



The Bulletin

Sunday, 22nd March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John. Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief. The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.

**Second Rite of Reconciliation this Wednesday - see back page.*

Our Mission:
Building a Loving Christ-Centred Community



Parish Administrator:

Fr Joy D'Souza OCD

Chief Executive Officer:

Michael Darragh

Administration Officer:

Jennifer Oliver

Pastoral Associate:

Margaret Ryan

Church

Corner of East Street & Fourth Avenue, Sawtell

Parish Office - 02/6658 3544

1/44 Boronia Street, Sawtell
NSW 2452. Office Hours are
Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

Church Mass Times

Tuesday 9:30am

Thursday 9:30am

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 7:30am & 9am

Reconciliation every Saturday 5:30pm
no appointment necessary

Chapel Mass Times

Our Lady of the Way at SCC

Marian Grove, Toormina

Wednesday 9:30am

Friday 9:30am



PARISH GIVING

First & Second
Collection + Donations

First Holy Communion

Please pray for the 61 children in our parish who will be receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend.

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Mass Ministries

We are seeking parishioners to serve in all ministries for Palm Sunday, Holy Week liturgies, and Easter Masses.

There are three ways you can sign up:

- On the sheet at the church door
- By scanning the QR code (here) and filling in an online form
- By contacting the Parish Office



Called to Serve: Mass Ministries

Have you ever felt called to take a more active role in our weekend Masses?

In our last two bulletins, we have highlighted two Mass ministries - PowerPoint Operator and the

Offertory Procession (Procession of Gifts).

No experience is necessary - both roles are straightforward, and we provide hands-on training to help you feel confident.

If you'd like to add your name to the next roster or would like to find out what is involved, talk to your Mass Coordinator or give us a call at the Parish Office.

Divine Mercy Sunday



Sunday, 12th April will be the Feast of Divine Mercy.

This day was instigated on 30th April in the Jubilee Year 2000, by Saint John Paul II. On this Feast, Jesus promised Sr Faustina in 1930, that people throughout the world celebrating this day by receiving the Eucharist and going to Reconciliation (within 7 days either side of the feast) 'would receive complete forgiveness of their sins and all punishment due because of them'. All are invited to celebrate this feast at 3pm in the church.

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation See John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a

sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Welcome to the Family!

Over the past three months, we have been blessed to welcome these children into our parish family through the **Sacrament of Baptism:**

Mack Haworth

Louis Haworth

Lali Dalton

Leonardo Canale

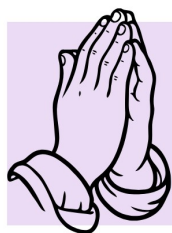


May God's grace always guide these children as they grow in faith and walk in the light of His love.



Mass Roster for Palm Sunday - 29th March 2026
SEE INSERT - LOTS OF MINISTRIES TO BE URGENTLY FILLED!!

Please note: Saturday Vigil Mass will change to 5pm (from 6pm) for the months of June, July & August.



Please pray for...

Recently Deceased - Samuel Leis, Don Burridge, Michael Maxwell

The Sick - Yvonne Little, Sally Towns, Carolyn Mash, Peter Rose, Mercy Kurinyepa

2026 Holy Week & Easter

The Chrism Mass - Monday, 23rd March

11am at St Carthages in Lismore

*Second Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday, 25th March at 6pm

Palm Sunday Mass - 29th March

Saturday at 6pm, Sunday at 7:30am & Choir, Procession of Palms and Passion Reading on Sunday at 9am

Holy Thursday - 2nd April

at 6pm with Adoration to 8pm

Good Friday - 3rd April

Stations of the Cross at 9:30am
Passion of the Lord at 3pm

CAN YOU HELP??
Ministries to be filled
scan the QR code
to sign up.



Saturday Easter Vigil
4th April 2026 at 7pm

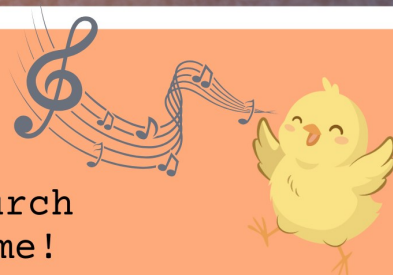
Easter Sunday
5th April 2026

7:30am & 9am

Easter Eggs for the kids

Choir Practice for Easter

The choir will be singing at Easter Services, 9am Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Vigil. Practice is Tuesday in the church 7pm-8pm, 24th and 31st March. All voices welcome!



The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office

the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



Interest Rate—3.40%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

EVERY TUESDAY

CENACLE ROSARY
3PM IN
THE CHURCH
ALL WELCOME

