

Ministry Roster.

Second Sunday of Easter 27th April 2025.

Third Sunday of Easter 4th May, 2025.

Ministry	Vigil	8:30AM.	Vigil	8:30 AM.
<u>Acolyte.</u>	R Kemmis	P Doherty	R Kemmis.	P Doherty.
<u>Commentator.</u>	M Dodd.	C van Gelderen.	M Kundukulam.	S Sheean.
<u>Reader.</u>	B Kozlowski.	K Pattenden.	T O'Donnell.	K Powell.
<u>Flowers.</u>	M Dodd.		P Currie.	
<u>Cleaning.</u>	L Blahut & M Kundukulam.		L Beaman & P Currie.	

If you are unable to carry out your rostered ministry, please arrange a swap or call the office on 0418 214 548

Nominations open for the 2025 Papal & Diocesan Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Papal and Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals—both religious and lay—who have made outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church and its community. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised? Nominations close at midnight on 31 May 2025. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services.

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.

Bookings now open: Diocese of Parramatta's Adult 35 years+ Jubilee Pilgrimage .

Join a life-changing 19-day pilgrimage from 7 to 25 September 2025, exploring sacred sites in Greece, Turkey, and Rome. Open to adults aged 35 and over, this journey follows St. Paul's path and the early Church, culminating in the Jubilee Year of Hope in Rome. Bookings close on 2 May 2025, with a deposit of \$800 required at the time of booking. The final payment is due by 7 July 2025. Don't miss this incredible faith experience. For more information and to register, visit parracatholic.org/jubilee2025/

Bookings now open: Diocese of Parramatta's Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage.

Young people (18-35 years) from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to join an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from July 19 – August 5, 2025, including a visit to Greece to trace the footsteps of Saint Paul and a celebration of the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati in Rome. With only 45 spots available, secure your place by booking before May 10, 2025, with a deposit of \$800, and find out more or book at parracatholic.org/jubilee2025/



Our Lady of Nativity Parish Bulletin .

254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783. **PO BOX 44, Lawson, 2783.**

Phone: **0418 214 548.** The landline is not working currently.

Email: lawson@parracatholic.org Parish Website: www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 0418 461 316.

Parish Office Hours: 10:00 am to 4:00 PM Thursday & Fridays.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM.

WEEKDAY MASSES : Tuesday 5:00 PM, Wednesday 9:00 AM . **BAPTISMS:** First & Third Saturdays at 11:00 AM. **Weddings:** Call the office & six months notice. **Funerals:** Call the office. **BENEDICTION: First Fridays 7:00 PM.**

Believing.

Thomas had not seen the risen Christ, and so he refused to believe that Jesus had really risen. Jesus does not rebuke him, but he does point out that “blest are they who have not seen and have believed.”

One reason why we are so far from the Kingdom is that we refuse to believe what we have not seen. We have not experienced a world without war, so we refuse to believe that peace is possible. We have always had poor among us, so we refuse to believe that poverty can be eliminated. We see only our own economic system and we refuse to believe that anything else will work.

The saying of Jesus echoes through the centuries: “blest are they who have not seen and have believed.” Blest are those prophetic voices raised in anticipation of a new day, a new world of justice and peace. They “no longer look for Jesus among the dead,” but find him instead in life and in the fullness of life. They base their lives on their total faith that we “have become a new creation.”

Will the world ever succeed in changing that selfish and bellicose mentality which, up to now, has been interwoven in so much of its history? It is hard to foresee; but it is easy to affirm that it is toward that new history, a peaceful, truly human history, as promised by God to men of good will, that we must resolutely march.

Pope Paul VI, Address to the United Nations (1965) Para. 22

Gerald Darring SJ.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Darug and Gundugarra People and their elders - the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather.



Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Max Dodd, David Powell.

Sick: Rob Nickl, Lan Franco Matteucci, Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennett and all Private Intentions. *Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the permission of the immediate family. Thank you.*

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16. Peter and the apostles perform many signs and wonders.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24. A song of praise to the Lord.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19. John describes the instruction he received to write down his vision.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31. Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading.

Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus? Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this resurrected body, the disciples could still observe the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed.

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY

SCHOOL

7 Somers Street, Lawson.

Phone: 4753 2200. Email:

oln@parra.catholic.edu.au



SANTA MARIA

CONFERENCE CENTRE

Available for meetings, functions and conferences. Phone Sr Veronica on 4759 1116.

Free Drawing Classes for Beginners

Classes are held in the Santa Maria Hall on Mondays from 3:30 to 5:30 each week.

If you are interested, please contact Lorraine Phillips on 0403523353

Or preferably email:

lorrainemary64@gmail.com

CREATIVE MONDAYS DATES 2025.

2nd Monday of each month, in the Hall from 10.30 – 2.30.

May 12, June 9.

For more information please contact Sr Veronica vgriffith@goodsams.org.au

Or 0419 532303.

Brochures about preparation of children for the Sacraments for 2025 are available at the church entrance. The same information is also on the parish website <https://www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au> Click : All the News then click: The Sacrament of First Reconciliation for 2025. Any enquiries can be sent to the coordinator Maureen Ryan olon254@gmail.com

Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

With great delight, our Catechumen, **Karen Piscitelli**, who expressed the desire some weeks ago to embrace the Catholic faith, was welcomed as a member of our community of Our Lady of the Nativity at the Easter Vigil Ceremony, receiving the 3 Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Her godparents were two members of the RCIA [RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS] group which has accompanied Karen for the past 7 weeks - Rosana Taylor and Carol Teodori.

With the season of Eastertide now well into motion until Pentecost Sunday, Karen continues to be accompanied by her husband, Pat, and the RCIA group, to reflect on the presence of the Risen Christ and the mysteries of our faith. We re-commence our sessions on this **Wednesday, April 30, 10am**, in the Good Samaritan chapel. **Please do pop in if you can and join the wonderful dynamics of this occasion.**

This Wednesday, each is bringing to the session the memory or reading of their **favourite** Resurrection story. We look forward to being emboldened by these incredible accounts of the disciples' experience of Jesus risen.

Len Blahut (on behalf of the Team)