

THE EASTER VIGIL
IN THE HOLY NIGHT

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis 1:1-2:2

God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was good.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 14.15-15.1

Tell the children of Israel to march on, to walk through the sea on dry ground.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) Let us sing to the Lord;
he has covered himself in glory.

THIRD READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:1-11

Come to me and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant.

EPISTLE

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3-11

Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:1-12

Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?

EASTER SUNDAY of the
RESURRECTION of the LORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

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

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



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



Continued...(POPE FRANCIS' PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE RETURN FLIGHT TO ROME FROM MALTA)

Gerry O'Connell: *But what would be your message for Putin if you had a chance to talk to him?*

Pope Francis: The message I have given to all the Authorities is the one I have given publicly. I do not say two different things. It is always the same.

I think that behind your question there is also doubt about just and unjust wars. Every war stems from an injustice, always, because that is the pattern of war. It is not a pattern for peace. For example, making investments to buy weapons. Some people say, 'But we need them to defend ourselves.' And this is the pattern of war. When World War II ended, everyone breathed and said, "never again war: peace!" A surge of work for peace began, with the goodwill not to produce any more weapons, even atomic weapons at that time, after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That was a great intention.

Seventy years later, eighty years later, we have forgotten all that. That's how it is: the pattern of war imposes itself. There was so much hope in the work of the United Nations then. But the pattern of war has imposed itself again. We cannot, we are incapable of imagining another pattern. We are not used to thinking of the pattern of peace anymore. There have been great people like Gandhi and many others, whom I mentioned at the end of the encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, who wagered on the pattern of peace. But we are stubborn! As humanity, we are stubborn. We are in love with wars, with the spirit of Cain. It is not by chance that at the beginning of the Bible this problem is presented: the "Cainist" spirit of killing instead of the spirit of peace. 'Father, it can't be!' I'll tell you something personal. In 2014, when I was in Redipuglia and saw the names [of the departed], I cried. Really, I cried out of bitterness. Then, a year or two later, I went to celebrate [Mass] in Anzio for All Souls' Day, and saw the names of the young men who fell while landing there. The names were there, all young men, and I cried there, too. I really did. I did not understand. We must cry on the graves. I respect, because there is a political problem, but for the commemoration of the Normandy landings, several heads of government came together to commemorate it. But I don't remember anyone talking about the 30,000 young soldiers who were left on the beaches. The boats would open, they would get out and were gunned down there, on the beaches. Does youth not matter? This makes me wonder and pains me. I am pained by what is happening today. We never learn. May the Lord have mercy on us, on all of us. Every one of us is guilty!

Matteo Bruni: *Thank you, Your Holiness. Maybe we're tight on time at this point...*

Pope Francis: I thank you very much for your work, for the information. Thanks a lot. And I hope to see you on another trip. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your information. And let's move forward. Thank you! Have a good landing!

POPE FRANCIS ON CHARITY: WORK FOR AND WITH THE PEOPLE YOU ARE SERVING *By Robin Gomes*

According to Pope Francis, any work of charity should be well inserted among the people it intends to serve, and those who initiate it should not think themselves indispensable. He offered the advice to a delegation from the Marcello Candia Foundation based in Milan, Italy, which he received on Friday in the Vatican.

The non-profit Foundation, marking its 40th anniversary this year, was started by Venerable Marcello Candia, an Italian industrialist and lay missionary who sold his father's chemical business to support the needy in Brazil. Today, the Marcello Candia Foundation mainly promotes initiatives in favour of people with Hansen's disease or leprosy, children, the sick and other needy people in Brazil, with particular reference to the Amazon Region but also in various other poor areas of the country. The funds raised are allocated to the various initiatives and sent directly to those responsible for each individual work.

Candia is now a Venerable, on the road to sainthood, with his virtues recognized as heroic.

"Avoid any kind of paternalism; don't impose your ideas on others, even with good intentions."

Pope Francis thanked the delegation for their commitment and initiatives, especially for their method and style which Pope St Paul VI suggested to Candia. He said his predecessor's suggestions can benefit all those who run similar works.

For the people, by the people

First of all, Pope Paul VI suggested that if Candia built a hospital in Brazil, it should be Brazilian, not Italian. Charity, Pope Francis pointed out, must be well inserted in the local reality, involving the local people, even if Candia may have put a little Milanese style into it. Underscoring the importance of inculturation, Pope Francis said, "Assume the culture of the place where we go to work." Paul VI also asked him to keep clear of "any kind of paternalism". "Don't impose your ideas on others, even with good intentions," he told the entrepreneur who was used to making decisions himself. So, he had to learn to steer things in another way.

"Don't make yourself indispensable, but on the contrary, train your co-workers and ensure stability and continuity."

"Make the hospital not only for Brazilians but with Brazilians," Pope Paul VI told him. Pope Francis said, "This is important, it is a general rule of charity: work with the people you are serving."

Don't make yourself indispensable

"Make it your ultimate goal not to be needed anymore," the saintly pope told Candia.

Pope Francis said this is wise advice, lamenting that many times, even in the Church, there are valuable people, priests and bishops who believe that the history of salvation passes from them, that they are necessary.

"No one, no one is absolutely necessary. One is necessary to do what he or she has to do, and then, God will say if I continue or another comes."

"When you realize that the hospital is running on its own, 'you will have done a real work of human solidarity'," he added. Pope Francis explained, "Do not tie people and works to yourself, do not make yourself indispensable, but on the contrary, train your co-workers and ensure stability and continuity."

Low-cost operations

The Holy Father commended the Foundation for its efforts to follow this path, not running the works supporting local communities and missionaries in their initiatives with the sick, lepers and people in various situations of need.

He also commended that the Foundation's maintenance costs are minimal, almost all of it goes to its initiatives in Brazil. Pope Francis noted that there are organizations and associations that carry out good works but they spend half or 60 percent on salaries alone, a charitable model he discouraged.

"Keep to minimum costs, so that most of the money goes to the people," the Pope urged.

POPE FRANCIS’ PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE RETURN FLIGHT TO ROME FROM MALTA

Matteo Bruni: *Good evening everyone. Your Holiness, thank you for these two days with you. As you have seen, travelling with you in these days are around 70 journalists, of whom three are from Malta. And we can begin perhaps with a question from a Maltese journalist, who is Mr. Andrea Rossitto from Maltese Television. But first I will make a note: our time is limited because the airplane will begin landing soon. So we will be able to speak with Your Holiness until around 8:05. Then we will need time to land and to take pictures with the crew. In the meantime, maybe, Your Holiness, you would like to say something...*

Pope Francis: I am sorry that [time] is so short because we are scheduled to land at 8:15 and we have to take pictures. This is why we will conclude at 8:05. But thank you for your cooperation.

Matteo Bruni: *And you for your availability. Go ahead Andrea.*

Andrea Rossitto (TVM): *Your Holiness, thank you first off for your presence in Malta. My question is about this morning’s surprise visit at the chapel where St. George Preca is buried. What motivated you to make this surprise visit, and what will you remember about your visit to Malta? And how is your health? We saw you during this very intense trip. We can say it went well. Thank you very much.*

Pope Francis: My health is a bit unpredictable because I have this problem with my knee that causes problems with getting about, with walking. It’s a bit annoying, but it’s improving, and at least I can get around. Two weeks ago, I couldn’t do anything. It’s a slow thing; we’ll see if it goes away. But there’s uncertainty. At this age, we don’t know how the game will end. Let’s hope it goes well. And then about Malta. I was happy with the visit. I saw the realities of Malta; the people’s impressive enthusiasm, both on Gozo and on Malta, in Valletta and in the other places. A great enthusiasm in the streets. I was amazed. [The visit] was a bit short. One of the problems I saw in your regard is migration. The problem of migrants is serious because Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Italy and Spain are the closest countries to Africa and the Middle East, and [migrants] land here, they arrive here... Migrants must always be welcomed! The problem is that each government has to say how many they can receive regularly to live there. This requires an agreement among the countries of Europe, and not all of them are willing to receive migrants. We forget that Europe was made by migrants, right? But that’s the way things are... At the very least let us not leave all the burden to these neighbouring countries that are so generous. And Malta is one of them. Today I was in the migrant welcome centre, and the things I heard there are terrible, the suffering of these people to get here... and then the lagers—they are *lagers*—which are on the Libyan coast, when they are sent back. This seems criminal. That’s why I think it’s a problem that touches everyone’s heart. Just as Europe is so generously making room for the Ukrainians who knock on the door, so too is it doing for others who cross the Mediterranean. This is a point with which I finished the visit, and it touched me very much, because I listened to the testimonies, the sufferings, which are more or less like those—I think I told you about them—in that little book, "*Hermanito*" in Spanish, "little brother"; and all the *Via Crucis* of these people. One of those who spoke today had to pay four times! I ask you to think about this. Thank you.

Matteo Bruni: *Thank you. The second question, Your Holiness, is from Jordi Antelo Barcia, from Spain’s National Radio.*

Jordi Antelo Barcia (RNE): *Good evening, Your Holiness. I will read because my Italian is still not that good. On the flight that took us to Malta, you told one of my colleagues that a trip to Kyiv "is on the table." While in Malta you referred many times to your closeness to the Ukrainian people. On Friday in Rome, the Polish President opened the door to your possible visit to the Polish border. To-day we were struck by the images coming from Bucha, a village near Kyiv, abandoned by the Russian army where Ukrainians have found dozens of bodies in the streets, some with their hands tied, as if they had been "executed." It seems, today, that your presence there is increasingly necessary. Do you think such a trip is feasible? And what conditions would have to be in place for you to be able to go there?*

Pope Francis: Thank you for conveying this news from today that I was not yet aware of. War is always an act of cruelty, an inhuman thing, that goes against the human spirit; I don’t say Christian, [I say] human. It is the spirit of Cain. I am willing to do whatever needs to be done, and the Holy See, especially the diplomatic side, Cardinal Parolin and Archbishop Gallagher, are doing everything... everything possible. We cannot make public everything they do, out of prudence and confidentiality, but we are pushing the boundaries of our work. Among the possibilities there is the trip. There are two possible trips: the President of Poland proposed one of them, asking me to send Cardinal Krajewski to visit the Ukrainians who have been welcomed in Poland. [The Cardinal] has already been there twice, took two ambulances, and he was there with them for some time. But he will go again; he is willing to do so. The other trip that some of you have asked about. I answered sincerely that I was planning to go, that I am always willing. There is no automatic "no." I am available.

What are my thoughts regarding such a trip? This was the question: "We heard that you were thinking about a trip to Ukraine," and I said, "It is on the table." The idea is there, among the proposals I have received, but I don’t know if it can be done, if it is fitting, and whether it would be for the best or if it is fitting to undertake it, whether I should go... all this is up in the air. Then, for some time, there have been considerations regarding a meeting with Patriarch Kirill; that’s what’s being worked on, with the possibility of holding the meeting in the Middle East. This is where things are at the moment.

Matteo Bruni: *Thank you. And maybe let’s see if we have time for a question from Gerry O’Connell, from America Magazine.*

Gerry O’Connell (America Magazine): *Father, several times during this trip you have talked about war. The question everyone is asking is whether or not, since the beginning of the war, you have spoken to President Putin, and if not, what would you say to him today?*

Pope Francis: The things which I have said to the Authorities on all sides are public. None of the things I have said are confidential. When I spoke to the Patriarch, he then released a nice statement of what we said to each other. I spoke to the President of Russia at the end of last year when he called me to convey his best wishes. We talked. Then, I have also spoken to the President of Ukraine, twice. So, on the first day of the war, I felt I had to go to the Russian Embassy to speak to the Ambassador, who is the representative of the people, and ask questions and offer my impressions regarding the situation. These are the official contacts I have had. With Russia I did it through the Embassy.

Also, I have spoken to the Major Archbishop of Kyiv, Mons. Shevchuk. I have also spoken regularly—every two or three days—with one of you, Elisabetta Piqué, who is now in Odessa. But I spoke to her when she was in Lviv. She tells me how things are going. I have also spoken with the rector of the seminary there, through a message to the seminarians and the people there. I am also in contact with one of your representatives. Speaking of that, I would like to give my condolences for your colleagues who have fallen. Whatever side they are on, it doesn’t matter. However, your work is on behalf of the common good, and they have fallen in service of the common good, on behalf of information. Let’s not forget them. They were brave, and I pray for them that the Lord will reward them for their work. These have been the contacts I have had so far.....



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,
One of the rare things all peoples from all races and places around the world have in common is to have Sunday as an universal day off. No matter where people live and no matter who they are whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, communist or atheist, all unanimously treat Sunday as their time of rest and relaxation, and we Christian Catholics set it aside as our time for prayer and worship.

For those outside the Christian circle, most of them probably are unaware of the fact that our universal celebration of Sunday initially came from the event of Jesus’ Resurrection from death first discovered by Mary of Magdala in the early morning on the first day of the week, since Christians from age to age have continued to gather together on the first day of the week, meaning Sunday to commemorate such an event.

Historically speaking, the person responsible in taking Sunday from a humble Christocentric beginning of the first three centuries onto a day universally celebrated was no one else but the Roman emperor Constantine I (died 337), who began to introduce the first civil legislation to decree all work to cease on Sundays, except farmers who were required to continue their farm works sometimes. This law was meant to provide time for people to worship.

Matthew, Mark and John unanimously tell us of the discovery of the empty tomb, first found out by Mary Magdalene or Magdala, and each brought their special contributions to the Resurrection story. Luke, in turn, chose to write the story of how the resurrected Jesus appeared to two disciples on their way to Emmaus, and they failed to recognize him, though he walked along their side for the whole day long. Significantly his bread-breaking act, something he did at the Last Supper that we call the Eucharist or Mass today, helped them to identify him.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Mary of Magdala and another Mary go to the tomb early on Sunday morning and experience an earthquake, and then an angel dressed in dazzling white appears to tell them that Jesus is alive. They both spread the news to the apostles and Peter runs to the tomb to find it empty.

In Mark’s, Mary of Magdala and two other women are told as the first to find Jesus’ empty tomb. A young man dressed in white let them know of Jesus’ resurrection and asked them pass the message onto Peter and other the apostles.

In John’s, we have Mary Magdalene going to the tomb alone by herself. She saw the stone covering the tomb’s entrance rolled away and thought that someone might have stolen Jesus’ body, so she ran to report her find to the Apostles. Peter and John then ran to the place and found the empty tomb. Eventually two angels appeared to speak to Mary and Jesus also appeared to her, after the apostles left the scene.

In fact, Mary’s unique place in Jesus’ resurrection is truly significant, for she is presented as the focus, the hero in such a very important event that took place in a male dominated group of disciples and society. It is remarkable not only that the Risen Christ chose to appear first to a woman instead of one of his most trusted men, such as Peter, James and John, but also that he picked a woman instead of a man from his group of twelve to be the herald for his resurrection. Jesus had to have a great deal of trust and confidence in her, and she for sure did not disappoint him. All in all, the real reason or reasons behind such a move by the Resurrected Christ has still remained a mystery waiting to be revealed.

Let us pray today for the Easter grace to inspire us to follow Mary Magdala’s footsteps, so that we may have the zeal and enthusiasm like her in our mission to bear witness to the Risen Christ to the world.

Have a happy and joyful Easter.
Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER THANK YOU

Thank you so much all our volunteers and ministers for their generous efforts given to our parish in church decorating, altar serving, music and IT ministry, hospitality and welcoming, and other nameless jobs to make our Holy Week and Easter liturgies truly wonderful.

LOURDES OVER 50’s MEETING Due to Easter Lourdes Over 50’s meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 21st April from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm. Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee supplied. Parishioners very welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING: extra help needed, please phone Mary on 0447 676 371 or the Parish office if you can help.

CHRIST COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP

Thursday mornings in the Parish Meeting Room at 9am

LEGION OF MARY— in the Parish Meeting Room
Thursdays at 1pm.



EASTER 16/17 April 2022		
Acolytes	Vigil: Eugene Miu, Faylene Kennedy, Kilifi Huihui 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Faylene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales, Helen Gonzales 8am: Maricel Santos, Charmaine Jansz 9.30am: Sarah Lenthall, VOLUNTEER	
Readers	Vigil: Pepito Ferriols, Christina Diaz, Kamela Huihui 8am: Jo Cabasa, Benno Motha 9.30am Mercy Aquino, Helen Katopau	
Altar Servers	Vigil: VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Celestina Katopau, Oliana Katopau	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church cleaning	23 April	Helen Gonzales, Dennis Gonzales, Novelo Paylaga, Adrian Pinto, Maricel Santos
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Rita Paolini 9.30am: VOLUNTEER	

EASTER 23/24 April 2022		
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales, Stefanie Menezes 8am: Lorraine Fernandes, Benno Motha 9.30am: Carol Walker, VOLUNTEER	
Readers	Vigil: Alison Punch, Noreen Do Rosario 8am: Erika Hien, Anne McNally 9.30am Adrian Walker, Noel Emmanuel	
Altar Servers	Vigil: VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Leonardo, Saoires & Sebastian Costello	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Annette and Mary B	
Church cleaning	27 April	Sue Abela, Anne McNally, Jerome Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: Joyce Hilbrick 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	



BISHOP VINCENT'S EASTER MESSAGE 2022

Bishop Vincent has released his video message for Easter 2022 to the people of the Diocese of Parramatta. The letter can be watched on YouTube on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6j2ONDyCH1c> or read via <https://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincents-easter-message-for-2022/>

PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



EMERGENCY Ukraine Appeal

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to people in Ukraine.

DONATE TODAY
www.caritas.org.au/ukraine
1800 024 413 toll free



DIOCESAN NEWS

VIEW THE DRAFT DIOCESAN SYNTHESIS FOR THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS. From April 19, all are invited to **VIEW** the online version of the draft synthesis from the Diocese of Parramatta Writing Committee for the Synod of Bishops 2023. Visit <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/> and email met@parracatholic.org with your reflections. The Diocese of Parramatta is a 'listening Church' we invite continued dialogue through both the website and direct email address.

RESPOND TO THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS DRAFT REPORT: 21 APRIL On April 21, all are invited to **RESPOND** to the draft synthesis from the Diocese of Parramatta Writing Committee for the Synod of Bishops 2023. Join us for the Exhibition Night via Zoom at 7pm for reflection and discussion. To register mail met@parracatholic.org. The Diocese of Parramatta is a 'listening Church' we invite continued dialogue. For more information, visit <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/>



CELEBRATE THE DIOCESAN REPORT TO THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS : 1 MAY All are invited to **CELEBRATE** the final document of the Diocese of Parramatta submissions to the Synod of Bishops 2023. Join Bishop Vincent at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills for this special gathering at the 9:30am mass. For catering purposes and to RSVP email met@parracatholic.org. The Diocese of Parramatta is a 'listening Church' we invite continued dialogue. For more information visit <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/>

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR		
APRIL		
20	PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING	7.30pm
21	LOURDES OVER 50's MEETING	10.30—1pm
21	Fr. HENRY 27th ANNIVERSARY	
21	Christ Community Prayer Group	9.00am
21	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
25	ANZAC DAY	
26	SCHOOL TERM 2 STARTS	
28	FINANCE MEETING	8.00pm

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK LENT/ EASTER EDITION OUT NOW! Catholic Outlook Easter edition is out now and free to all parishioners. We feature a range of articles on choosing your next step in life as well as how the faithful across the Diocese celebrate Holy Week. Pick up your free copy from your local Catholic Church, Catholic School or Catholic office today.

TOONGABBIE PARISH POSITION VACANT

St Anthony of Padua Parish, Toongabbie are seeking a Sacramental/SRE Coordinator. The successful applicant will be in charge of the Sacramental Program, the Special Religious Education Program (SRE) and provide administrative assistance to the Parish Priest and Parish Secretary. Hours will be 18 hours per weeks worked over 3 days. Please forward applications and resumes to the parish secretary (secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au) by 20 April 2022.

IS GOD CALLING YOU? BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

SRE's are parish volunteers who:

- Teach and share their faith with children of their parish who attend government schools.
- Have a passion for sharing the gift of faith with young people.
- Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time and talents with young people.
- Are people who respond to the central mission of the Church to make Jesus known and loved.

In this parish Special Religious Educators, SRE's (previously known as Catechists) go into Seven Hills, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, Vardys Road State primary schools and The Hills Sports High School.

Day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School	Seven Hills North	Seven Hills	Vardy's Rd	Hills Sport High
Class/ Time	Infants 10.30-11.00am	Kindy- Yr6 11.20-12.00pm	Primary 9.15-9.45am	TBA
Class/ Time	Primary 11.30-12.00pm		Infants 10.00-10.30am	
School	Bert Oldfield Public School			
Class/ Time	Primary 1.55-2.25pm			
Class/ Time	Infants 2.25-2.55pm			

New volunteers SRE's will be given support, training, teaching materials and will start as a classroom helper.

To register your interest please call Bob McNally 0439604203 email: mcnallyanne@yahoo.com.au or contact the parish office. 96222920