



# Canberra Inner North Catholic Community

Under the Care of Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (SSS)

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**Inner North Office hours:**  
Tuesday to Friday 9am to 1pm

## Easter Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord | Year C | 19 April 2025



Luke opens his account of the resurrection of Jesus with an indication that light is dawning. The women who had prepared Jesus' body for burial find that 'the stone had been rolled away'. Someone other than the execution squad and the women has entered the drama. They are amazed; perhaps God has entered Jesus' story? Two men, dressed in the brilliance that marks the heavenly, tell them that they are looking in the wrong place. They will not find 'the living one' in a cemetery. Several times during his public ministry Jesus has spoken of his forthcoming passion, death and resurrection. They are asked to 'remember' those words, and they do so: 'They remembered his words. Women who had been with Jesus throughout his ministry become the bearers of the Easter message to the Eleven and everyone else. Locked into their cultural absolutes, they regard this impossible news as female chatter. But one of them, Peter, goes to the tomb. The women were right: the signs of death, a tomb, and the winding cloths, are empty. Peter is 'amazed'. But we are called to more than amazement on this Easter Night. We must remember the words of Jesus and believe that God gives life to the dead.

### Parish Safeguarding Commitment

Our Parishes are committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking and action. This approach is to follow Jesus' command in Matthew 18:1-3. Enquiries or concerns please contact: Fr Anthony Riosa SSS—[anthony.riosacg.org.au](mailto:anthony.riosacg.org.au) - Maria Hicks (Manager) - Phone **02 6239 9806** - Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) [ipsscg.org.au](mailto:ipsscg.org.au)

### Parish Safeguarding Officers

**Blackfriars Parish, Watson:** Nicole [watson.safeguardingcg.org.au](mailto:watson.safeguardingcg.org.au)

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### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, as Traditional Owners of the land where we gather today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

# EASTER VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



## FIRST READING

### First Reading: Genesis 1:1, 2:2

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night'. Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, 'Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two.' And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault 'heaven'. Evening came and morning came: the second day. God said, 'Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.' And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.' And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.' Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.' And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

### Cont...

God created man in the image of himself, in the Image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35**

**Lord, send out your Spirit,  
and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!

You founded the earth on its base,  
to stand firm from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:  
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys:  
they flow in between the hills.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
from the branches they sing their song.

From your dwelling you water the hills;  
earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and the plants to serve man's needs.

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
Bless the Lord, my soul!

**Lord, send out your Spirit,  
and renew the face of the earth.**

## SECOND READING

### Second Reading: Exodus 14:15 – 15:1

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his

Cont...

chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.'

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried, 'the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!' 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,' the Lord said to Moses, 'that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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**Responsorial Psalm: Exodus 15:1-6,17-18**

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!  
Horse and rider has thrown into the sea!  
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.  
this is my God and I extol him,  
my father's God and I give him praise.

The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,  
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.  
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,  
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe.

You will lead your people  
and plant them on your mountain,  
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home

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the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

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### THIRD READING

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**Third Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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**Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6**

**We will draw water joyfully  
from the springs of your marvellous love.**

Truly you are my salvation,  
I trust, and I shall not fear.  
For you are my strength,  
my song, and my saviour.  
With joy we will drink  
from your well.

Give thanks to the Lord,  
give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples,  
declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One  
of Israel.

**We will draw water joyfully  
from the springs of your marvellous love.**

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## EPISTLE

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### Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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**Gospel Acclamation: 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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## GOSPEL

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**Gospel - Matthew 28:1-10**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

**Cont...**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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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## STRIPS OF LINEN

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Luke mentions "strips of linen lying by themselves" and John tells of "the strips of linen lying there" -- not scattered about the tomb but lying together. The Church Father John Chrysostom observed, "If anyone had removed the body, he would not have stripped it first, nor would he have taken the trouble to remove and roll up the napkin and put it in a place by itself." As Peter surveys the scene, it becomes pretty clear that the body wasn't stolen.

Some believe that Jesus' risen body passed through his burial clothes, so that the myrrh-soaked grave wrappings may have resembled a butterfly's chrysalis after the insect has unfolded its wings and taken flight, the shell remaining but the body gone. We just don't know. In any event, something remarkable has taken place, but Peter can't quite fathom what it is. Not yet. He goes away "wondering to himself what had happened".

"Wondering" is the Greek verb *thaumazo*, "to be extraordinarily impressed or disturbed by something, admire, wonder at." He is amazed, but not yet believing that Jesus is raised from the dead, but the women already do.



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**CONGRATULATIONS to those who we  
welcome into our community!**

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Maryrose Guo  
Daniel Ginnan  
James Ring  
Ria Huang  
Emmalene Luoise Mahar  
Lawrence James Tisdell  
Cara (Ka Wai Ng)