

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHN'S CHURCH



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ST JAMES CHURCH

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EASTER SUNDAY: 5TH APRIL 2026

Dear brothers and sisters: Happy Easter! Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen! The Resurrection of Jesus is not a mere return to his previous earthly life, but a transformation of his humanity into a new and divine existence. It is the union of God and man. The humanity of Jesus is now permeated definitively with divine life, love and light. In the experience of the disciples, the risen Jesus, in the words of Benedict XVI, was "no mere resuscitated corpse, but one living anew and forever in the power of God. And yet at the same time, while no longer belonging to our world, he was truly present there, he himself." Jesus has conquered death. He is the Living One. He can now be and is present everywhere as God is. He can be and is actually closer to us than we to ourselves. The risen Jesus is with us always offering his help and guidance, the gift of reconciliation with God and the gift of the Holy Spirit. By our yes to this offer, we are made spiritually alive now resulting in our being made just, holy and pleasing to God, and being enabled to live in the joy and freedom of God's children. At the same time we can look forward to that day when he will transform us into copies of his risen humanity. Let us encounter the risen Christ anew in this Mass renewing our yes to him at Baptism so that he may continue to fill us with divine life, love and light. Happy Easter! Fr Roland

ENTRANCE HYMN (STAND) *for me to the Lord our God.*

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

Priest: The Lord be with you. **All: And with your spirit.**

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **All: Amen.**

Priest/Choir: Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy.**

Priest/Choir: Christ have mercy. **All: Christ have mercy.**

Priest/Choir: Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy.**

//Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.//We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly king, O God, almighty Father.//Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of

the Father, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.//For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Priest: Let us pray...O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. 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. **All: Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.' The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let

(SIT)

the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)

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

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

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

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

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him. The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we

know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

(STAND)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

John 20:1-9

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead. The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HOMILY (SIT)

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES (STAND)

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Priest: Do you renounce Satan?
All: I do.

Priest: And all his works? *All: I do.*

Priest: And all his empty show?
All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? *All: I do.*

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?
All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? *All: I do.*

Priest: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.
All: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: Let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, hear our prayer

OFFERTORY HYMN (SIT)

Priest: Pray brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (STAND)

Priest: Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished. Through Christ our Lord. *All: Amen.*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

PREFACE: EASTER I

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: I

Memorial Acclamation:

Priest: The mystery of faith. *All: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.*

Final Doxology:

Priest: Through him, with him and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all

glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever. All: Amen.

Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Priest: Deliver us Lord we pray from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will who live and reign for ever and ever. *All: Amen.*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

(KNEEL)

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: *Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

COMMUNION HYMN

At the time for communion, non-Catholics are welcome to receive a blessing by coming forward with arms folded on the chest and of course Catholics who are properly disposed can come forward to receive the Body of the Lord, or, if not, a blessing.

Minister: *The Body of Christ. Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest: Let us pray. Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favour, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **All:** *Amen.*

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Priest: The Lord be with you. **All:** *And with your spirit.*

Priest: Bow down for the blessing. May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin. **All:** *Amen.*

Priest: And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son, endow you with the prize of immortality. **All:** *Amen.*

Priest: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. **All:** *Amen.*

Priest: May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, + and the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **All:** *Amen.*

Priest: Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia! **All:** *Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.*

HYMN

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EASTER MESSAGE:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:
Growing up I always preferred Christmas to Easter. Both were

holiday times; Christmas was Mass followed by gifts and a lunch with family and friends. Easter seemed to be overwhelmingly religious with long Church services which were tedious and tiresome for a boy. It was only in the last years of high school that I began to understand and appreciate Easter.

Every Church feast is about Jesus and me. In the feast we are joined. Heaven and earth come together, and I am led into a deeper self-knowledge through Jesus.

Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ who suffered a most violent and seemingly meaningless death. From Palm Sunday we walk with Him and as we look into His eyes we recognise the plight of many people in our world today.

The last twelve months have been marked by gratuitous violence, decisions and actions which do not seem to focus on the wellbeing of others, and a mindset which is frankly selfish. As individuals we are lost in this, what is happening?

Jesus died understanding this experience, He carried it to the Cross. There is nothing in the present struggles of the world that are not in some way part of Jesus' experience, and as such everything in us today connects us with Him. He questioned the Israel of his times, and he walked with all those on the periphery. He carried our hopelessness.

On Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead and in this we all rise with Him. We and the world are transformed. Yet, you will say nothing has changed. Everything changes if we have the eyes of faith filled hope. If my eyes change, I change and I see a world filled with love and hope. Our new vision can change the world.

I wish you a happy and blessed Easter.

Bishop Greg

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: 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 Catheral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Nathan Mifsud, Anastasia "Toni" Murphy, Sr Frances Kuhn, Sr Bernice Kerr. **Anniversary:** Joe Robertson, Clarrie Woodroffe. **Pray for:** 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, 12:00nn, 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

MINISTRY ROSTER 11/12 APRIL

Readers: Yamba: M Dee/ B Montgomery; Maclean: B Mc Gowan/ R Wiseman;

Iluka: T Sullivan. **Commentators:** Yamba: F Robertson; Maclean: J de Roos; Iluka: I Durhamn.

E Communion: Maclean: J Moloney. **Count Team:** Davis/Robertson

READINGS: 12 APRIL

First: Acts 2:42-47, **Second:** 1 Peter 1:3-9, **Gospel:** John 20:19-31

EVENTS

Divine Mercy Sunday: Next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. In addition to the Sunday Masses, a Divine Mercy Devotion will be held in St Mary's Maclean from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. The Divine Mercy Devotion will include Eucharistic Adoration, reflection on Divine Mercy, praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are invited to attend.

Mass Times: Sunday Masses will return to their normal times from next Sunday.

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