

Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, two disciples are walking away from Jerusalem toward Emmaus. They are discouraged, confused, and heartbroken. They had hoped Jesus was the Messiah—but His death seemed to shatter everything. Their dreams had collapsed.

So, they walk away—hearts heavy, minds confused, spirits broken. And then a stranger joins them. He looks ordinary. Nothing remarkable. No halo, no glory. Just a fellow traveller.

The stranger asks them, *"What are you discussing as you walk along?"* They could have brushed Him off: *"Mind your own business!"* But they don't. Instead, they open their hearts. They share their story, their disappointment, their confusion.

And then something beautiful begins. He listens to their story and explains the Scriptures. Slowly, their hearts begin to burn with new hope. When they reach their destination, they invite Him to stay. They offer Him hospitality. They share their table, their food, their home.

And it is there—in the breaking of the bread—that their eyes are opened, and they realise it is the Lord. At that moment, everything changes. Their fear disappears. Their sadness turns into joy. Their confusion becomes clarity. Their hearts are on fire again.

And what do they do? They don't stay in Emmaus. That very night, they get up and go back to Jerusalem—to the very place they had run away from. But this time, they go back with courage, with faith, with mission. They go back to share the good news: *"We have seen the Lord!"*

Friends, this Gospel challenges us in a very real way. We often see others as strangers—people who are different from us, unfamiliar, uncomfortable. And sometimes, fear closes our hearts.



But today, Jesus reminds us: The stranger on the road may not look like Him...But may, in fact, be Him. When we listen, when we welcome, when we share, when we open our hearts, we encounter Christ.

The road to Emmaus is not just a story of two disciples long ago. It is our story. We all have moments when we walk away discouraged, confused, tired. But Jesus walks with us, even when we do not recognise Him. And He reveals Himself—in Scripture, in the Eucharist, and often in the people we meet along the way.

Let us pray today for the grace to overcome the fear that closes our hearts, for the courage to welcome others with kindness and trust, and for the faith to recognise Jesus in the stranger on our road.

Because the one who walks beside us, even when we do not know it, is never just a stranger— but the Risen Lord Himself.

Fr Thomas

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12 May

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our **Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers**. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at **7:30pm on 12 May 2026, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta**.

Liturgical ministers are asked to please arrive by 7pm and be seated by 7:15pm.

To register the number of guests and ministers attending **please register by Thursday, 7th May**. To register please contact **ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795**.

Safeguarding Face-to-Face Training

The **next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on 2 May at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood**. More training opportunities are available throughout May at different parishes.

Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: **<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>**.

For more information, please email:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Faith B4U...

Ministers at the Altar/Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers

Thanks to everyone who came together at the beginning of the month to reflect, grow, and discuss how we carry out these important ministries of the Eucharist within the Mass. Follow-up gatherings will occur to review the new procedures in smaller groups. Please email which session you will be attending to lisa.bright@olqp.org.au or call the parish office on 9631 8135. The dates are:

Weekend of 25/26 April

After 7am Mass and before 8.30am Mass - at 8.00am sharp

And a backup for anyone away for school hols/Anzac weekend on **Sunday 3rd May**

Before Sunday 6pm Mass at 5.30pm sharp

With gratefulness for your ministry.

High School Aged Youth Gatherings

- 1st Sunday nights of the month during School Terms
- Straight after 6pm Mass until 8.30pm – Food included

Mark the calendar: **Sunday 3rd MAY**

(Parent/Guardian please come in person to pick up the explanation and guideline details the first time your son/daughter attends)

Hospitality Volunteers Needed

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

He is Risen Celebrate the Resurrection.

The Emmaus Prayer Group invites you to an afternoon of Praise and Worship **Talk:** Prophesying To The Dry Bones by Mary Dinushi Fernando. Followed by fellowship and afternoon tea

Sunday 26 April at 2:30pm, St George Preca Centre.

Enquiries: Desiree 0478 765 772

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, Benjie Santiago, Barbara Stanton, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Melissa 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.

Carrie Attard, Mary Aquilina, Michael Baptiste, Elaine D'Souza, Maria Farrugial, Joe Ieizzi, Tony Pombart

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

Marie Spence

Parish Team Employment Position

Expressions of interest are welcome for the following 2 day per week position working with the parish team. Kindly send any initial queries and brief details of previous experience that could suit this people-focussed role – to Fr Paul Roberts via parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Co-ordinator of Volunteers: (that is, our parishioners across the various areas of involvement). It's a more recent development in the Church for this to be a dedicated role, fundamental to supporting the mission of parishes. A good basis of information and processes already exists for this role at OLQP, working directly alongside others in the parish team. The work includes supporting the welcoming and necessary processes for volunteers – as well as the ongoing communication and promotion that helps keep them updated and valued. A difference to some co-ordinator of volunteer roles in various workplaces is that this is part of the ministry leadership of the parish. So, there's involvement in the priorities and goals of the parish – along with the care and development of volunteers who are keen or already involved in areas of service. It is initially a two day a week casual role with the chance to move (according to the capacities and interests the person may bring) to a permanent part time 2-3 days role. .

Parramatta Diocese Code of Conduct

Most ministers would have received an email this week with the request to complete a Code of Conduct acknowledgement form. This was sent to ministers who are not in child-related ministries. The parish team asks that you **complete this form as soon as possible and return it to the parish office** during office hours, or email it to lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

If you did not receive an email, you can pick up a form from the parish office or sacristy.

Please reach out to the parish team if you have any questions. We thank you for your cooperation and gifts in ministry.

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Please understand that whilst OLQP Parish allows advertising, it cannot take responsibility for the advertisements, services advertised or for any matters arising.

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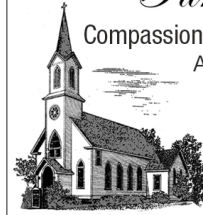
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Saturday morning 9.15am Masses

- The monthly MEMORIAL Mass has CEASED on a Tuesday.
- The monthly MASS for PEACE with ANOINTING has a CHANGED time.

Starting on ANZAC DAY, Saturday 25th April, OLQP will have 9.15am Mass on Saturday mornings. From then on:

MASS EACH SATURDAY 9.15am

All welcome – and including the following special themes

- **1st Saturdays** – MASS FOR PEACE (intercession of Our Lady Queen of Peace)
 - Immediately followed by Anointing of the Sick
- **2nd Saturdays** – MEMORIAL MASS
 - Offered for those who have died recently – plus 1st and 2nd Anniversary
- **3rd, 4th and 5th Saturdays** – MASS GENERAL

Note:

- We may also give the 4th Saturdays a Memorial focus for recent losses in addition to 2nd Saturdays – depending on need. Decision later.
- This Saturday morning Mass will be reviewed in Advent – and if continuing, won't occur after Christmas through to the end January, but resuming February.

Did you know...

Jesus' teaching on the primacy of love for God is clearly complemented by his insistence *that one cannot love God without extending one's love to the poor*. Love for our neighbour is tangible proof of the authenticity of our love for God... (*Dilexi Te 25*).

Eucharistic Ministers who visit the Housebound

Thank you to all the Eucharistic Ministers who take communion to those who are unable to join us at our weekend Masses. This vital ministry enables those who are not with us physically to remain connected with the parish community and to know that our prayers and thoughts are with them.

The Parish Team asks all Eucharistic Ministers who visit people in their homes or nursing homes to pick up their identification lanyards from the parish office. This new process was explained at the recent Eucharistic Ministers meeting. All Eucharistic Ministers who visit people are asked to wear these lanyards as a means of identification and support for your ministry.

When you come to the parish office please bring a passport size photo of yourself, or we can take one of you at the parish office.

Should you have any questions, please see a member of the parish team. Thank you for your cooperation and for your ministry

Christ's Catholic Community

Come and join us in understanding the Gospels more deeply. Fridays at 10am in the Youth room.

Contact: Mary Testa 0403 302 283

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

2:14, 22-33

2nd Reading

1 Peter

1:17-21

Gospel

Luke

24:13-35

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

2:14, 36-41

2nd Reading

1 Peter

2:20-25

3rd Reading

John

10:1-10

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - 9:15am (except January

- Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

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

Mass for Peace - all welcome - followed by Anointing of the Sick - 1st Saturdays 9:15am (except January)

Memorial Mass - all welcome - and offered for recent losses and 1st/2nd anniversaries - 2nd Saturdays 9:15am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 6:30pm

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

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

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

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