



St Mary Immaculate & St Patrick's PARISH OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY

Copmanhurst & Cowper *Grafton & South Grafton*



Cowper

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Office Hours:
8.30am to 4.00pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
9.30am to 4.00pm Thursday

St. Mary's Church, Grafton
Victoria Street, Grafton

St Patrick's Church
Skinner Street, South Grafton

Mary Immaculate Church
Cowper

St John of the Cross
Copmanhurst

McAuley Catholic College
Hennessy Drive, Clarence
Phone: 02 66431434
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St. Mary's Primary School
Turf Street, Grafton
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St Joseph's Primary School
Hyde Street, South Grafton
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Parish Priest: Fr Joe Holloway
Assist. Priest:
Fr Emmanuel Okparanaku



Copmanhurst

Third Sunday of Easter - Year B

18th April 2021

Parish Family News

Committing to a higher power

I was recently re-watching the American political drama series, *The West Wing*. In one episode the White House chief of staff, Leo McGarry (played by John Spenser) who is a recovering alcoholic offers comfort to the deputy chief of staff, Josh Lyman (played by Bradley Whitford) during a period when Josh is suffering with PTSD.

McGarry tells Lyman this story: There was a guy who one day when walking along a footpath fell down an open manhole and was trapped in a deep trench. Several people walked by and, despite his calls for help, none paid him any attention. Eventually a friend of his came along and, recognising his pal he called, "Hey Harry! Can you give me a hand? I am stuck in this trench and can't get out!"

Harry immediately leaps down into the trench. His friend looks at him incredulously and sputters, "Harry, what are you doing? Now we are both trapped!"

Harry turns to his friend and says, "Hey! It's ok! I've been down here before, and I know the way out!"

The point of the story was that McGarry, as a recovering alcoholic, knew exactly what it was like to suffer mental anguish and hopelessness. As someone who had found a 'way out', he could offer Lyman empathy, support, and direction as Lyman tried to navigate his depression.

The potency of the Easter story is that Jesus has been there before us. He has suffered the worst that life can dish up; and has, not only found a way out, but has become our 'way out'. His death and resurrection are the guarantor that, as the Psalmist proclaimed, "The Lord hears when I call out" (Ps 4:4).

The Easter story is neither a simple sop for broken hearts, nor an empty reassurance that God will rescue us from our troubles. As today's gospel demonstrates, Jesus was raised still bearing the wounds of his suffering. God did not spare Jesus the cross despite his "agony in the garden."

Similarly, the character of Leo McGarry in *The West Wing* was a "recovering alcoholic." He was not cured of his alcoholism. Through his participation in Alcoholics Anonymous, McGarry had committed his alcoholism to a "higher Power" and, thereby, found the strength to "not take the next drink". But he also found the wisdom and charity to offer Josh Lyman the support he needed to begin the process of recovery from depression and hopelessness.

For us too, the story of the resurrection is one that can bring hope and encouragement; but by committing ourselves to the "higher power" of the actual person of the resurrected Jesus, we can find the strength to begin a new journey of recovery – to find a way out. And more! In bringing our sufferings to Jesus, we also find the wisdom and the charity to empathise, support and lead others who need a "way out" of the darkest trenches of the human condition.

Ian J Elmer © Majellan Media 2021

Television Free to Air—Channel Ten—Sunday Mass at 6am

For those who have access to the Internet: Bishop Greg—Mass at 9am Sunday—
Livestreamed on Lismore Diocese YouTube channel or follow the links at lismorediocese.org

Also the following has Mass on demand. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ

DIARY OF THE WEEK: LITURGIES, DEVOTIONS ETC

Saturday 17th April

9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

5.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Sunday 18th April - Third Sunday of Easter

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper

9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

11.00am Mass at St John of the Cross Copmanhurst

Monday 19th April

NO Mass

Tuesday 20th April

5.15pm Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Wednesday 21st April

9.15am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Thursday 22nd April

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Friday 23rd April

11.30am—11.55am Reconciliation and

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

12.00noon Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Saturday 24th April

NO 9.00am Mass

4.00pm—4.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church

5.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Sunday 25th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper

9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are sick and frail:

especially Josh Brown, Valda Hodges, Bette Madden, Susan Paine, Pat Connelly, (Taxi)- Tony Cameron, Chris Small, Tony O'Connor, Peter Newby, Kathryn Martin, Evonne Coutis, Cletus Moran, Brian Haynes, Bev Reilley, Dan Moran, Cheryl Kinnane, Dot Dougherty, Sandy Beadman, Gwen Haynes, Sonya Moore, Maureen Endean, Moya Ellem(Melb), Fay Ellem, John McAnally, Darcy Patricks, Eli Hagar, Allan Ryan, Kevin Burns, Shona Owens, Sue Jackson, Jacinta Frawley-Werger, Amanda Crawford, Aileen Whalan, Bree Brossman, and all those in hospital.

The Recently Deceased:

including Cardinal Edward Cassidy, Prince Philip, Paul De Bono, Jan & Brian Harris (Tweed Heads), Jan Moss, Olga O'Meally, Bishop Bede Heather, Barry Blakeney.

Those whose Anniversaries are at this time:

including +John Satterthwaite (Fourth Bishop of Lismore), Fay O'Grady, Charles Pidcock, Pat Hackett.

Other Mass Intentions: including all the Holy Souls, Stan McTaggart, Michael Bourke.



Welcome **Amarah Jane Spinney** and **Matilda Ann Gay** to the Catholic Community through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Clarence Valley Parish 200 Club - Week 1

1st Prize	Janeen Myson	\$60.00
2nd Prize	Helen Power	\$30.00
3rd Prize	Amanda Wright	\$10.00

Flood Appeal

The March 2021 floods in the southern part of the Diocese of Lismore have had a devastating impact on residents and farmers. I am launching a flood appeal, and am kindly call on your support. The Diocese has already contributed \$10,000 towards help for affected farmers and in addition we will give financial and practical support in the Diocese. If you are able to, please consider a donation to the Appeal. With prayers and good wishes, *Most Revd Gregory Homeming, OCD Bishop of Lismore*

To donate go to lismorediocese.org or by
Direct Deposit: BSB: 037 889 A/C No: 1061 5829
Name: DIF Flood Appeal

Parish Notices

Saturday 17th April - 10.30am Cassie Family Group are meeting at Ulmarra to enjoy morning tea and 'a look through' the Art Gallery.

Wednesday 28th April - 10.30am Mercy Associates meeting at the McCarthy Centre.

Friday 23rd April - Charismatic Prayer Group Meeting at McCarthy Centre. 12.45pm to 3pm.

The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colours are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise.
Laudato Si (2015) 235

MASS Attendance

Currently Dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligations continues.

Places of Worship - Church services are still subject to the 2 square metre distancing rule.

As we know there are certain directives that must be followed to enable us to come together and celebrate as a community, please familiarise yourselves with the following:

- ◆ Hand sanitising on arrival and departure
- ◆ Recording name and phone number on arrival
- ◆ Sit in allocated pews, 3 or 2 as indicated (*household may sit together*)
- ◆ 1.5m social distancing at all times on entering and leaving the church.
- ◆ Single file for receiving communion (on hand only) - observe social distancing.
- ◆ **Congregational singing is NOW permitted.**
- ◆ **MASKS are not mandatory but are recommended.**

Anyone who is unwell or who have been in COVID-19 hotspots should not attend Mass.

Those most vulnerable to the virus include those people 70 years and over are reminded to carefully consider whether they should attend Sunday Masses at this time.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Those who are unable to attend Sunday Mass are encouraged to spend some time in prayer that might include reading the scriptures, joining in a screen Mass (details in this bulletin) or praying a rosary.

The Parish Bulletin is a single use product-**please take it home.**

Please keep praying for the end of this pandemic & keep safe.

Tribunal of the Catholic Church



Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The

Lismore Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information please phone the Lismore Office of the Tribunal on **66217 288** or email tribunal@lismore.catholic.org.au

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became flesh.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
courage, and defend us from every evil.
Amen.

Come
to our
Open Night
at McAuley.

**Tuesday 27 April 2021
from 4.00pm**

McAuley Catholic College encourages every child to grow confidently, with supportive teachers and modern teaching facilities.

Come to our Open Night to see how McAuley will bring out the best in your child.

Enquiries 02 6643 1434
grafslism.catholic.edu.au

McAuley Catholic College
• Grafton •

spirit pride wisdom



Planned Giving

Planned Giving contributions can be made using your envelopes or by electronic funds transfer. If you would like to make contributions by EFT, banking details are:

BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800690
Name: Grafton Catholic Church.

In the details section please record: PG followed by your envelope number eg **PG500**.

For contributions towards the priest's, deposits can be made to:

BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800535
Name: RC Lismore Presbyterium Grafton

Thank you for your continued support of the Parish.

Weekend Apr 24/25	St Mary's Church Saturday 5.00pm	St Mary's Church Sunday 8.00am	St Patrick's Church Sunday 9.30am	Mary Immaculate Sunday 8.00am
Commentator	Lorraine Hughes	Mariah Hassett	Colleen Scurrah	Marie Moran
Reader	Peter Dougherty	Barry Whalley	Jim O'Donohue	Basil Moran
Extraordinary Minister	Joseph Golden	Tom Howard	Stephen Summerell	

Entrance Antiphon:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 3: 13-15, 17-19

You have killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 4

R: Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! **R.**

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **R.**

'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **R.**

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St John 2: 1-5

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24: 35-48

It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.'

And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon:

Christ had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead; in his name repentance and remission of sins must be preached to all nations, alleluia.

Next Week's Readings: (4th Sunday of Easter, Year B)

Acts 4:8-12; Psalm 117; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18



The breath of faith is #prayer:
we grow in faith in as
much as we learn to pray.
#GeneralAudience

Pope Francis Pontifex 15/4/2021



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www.dif.org.au

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The DIF contributes to the printing of the weekly newsletter.