

**25 MARCH 2018:**

**HOLY WEEK:** At last, after five long weeks of Lenten struggle, we have reached the last week of Lent – Holy Week!

This coming week is the most significant period in the Church year as it encompasses the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. The number of liturgies planned for this week, the days and times of which are detailed in this Bulletin, confirm the singular importance of this Season in our Church year. As we near the Paschal Feast of Easter Sunday, we are now able to reflect on how well we have done in our endeavours to achieve those personal goals we have set during this time. Did we review, revise and renew enough to bring us closer to God and neighbour in the practice of our Catholic faith? We would hope so, given that that is what Lent is all about.

Passion (Palm) Sunday introduces us to the profound events of Holy Week by demonstrating the changing nature of human behaviour presented for us to consider on this day. First, we have the crowd's stated intention of installing Jesus as their king; less than a week later that same crowd calls for his crucifixion and death. Just how fickle can human nature be?

For all the suffering endured by Jesus through his Passion and Death, the critical act of salvation by him occurred early on Easter Sunday morning with his Resurrection. Without Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, the Catholic Church would not have been established and you and I would not be here now. All that occurs during this coming week leads us inexorably to the events of Easter Sunday morning – Jesus' Resurrection!

You are, therefore, sincerely invited to share with our parish 'family' the events of this week as they unfold, especially the infinite depth of Jesus' love for each of us, a love that far exceeds even his terrible torture, crucifixion and death. Easter, through Jesus' Resurrection, is the ultimate triumph of good over evil. That, surely, is a victory worth waiting for, and celebrating!

Note: Fr. Paul Hanna will once again be joining us in all of this year's Easter Masses and liturgies. Full details of these services are to be found on the opposite page.

**GOOD FRIDAY 'HOLY LAND' COLLECTION:** Our once-a-year support for the Church in the Holy Land always takes place on Good Friday. Never has there been a greater need for that support than right now in that troubled region of the world! Please help!

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION:** Because Passion (Palm) Sunday – today – is also the nominal Feast of the Annunciation (25 March), that Solemnity Feast will now be celebrated on Monday 9th April for this year only.

**AFTER EASTER:** Please also note that the first Mass to be celebrated in this parish after Easter Sunday will be the 8am Mass on Thursday, 5th April 2018. While I will be away during this period, the emergency number will remain the same – 0417 355 5479.

God Bless! Fr. Bob

**PLANT CAKE AND CRAFT STALL ~ EASTER SUNDAY~** Please get busy creating contributions to make this a fund-raising bonanza. Please price your items ready for sale. Any culinary efforts need to show the ingredients on the container. Thanks.

Devine Mercy celebrations on 8th April, Devine Mercy Sunday, at Leura Catholic Church, Scott Ave, at 3:00pm.

25 March	9.30am Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
28 March	7.30pm Chrism Mass (Parramatta) (Where we collect the Sacred Oils for Parish use over the next year)
29 March	7.30pm Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (Altar of Repose quiet time concludes at 9.30pm)
30 March	<i>Good Friday</i> ✠ 10.00am Stations of the Cross (Sacred Heart Blackheath - undertaken in the forest weather permitting – otherwise the church will be used). ✠ 10.00am Ecumenical Service at St. Joseph's Megalong Valley (social activities to follow) ✠ 3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (Sacred Heart Blackheath) ✠ 5.30pm Sunset Liturgy at Mt. Blackheath (departs Sacred Heart Blackheath)
31 March	<i>Holy Saturday</i> ✠ 1.00pm To Walls Cave and collect water for the Easter Vigil Mass ✠ 7.00pm The Easter Vigil Mass and associated Liturgy
1 April	<i>Easter Sunday</i> ✠ 5.30am Sunrise Liturgy at George Phillips Lookout, Govetts Leap ✠ 7.00am Mass at St. Paul's, Mt. Victoria ✠ 9.30am Mass at Sacred Heart, Blackheath ✠ 11.30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Megalong Valley

**RALLY FOR REFUGEES ~ "Refugees are Welcome Here" ~ Palm Sunday rally for refugees at Belmore Park Sydney, beginning at 2:00pm.**



**Sixth Sunday of Lent  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2018**



**Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help improve the health and wellbeing of communities in the Philippines so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a just future for all.**

**A Just Future starts with your support!** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**Happy Birthday ~ Ray Wood ~ 28th March, Carmen Beard ~ 29th March**

**Please pray for the sick and their carers ~ Barry Bowden, John & Marion Crowley, Daisy Kiely, Kevin Madden, Maria Slater and John Tweedie.**

**EASTER JOURNEY 2018:** Anyone wishing to attend Easter liturgies but is needing transport to get there, please let Fr Bob know or put your name and contact details on the list on the noticeboard after Mass on Sunday. We will try to organise transport for you.