

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHN'S CHURCH



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ST JAMES CHURCH

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A: 19 APRIL 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the readings of the third Sunday of Easter invite us to reflect on the condition of the humanity of the risen Christ.

The first reading, Acts 2:14, 22-33, an extract from the sermon given by St Peter following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, affirms the resurrection of Jesus. St Peter says that Jesus the Nazarene who during his public ministry worked miracles by the power of God working in and through him, and who was crucified and died on the cross, was raised to life. True man, Jesus of Nazareth really suffered and died. The humanity that the eternal Son assumed when he became man experienced real human death – separation of the soul from the body - but God raised Jesus to life. His human soul reunited with a body that has been transformed into a spirit-like body. Body and soul, the risen Jesus is permeated by divine life.

St Peter tells his audience that this event of the resurrection is a fulfilment of a prophecy of David. Jesus the Nazarene, a descendant of David, “is the one who was not abandoned to Hades [the realm of the dead], and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life.” This raising to life is not a return to his previous earthly life but an entry into a new mode of existence – an existence still bodily but transformed and glorified, that is, permeated by God, by divine life, love and light, permanently.

Furthermore, the resurrection of Jesus did not only benefit him personally, it also obtained for us new life. By his resurrection, he restored our life – divine life. Because of the fall, the sin of Adam and Eve, human beings were cut off from God. Divine life, which is the true life of human beings, the life that makes our souls spiritually alive, lost in the fall, is restored, thanks to the death and resurrection of Jesus. God can live in us again. He comes and dwells in us by the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

As we have seen last Sunday, the Holy Spirit is the gift of the risen Christ to his disciples. When he appeared to them on Easter evening, the risen Jesus

breathed on them the breath of the Holy Spirit, saying, “receive the Holy Spirit.” By his death and resurrection, he obtained for us the gift of the Holy Spirit – “the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.” St Peter says: “Now raised to the heights by God’s right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit” who was poured out on Pentecost, fifty days after Easter.

In the second reading, 1 Peter 1:17-21, St Peter again tells his literary audience that God raised Jesus “from the dead and gave him glory.” He did not merely bring him back to life. He gave him the glory of the eternal Son that he had before he became man. His risen humanity now participates in this divine glory. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, Christians can now have faith or communion of life and love with God. As such, they should do everything to preserve this fellowship with God, always reminding themselves that this was obtained by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Finally, the gospel, Luke 24:13-35, relates the encounter of two of the disciples with the risen Christ. “The disciples were probably returning from the celebration of Passover. At first they do not recognise Jesus. However, they are not reluctant to describe the events of the past few days, and to admit that they had considered Jesus the fulfilment of their messianic expectations. As Jesus shows how the Scriptures really pointed to him, their hearts burn within them. Their religious tradition was being interpreted for them in a new and exciting way. Finally, it is in the breaking of the bread that their eyes are opened, and they recognise Jesus. The revelatory unfolding is now complete” (Sr Dianne Bergant, CSA)

The risen Jesus is present in the world always and everywhere. But he manifests his presence in tangible ways through his Word and Sacraments. He speaks to us when Scriptures are proclaimed in the Church and comes to us in the Eucharist to unite us with himself nourishing our communion of life with God.

Fr Roland

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

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

COLLECT

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy:
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11. R. v.11*

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,

who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.
(R.)

3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they

did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray, these offerings of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness, grant also that the gifts we bring may bear fruit in perpetual happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE; EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

The Gospel story of the conversation on the road to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-35, displays something found in

all the recorded appearances of the risen Lord. Jesus meets people exactly where they are: Mary Magdalene in her weeping, Thomas in his doubting, the group gathered in the upper room in their fear. Here he meets the two disciples in their disillusionment and disbelief. One of the many wonderful things about the episode is that by not revealing himself immediately to them but simply accompanying them as a companion along the way, Jesus respects their experience and lets them tell out their story to the end. Only then does he pick it up and weave it into his own instruction.

Cleophas explains the hopes they had rested in Jesus of Nazareth. These hopes ran very much along the lines of conventional expectations concerning the Messiah. He would be a just ruler of David's line, who would liberate Israel from all the kinds of oppression – political, civil and economic – under which it currently laboured. No thought here for a Messiah who would suffer and die. Hence the shattering of hope at the events of Good Friday, the refusal to take seriously the reports of the women about an empty tomb.

Like Peter in the sermon told in the First Reading, Jesus takes their experience as they have just recounted it and relates it to Scripture. Note that he does so still in the guise of a fellow traveller. Only when they understand how what had happened to the Messiah actually followed out a path indicated in the Scriptures – only, that is, with closure of the terrible gap between what they had been hoping for on the basis of conventional hopes and what had actually happened – will they be ready to come to full faith in the resurrection. Later (v 32), they describe the experience on the road as that of having their 'hearts burn within them – a phrase destined to ring down the ages whenever God's grace would lead others, often very gradually, to see pain, loss, shattered hopes contained within a wider pattern salvation.

Captivated by this companion as they approach Emmaus, the two disciples will not allow him to go on his way but constrain him to be their guest. Once inside, however, a reversal takes place. They who had offered hospitality to him find themselves guests at a table he provides. At the breaking of the bread, at the Eucharistic moment, they know him at last as risen Lord. Instantly he vanishes from their sight. Curiously, this sudden loss seems to cause them no distress. Reflecting on their experience, they return straight away to Jerusalem to share with the others what had happened on the road and at the meal. They discover that the remaining disciples have their own Easter story to relate. In a pattern often found in Luke, the sharing of stories creates a deeper community experience of salvation (cf. the exchange between Mary and Elizabeth at the Visitation [1:39-56]).

The Emmaus episode presents a perfect paradigm of the life of the Church as, fortified by the Spirit, it continues the mission of Jesus. Equipped with the Scriptures (Word), the Church walks alongside disillusioned, hurt fellow travellers along the human path. In the Eucharist (Sacrament) it offers the hospitality of the risen Lord. In Word and Sacrament the journey to Emmaus is our story too.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

ONLINE GIVING

Internet donations to assist our parish are always welcome. Details for donating online via Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 032582 Account Number: 810033 [Surname, parish envelope no]

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for the Sick: Audrey Hancock, Ben & Nadine Shaw, Patrick Wheeler, Maree Hammond, Denise & Bob, Tim Scherger, Jan Taylor, Miriam Scherger, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravalin, Ron Weekes, Margaret Donges, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolai, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Matt Mohorovic, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Cathedral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Nathan Mifsud, Anastasia "Toni" Murphy, Sr Frances Kuhn, Sr Bernice Kerr. **Anniversary:** Douglas Henry Starr Snr, Joe Robertson **Pray for:** Jurgen Zoller, John Fox, Towell, Baker, Gough & Robertson families, Fran Eckersley, Robyn Smith, Pam Sutherland All the suffering souls in Purgatory especially the dec'd members of F.O.S.S.

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Masses: Yamba: 5:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 8:30am (SUN); Iluka: 10:30am (SUN).

Weekday Masses: Tuesday, 9:00am: Iluka; Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Friday, 12:00pm, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday, 11:00am, Maclean; 5:00pm, Yamba
Sunday, 8:00am, Maclean
Tuesday, 9:30am, Iluka
Wednesday, 10:00am, Yamba

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Wednesday: 10:00am, Yamba
First Saturday: 12:00pm, Maclean

MINISTRY ROSTER: 25/26 APRIL 2026

Readers: Yamba: M Dee/F Robertson; Maclean: S Winter/L Senz; Iluka: H Naug. **Commentators:** Yamba: A Schofield, Maclean: R Wiseman, Iluka: T Sullivan. **E Communion:** Maclean: J Moloney. **Count team:** Davies/Robertson.

READINGS: 25/26 APRIL 2026

First: Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41; **Second:** 1 Peter 2:20-25; **Gospel:** John 10:1-10

NEWS & EVENTS

Emergency contact: In case of emergency outside of parish office hours, contact Fr Roland 0401 508 812.

New office days/times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am-2:30pm.

Parish bulletin online: Our bulletin is now uploaded weekly to our website <http://stmarysparish.org.au>

Confirmation 2026: will be held on Wednesday 29th April 2026 at St. Mary's church, Maclean. Please pray

for the candidates of Confirmation.

Memorial Mass for Sr Berenice: is to take place on Thursday 23 April 2026 at 11am at St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore.

10th Death Anniversary of Bishop John Satterthwaite on the 23rd April. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

60th Anniversary of the Foundation of Goonellabah Carmel: Sunday 26th April, Mass at 10am with refreshments after Mass. Celebrated by Bishop Greg Homeming OCD. Items made by the Sisters available for purchase after Mass. All welcome and please bring a friend to share this joyous day with us!

The 6th National Count of Attendance at Mass and Other (Sunday) Assemblies will take place in May 2026. This year marks a significant milestone—25 years of national attendance data, beginning with the first count in 2001. The 2026 results will provide valuable insights into long-term trends, particularly in understanding the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which influenced attendance patterns in 2021.

Vocations view: During April in the Mass, we celebrate the expansion of the Church and the spread of the Gospel. The good news of Jesus risen transforms lives. Is God calling you to be a minister of his Gospel as a deacon or priest to transform lives? Contact Vocations Lismore to consider your call. vocations@lismore.catholic.org

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: please be advised the next meeting is Thursday 23rd April at 5:00 in the Cranney Room.

Thinking of Becoming a Catholic? Contact Fr Roland 0401508 812

Did You Know? – 1st & 2nd Collections: The First Collection supports our priests and the clergy of the Diocese. The Second Collection contributes to the upkeep and running of our parish, including expenses such as electricity, insurance, building maintenance, and church equipment. A sincere thank you to all who continue to support our parish through planned giving and weekly collections. Your generosity sustains the mission and pastoral life of our parish community.

Safeguarding: If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully: offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office – Phone: (02) 66219444 or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au