

Ministry Roster.

**Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday 20th April 2025. Second Sunday of Easter 27th April, 2025.**

Ministry	Vigil	8:30AM.	Vigil	8:30 AM.
<u>Acolyte.</u>	R Kemmis.	P Doherty.	R Kemmis	P Doherty
<u>Commentator.</u>	Paschal Triduum Roster.		Maria Dodd.	T Griffiths.
<u>Reader.</u>	Paschal Triduum Roster.		M Kundukulam.	B Kozlowski.
<u>Flowers.</u>	J Gannon.		Maria Dodd.	
<u>Cleaning.</u>	T Griffiths & G Hitchen.		L Blahut & M Kundukulam.	

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/](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](mailto:lawson@parracatholic.org) Parish Website: [www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au](http://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 & Thursday 9:30 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.**

**Rising to New Life.**

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.” Easter is the great celebration of victory of life over death.

Ours is an Easter religion. We do not deny or turn away from the evils that surround us: the wars that have killed some 100 million people in our (last) century; the poverty that grips more than half of the human race; the hunger that kills millions every year and ruins the lives of millions more; the discrimination that divides the human family into contending parties.

We do not deny these miseries, but we refuse to surrender to their power because of our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Suffering will be vindicated; death will be overcome; a new life will arise: that is the Easter message of the paschal mystery.

“Let us feast with joy in the Lord.” Just as Christ passed through death to resurrection, so too will the world pass through its suffering to the glory of a new life.

There is no room for despair: our Easter faith tells us that God will “raise us up and renew our lives.”

This is the ‘day which the Lord has made.’ Alleluia! Take fresh hope, brothers and sisters of the whole world! With Christ our Passover everything is possible! Christ goes forward in our future!

Pope John Paul II, Easter Message, 1991: 8.

Gerald Darring sj



**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 10:34a,37-43*

Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23*

Rejoice in this day of the Lord.

### Second Reading

*Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8*

Colossians: Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

1 Corinthians: Let us celebrate this feast with new yeast.

### Gospel Reading

*John 20:1-9*

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

**OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY**

**SCHOOL**

**7 Somers Street, Lawson.**

**Phone: 4753 2200. Email:**

**[oln@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:vgriffith@goodsams.org.au) Or 0419**

**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](mailto:olon254@gmail.com)

### **The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - the Continuing Journey.**

As we approach Holy Week, we are excited to announce that our Catechumen, Karen Piscatelli, will be baptized at the Easter Vigil ceremony. In view of the richness of Holy Week and the first week of Easter, the group will pause for these two weeks before continuing the sessions to reflect further on Catholic life, including the Resurrection experiences. By doing so, we acknowledge that baptism is not the end point of this journey we've been taking, but the BEGINNING into community life.

So far on the journey, we have considered: the person of Jesus & his penchant for storytelling; the symbols that define our Catholic life; and more recently, Eucharistic life that springs from our Mass celebrations. Each session we have taken time to reflect upon the weekly Sunday Gospel passages. At our most recent session the group members shared some very enlightening experiences of the sacrament of Reconciliation, with its **shift in emphasis** from 'confession' to 'reconciliation' - an invitation to a renewed commitment to a better life in the very same spirit of Jesus' invitation to the woman caught in adultery.

Please, if you have toyed with the idea of seeing what RCIA involves, your presence is always welcome as your part of the fabric of our community whereby we accompany each other. Please, just turn up at the **Good Samaritan Sisters' chapel**, 10am, Wednesday, April 30 (or any subsequent Wednesdays).

**Len Blahut (on behalf of the Team).**