



—OUR LADY—  
QUEEN OF PEACE

# The Peaceful Voice

Weekly Bulletin

22nd March 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

## When Death Meets the Voice of Life

Death is one of the most powerful and unsettling realities of human life. Every family eventually experiences it. A phone call in the night, a hospital room filled with quiet sorrow, a funeral Mass where memories mingle with tears. Death interrupts our plans and confronts us with questions that have no easy answers.

At such moments, people often feel helpless. We stand beside a bed or a grave and realize that there are limits to what we can do. No amount of love, strength, or effort can prevent the moment when life slips away. Death reminds us that we are fragile and that our time in this world is not forever.

Yet the Christian faith does something remarkable: it invites us to face death honestly without being overwhelmed by it.

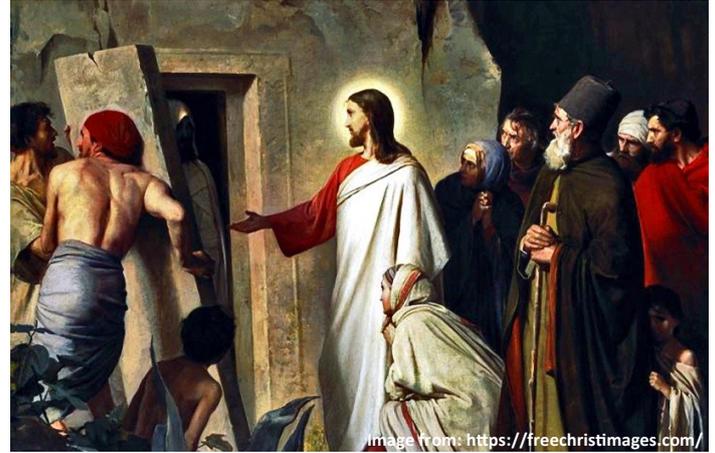
In the Gospel this Sunday, we hear the powerful story of the raising of Lazarus. It begins in a place many families recognize—grief. Lazarus has died, and those who loved him are mourning. Martha and Mary are heartbroken. Friends gather to console them. It is a scene that could take place in any town, in any parish, in any generation.

What makes this moment so striking is that Jesus does not stand outside the sorrow. He enters into it. He meets the grief of the sisters. He feels the pain of loss. In one of the most moving moments in the Gospel, Jesus himself weeps. God does not remain distant from human suffering; he stands beside us in it.

*But the story does not end at the tomb.*

Standing before the grave, Jesus calls Lazarus back to life. With a single command, the silence of death is broken. The tomb is opened. Life returns. The moment reveals something profound: death does not have the final word when God speaks.

This Gospel does more than describe a miracle from long ago. It reminds us that whenever death appears to close the story, God's power is still at work. The voice that called Lazarus from the tomb is the same voice that promises life beyond death for all who trust in Him.



For those who mourn, this truth brings deep consolation. The people we have loved and lost are not abandoned to darkness. They remain in the care of the God who created them and who calls every human life into eternity. Our tears are real, but they are not without hope.

At the same time, the reality of death invites us to reflect on how we live. Life is fragile and precious. The words we speak, the forgiveness we offer, the love we show each day truly matter. One day our own lives will also reach their earthly end, and what will remain is the love we have given and received.

The story of Lazarus reminds us that the tomb is not the end of the journey. God's promise reaches beyond it. And because of that promise, even when we stand in the shadow of death, we do not stand without hope. The voice of Christ continues to call humanity toward life—life that no grave can hold.

**Fr Sebastian**

### Extra Reconciliation Times

- Regular parishioners, kindly try to avoid Reconciliation on Good Friday.
  - Multiple and varied times are offered.

**Every Saturday** 4pm to 4.45pm

PLUS

**March 21, Saturday** - after Vigil Mass to 6.30pm

**March 25, Wednesday** - 7pm to 8pm (with Adoration)

**March 28, Saturday** - 11am to 12pm (with Adoration)

**March 28, Saturday** - early start 3pm to 4.45pm

**March 31, Tuesday** - 5pm to 6pm (with Adoration)

**Good Friday** - after Stations of the Cross until 12pm (*parishioners kindly try to avoid this time*)

# Faith B4U...

## Hospitality Volunteers Needed

One of our long time volunteers has decided to step back from the hospitality ministry. We are looking for people who can take on and share this very valuable ministry. It would involve approx 30-40 minutes after the **10.30am Mass on Sundays**. It may be once a week, fortnight or monthly, depending on how many volunteers would like to join.

All volunteers must complete Safeguarding training which can be done online in your own time. For more information please contact the parish office at [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

## Lenten Reflection Groups

Spend time with others reflecting on scripture this Lent with the theme of 'The Space Between'.

In our last week we will reflect on the Gospel for the following Sunday.

**Wednesday 10am - 11am, 25 March in the St George Preca Centre.**

Reflection guides available for purchase at the Parish Office - \$5 (*almost sold out*) All Welcome.

## Fresh Palms Needed

If you can assist the parish in preparing for Palm Sunday, please bring palms already **cut into 10cm pieces**, to the parish office on Thursday March 26th or Friday March 27th

We will also need **8-10 large palms** to decorate the church.

## Divine Mercy Sunday - 12th April

Church open 2:45pm for Chaplet and Prayers Followed by Benediction, then Mass at 3:30pm

Note: Fellowship after Mass - *Please bring a plate to share*

**The Divine Mercy Novena commences on Good Friday 3rd April and concludes on Saturday 11th April.** *Novena cards can be found in the chapel and Narthex (main church entrance).*

*Sacramental confession related to the Divine Mercy Sunday can be celebrated anytime from about 20 days before the Feast to about 20 days after (as per Holy See guideline).*

## New Choir Members Always Welcome

If you'd like to join the Parish choir for Easter, please contact the Parish Office.

We meet on a Monday night at 7:30pm in the church.

## OLQP Primary School

We are now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2027. If you have a child of school age or know someone who does, please contact the school on 8842 2600 or download a form from our website.

**Enrolments close Friday 27th March**

## Stations of the Cross

**Every Friday during Lent.**

6.30pm Rosary

7pm Stations of the Cross, followed by Adoration & Benediction.

## Children's Liturgy Volunteers needed

**Children's Liturgy** - Once a month with a small team to share the Gospel with our young children during either the 8:30am or 10:30am Mass. School Terms only.

For details contact the Parish Office on: P: **9631 8135** or email: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

## Let us pray...

**FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.**

Chantel Adrien, Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Bob Nowfel, Benjie Santiago, Connie Shembri, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Muna Zora

**FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.**

Nancy Ciccone, Maxim D'Costa, Sylvester Joseph, Horace Westwood

**FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.**

Joan Mary, Remedios Sevilla-Capilitan, Pietro Toffolon

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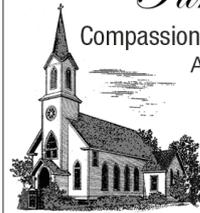
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# Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

In the fifth week of Lent, the Project Compassion story features the emergency response in Gaza. Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

Watch the emergency response story here: <https://vimeo.com/1127713885>

Support Project Compassion today: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate) #projectcompassion or **collect a donation box or envelope located at all doors.**



Photo Caritas Australia—rows of tents

## Retreats & Events

### Easter Triduum Youth Event - Light to the Nations: 2-5 April

At Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. A Holy Week pilgrimage for young adults (18+ ; ages 16-17 with an adult) featuring prayer, worship, camping and Easter liturgies. Hosted by the Disciples of Jesus Community. Visit: [ltnn.org.au](http://ltnn.org.au)

### Winbourne Retreat Centre Spirituality for Modern Life: 21 March

A reflection day on 'Jesus - Christ yesterday, today and tomorrow' from 9.30am to 12.30pm. More info or book **call 4773 5555 or email [info@winbourne.org](mailto:info@winbourne.org)**

### Winbourne Retreat Centre Labyrinth Reflection Day: 15 April

Mainly a quiet reflection day with an introduction to labyrinth walking for those unfamiliar. Topic: 'Finding peace despite turmoil'

More info or book **call 4773 5555 or email [info@winbourne.org](mailto:info@winbourne.org)**

**Divine Retreat Centre** hosts a variety of single day and weekend residential retreats throughout March. For more info and bookings **contact 4372 1598 or email [drcretreatrego@gmail.com](mailto:drcretreatrego@gmail.com) to confirm attendance. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org)**

## JRS Food Support During Lent

The JRS Foodbank feeds and provides necessities for families who would otherwise have nowhere else to go.

Each week of Lent, JRS will be collecting a different item. Please place items in the JRS basket found in the front entrance of the church or in the Parish Office.

**Week 5** - Dried red lentils (375g or 1kg)

**Week 6** - Long life milk (1L, full cream)

JRS Australia is also in URGENT need of Gift Vouchers. Gift vouchers allow the people that JRS Australia serves to make dignified and practical choices about their own needs such as fresh fruit & vegetables, basic necessities, and essential medications.

## FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday **The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD**

### This Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

Ezekial  
37:12-14

#### 2nd Reading

Romans  
8:8-11

#### Gospel

John  
11:1-45

### Next Sunday's Readings

#### 1st Reading

Isaiah  
50:4-7

#### 2nd Reading

Philippians  
2:6-11

#### Gospel

Matthew  
26:14- 27:66

## Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

**Memorial Mass** - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

**Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick** - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

### Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, [olqp.org.au](http://olqp.org.au), every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

**Rosary in the church:** Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at **6:30pm** (Please note: *NEW TIME*)

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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