the two billion dollars that we Australians manage to spend on confectionary every year. There is no end to the challenge.

Veronica Lawson rsm

Rite of Christian Initiation

Welcome to Ian who is received into full communion this weekend. Ian will celebrate his Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Welcome also to James and Kate to our parish community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please remember them in your prayers.



A Drama of Love

"The Easter Triduum," the Holy Father said, "is the memorial of a drama of love that gives us the certainty that we will never be abandoned in life's trials."

The Pope also noted how Holy Thursday, Friday, and Saturday each represents God's service, love, and silence, respectively, and that we, as His disciples, are called to live out these characteristics in our lives.

Pope Francis says that in these days, we allow ourselves to be enveloped by this mercy that comes to us and, that while we have our gaze fixed on the Passion and Death of the Lord, we receive in our hearts the greatness of His love.

The full article can be found in the Zenit at <https://zenit.org/articles/pope-at-general-audience-easter-triduum-gives-certainty-well-never-be-abandoned/>

Happy
Easter

Happy Easter; I would like to wish all parishioners a very Happy Easter. May it be a time of renewal and energy in our faith. I am delighted once again with the ministries of so many people

to the Easter liturgies which make them very meaningful and worthy. Thank You, Fr. Peter

A Walk.

I will be away from the parish the week 4th April to 11th April. I am walking the Mary McKillop Aussie Camino with friends and family, Portland to Penola. Last week was the 150th year of Mary's arrival in Penola from Portland to begin her teaching and religious life.

For information see; <http://www.aussiecamino.org>



The Easter Candle

At the Easter Vigil, the Church represents the mystery of the light of Christ in the sign of the Paschal candle, whose flame is both light and heat. The symbolism of light is connected with that of fire: radiance and heat, radiance and the transforming energy contained in the fire – truth and love go together. The Paschal candle burns, and is thereby consumed: Cross and resurrection are inseparable. From the Cross, from the Son's self-giving, light is born, true radiance comes into the world. From the Paschal candle we all light our own candles, especially the newly baptized, for whom the light of Christ enters deeply into their hearts in this Sacrament.

The Easter Egg Tradition

Christian customs connected with Easter eggs are, to some extent, adaptations of ancient pagan practices related to spring rites.



The egg has long been a symbol of 'fertility', 'rebirth' and 'the beginning'. In Egyptian mythology, the phoenix burns its nest to be reborn later from the egg that is left; Hindu scriptures relate that the world developed from an egg. With the rise of Christianity in Western Europe, the church adapted many pagan customs and the egg, as a symbol of new life, came to represent the Resurrection. Some Christians regarded the egg as a symbol for the stone being rolled from the sepulchre.



Why is Lamb popular during Easter?

A popular Easter symbol, the lamb, its reference goes back in Christianity to the book of Genesis, when Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son. In past centuries it was considered a lucky omen to meet a lamb, especially at Easter time. A popular superstition was the devil was not allowed to appear in the shape of a lamb because of its religious symbolism.

Upcoming Events

Parish Stewardship Program Thursday 31st March 7.00pm

Gathering of Parish Leadership Team and volunteers.



"Time Out" Family Group

early notice for **Sunday 10th April**

12 noon Lunch at Ballarat Golf Club
own cost.

1.00 pm - Jazz Club concert with
Shiraz Jazz Band. Cost \$15.00.

Contact Sue or John.

Mass Times This Week

Tuesday No Mass

Wednesday 10.00 am

Thursday No Mass

Friday 10.00 am

Next Week's Readings 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:12-16

Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19

John 20:19-31

2/3 April, 2016 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Saturday OLHC 6.00pm

Minister of the Word: Trish Pora

Communion Ministers: Elly Green, Frank Hogan
Val & John Bourke, Yvonne Cluff

Sacristans: Sue & John Calistro

Leader of Song: Laureen Rhodes

Sunday OLHC 10.00am

Minister of the Word: Harry Kennedy

Communion Ministers: Helen Rieniets, Tony Bruty
Gloria Dwyer + 2 volunteers

Sacristans: Robyn Clarke

Leader of Song: Corrie Harbour

Masses in the Rural Communities

8.30am This Sunday: Waubra

Minister of the Word: Bev Hayward

Communion Minister: as organised

8.30am Next weekend: Waubra

Minister of the Word: Phyllis Bourke

Communion Minister: Margaret McDonald

Church Cleaning:

OLHC: Helen Rieniets, Joan Curran

Waubra: Phyllis & Pat Bourke

Counters: Kath Connors, John Calistro

Sunday Mass Times

St John the Baptist, Waubra 1st & 3rd Sundays 8.30 am **St. Joseph's Learmonth** 2nd & 4th Sundays 8.30am
St Joseph's Lexton 5th Sundays 8.30am **OLHC Wendouree** Saturday 6.00 pm Sundays 10.00 am

Collections - Thank you

1st Presbytery: \$ 685
2nd Envelopes: \$ 746
Loose \$ 150
Project Compassion \$ 476

Recent Death: Those who lost their lives to terrorism.

Anniversaries: Kevin Buckle, Tom Ballinger



Ed Browne

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