



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH FAMILY

Weekly News *Let Your Light Shine*

(Matthew 5:16)

5th Sunday of Lent Year A

22 March 2026

TODAY'S READINGS Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

NEXT WEEK (Passion Sunday, Yr A) Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66



PROJECT AHMAD from GAZA **COMPASSION**



When war intensified in Gaza in late 2023, Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem employee in their Media and Communications team, was forced to flee his home in northern Gaza. Like thousands of families, his family carried almost nothing as they sought safety in Khan Younis. Two months later, disaster struck again when the house where they were sheltering was bombed at night. Ahmad was buried under rubble, his eardrum ruptured. His brother survived with devastating injuries, including the loss of a leg.

For two months Ahmad stayed with his brother in an overwhelmed hospital with few doctors and scarce supplies. His family was displaced several more times, sometimes living in tents, sometimes in borrowed homes, often

leaving behind the few belongings they had managed to gather.

Despite personal suffering, Ahmad continued his role with Caritas Jerusalem, helping to support families in need.

"Thank God we work at Caritas, allowing us to serve people in the most challenging conditions despite the lack of medicine," he explains.

"I hope this ordeal ends so we can go back to rebuild Gaza, our children's future, our country, and our organisation."

Ahmad's story is a reminder that Caritas' mission of accompaniment is lived not only through its programs, but through the courage and resilience of its frontline staff.

Together, we can *Unite Against Poverty this Lent* by donating to Project Compassion, helping people in Gaza and other vulnerable regions to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

JESUS IS THE TRUE MESSIAH

EASTER ROSTERS

If you are available over the Easter period, our Liturgy Rosters are at the Welcome Table.

Please sign on for the position you can assist with.

Thank you for making the Easter Season special and meaningful.

What an extraordinary Lenten journey it's been! Five weeks ago, we began with the temptation of Jesus. We heard that Jesus was subjected to tests and trials, just as we are, yet without sinning. The following week, the gospel called for a decision. After his transfiguration, and with the assurance of being God's beloved Son, Jesus faced a difficult choice to journey to Jerusalem. Over the next two weeks, we encountered two unique faith stories. For the Samaritan woman, faith called her to be an apostle to her village, and for the man blind from birth, faith resulted in him

being driven out of his community. Today, we contemplate the reality of death, and Jesus' promise that "whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

The dramatic story of Lazarus' resurrection is Jesus' last sign and miracle before his own passion and death. In a way, Lazarus' death and resurrection, points to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Both events show that Jesus is the true Messiah. However, while Lazarus was raised to a renewed earthly life, Jesus was raised forever.

Martha and Mary show the vulnerability of faith in the midst of heartache. They have faith, but they demand Jesus' physical presence, which gives rise to a sense of hopelessness when Jesus doesn't arrive in time to prevent Lazarus' death: "If you had been here my brother would not have died." But the promise given is that God's gift of eternal life breaks opens the constraints of mortal life. Jesus says to Lazarus, "Unbind him. Let him go free." Death is *never* the end of the road.

'Hopelessness' doesn't exist in the vocabulary of those who believe in the resurrection that Jesus promised. Jesus embraced hopelessness and became hope for the world. Fear loses its control over those who believe in the resurrection. Just as Jesus took away the stone from Lazarus' tomb, he takes away the stones of despair in our lives. Our disappointments, failures, frustrations and losses become the seedbeds of hope and new life.

To Martha, and to us, Jesus poignantly asks: "Do you believe this?" We must never underestimate the power of this question. It's asked of us every time we bury a loved one, and it's central in preparing for our own death. Martha's response to Jesus' question, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ the Son of God," is an extraordinary act of faith in Jesus *before* his resurrection.

Jesus shows that there is a life beyond the grave, even as our mortal bodies await resurrection at the end of time. While physical life will cease, the God-life (eternal life) that has been given to us through Jesus will never cease. Jesus made eternal life possible for all of us through the gift of his life, and it's already at work in our lives. David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2026

PARISH NEWS

PASTORAL CORNER Please keep in your prayers our Parish children who will be making their First Reconciliation next week.

Following this they will be preparing for their First Holy Communion which is to be held on 24th May.

PALM SUNDAY On **Saturday 28th March** we will be having a **working bee** to put up the Palms for our weekend Masses. If anyone wishes to help please feel free to rock up at **10am**. This should only take about an hour. **Many hands make light work.**

Kathy Twohill Pastoral Associate

NOTICE REGARDING TAI CHI

Please note due to unavoidable circumstances our weekly Tai Chi group is cancelled until further notice. Thank you for your understanding.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

will be led by The Legion of Mary each Friday in Lent following morning Mass until - March 27
ALL WELCOME

2ND RITE RECONCILIATION

Is being held 24th March at St Anthony's Catholic Church, 16 Pearl Street Kingscliff. There will be a number of priests available.

All Welcome.

PIETY STORE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

A volunteer is needed to open the Piety Store (in the back corner of the church) for the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. If you can assist, please contact Colleen on 0408452998



CHRISM MASS

11am Monday 23 March St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore

All are welcome to attend this symbolic Mass as the Bishop consecrates the Sacred Chrism and blesses the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick. Priests from across the Diocese will gather to renew their commitment to the priesthood.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARISH CHURCH KEY HOLDERS



Due to a 'technical issue' I have somehow managed to delete my list of carefully collected parish key holders.

Therefore, I have to ask all parishioners who have keys to church or hall, to please contact me with the code that is on their respective key.

My apologies for this inconvenience, and I appreciate your assistance. (Donna—Parish Office)

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

The recently deceased: Jenny Vickery, Mary Frendo, Christopher Harbidge, Patricia Wild, Sr Berenice Kerr, Geoffrey Dawney, **Anniversaries:** Maria Traino, Dorothy Guest, John Feely and those occurring at this time **Also:** Alpino & Pastora Tiempo, **AND For those who are sick:** Clarrie Williams, Leon Darmody, Fr Anthony Lemon, Elaine Thill, John Rushbrook, Denis Pommer, Rae Bliss, Jonathon Muro, Derek Chapman, Cathy Morgan, Donovan Searle, Louise Smith, John Deguara

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr Michael Alcock
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Nicolas Maurice & Fr MX Rego SM
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Kathy Twohill - ktwohill@stjosephs.org.au
PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Parish Business Manager: Mary-Ann Thackray - pbm@stjosephs.org.au
Parish Secretary: Donna Neal - tweedadmin@stjosephs.org.au
Phone: 07 5536 7522 PO Box 25, Tweed Heads 2485

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

*All parish Mass times are
NSW time.*

SATURDAY VIGIL
@6.00PM

SUNDAY
@7AM @9AM

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES
Monday to Friday
9.10AM
Saturday 9AM

ROSARY

Before Mass Monday to Friday
Commencing at 8.40am
Saturday 8.30am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4.30 - 5.30PM
and 1st Friday 9.40 – 10am

BAPTISM

Please contact the parish
office with any Baptism
enquiries.

SACRAMENTS AND VISITS TO THE SICK

Please contact the parish
office

NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive the
weekly news or any upcoming
events and information via email
please contact the parish office
on 0755367522

Or email
tweedadmin@stjosephs.org.au

ROSTERS 28/29 MARCH 2026 PALM SUNDAY YEAR A

6PM FR NICOLAS MAURICE

Sacristan: Karen Watson
Adult Server: Karen Watson
Liturgy Coordinators: Carmen Carra
Commentator: Nic McTaggart
Readers: Jeanette Leach & Una Murphy
Communion: John Leach & J Dransfield

7AM FR MICHAEL ALCOCK

Sacristan: Vern Burton
Adult Servers:
Liturgy Coordinator: Maree Laarhoven
Commentator: Gavin Holmes
Readers: Gavin Holmes & Volunteer needed
Communion: Volunteers needed

9AM FR MX REGO

Sacristan: Karen Watson
Adult Server: Mary Mason
Liturgy Coordinators: Jan Rolph
Commentator & POF: Sara Wilkinson
Readers: Sheja Raj & Pam Sullivan
Communion: Helen Muldoon & Colleen Blake

Safeguarding Office



*The Safeguarding Office is
available to;*

*listen to your concerns respectfully
and to offer support,
to provide guidance in
embedding Safeguarding
Standards.*

Safeguarding Office:

P: 02 6621 9444 (Chancery)

E: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au