

Parish Newsletter

Parish Office: Leonie Bird Phone 5301 8161 -Daylesford Wednesday– Thursday 9.30– 2.00pm
(Closed Friday)

“We are a Child Safe Parish” **Safeguarding Officer:** Leonie Bird

Parish School Principal: St Michael’s: Ethan Corfee; St Augustine’s: Terry Brennan.

Emails: daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au & creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Gary A Jones- Also visiting Priest for: Wendouree & Ballarat North



Recent Death:

Anniversaries of Death:

Creswick– John William Nelson; Norman Ross; Harold Lewis.

Daylesford– Nellie Chevalier; Dorothy Wake; Ethelred Steinbock; Eileen Volk;
Frederick Morgan; Peter Schultz

Prayers for the Sick: Maureen Eagan;



CURRENT OFFICE HOURS:

We wish to advise that the Parish Office will currently be open on Wednesday and Thursday only until further notice. If you need anything don't forget we are just a phone call or email away. **P: 5301 8161**

E: daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Holy Week Celebrations: Channel 7 will stream from St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney the Lord's Passion at 3pm on Good Friday and Easter Sunday Mass from 1030am across the country, on Prime 7 in regional areas and 7plus.

The Good Friday collection for the Holy Land has been postponed until Sunday, September 13, 2020.

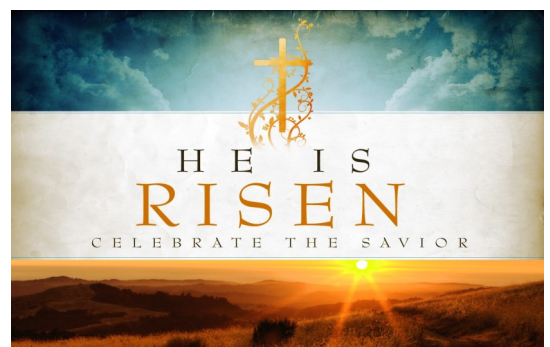
Our Diocesan Community: The latest edition of ODC and eNews is now available to read online at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au under “News and Events”.

Mass online is available via one of the 3 links below.

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

With churches closed and masses not being celebrated, one of the main sources of income, collections has stopped. Many parishioners have asked how they can continue to support us during this time.

We can provide the bank details for our accounts, see below, or we can organise direct debit into our accounts (please call the office for this.)

Otherwise if you are able to leave the home on days the office is open, the planned giving envelopes can be dropped into the Old mailbox outside the Office door.

If you do drop off envelopes please note whether it is for First Collection (which supports the sustenance of the Priest) or Second Collection (which supports the running of Parish & admin costs).

If you make a payment through the Bank accounts you can use the reference as "Collection" or your planned giving number, or name.

Bank Details:

For 1st Collection BSB: 633 000 ACT: 150335065

For 2nd Collection BSB: 633 000 ACT: 150335099

If you have any questions around this please don't hesitate to contact the office.



HOMILY by Richard Leonard

A man was driving along the road when he saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny, but couldn't do so. The basket of eggs went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman saw the man and pulled over. 'What's wrong?' she asked.

'I accidentally killed the Easter Bunny', he explained. The woman knew exactly what to do. She went to her car, pulled out a spray can, walked over to the bunny, and sprayed the entire contents over the little furry animal.

Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up his eggs, waved at them and hopped on down the road. Not far away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around and waved again. He kept doing this for as far as they could see.

The man was astonished. 'What in heaven's name is in that can you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?' The woman showed the man the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'



For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and enculturated with this local festival.

Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds.

Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all:

'Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!'

