



Mary Immaculate Parish Bulletin



Parish Priest: Fr. Leo Mifsud OMI
Assistant: Fr. Didier Indibi OMI
Parish Secretary: Mrs Vicki McHale

Church: 61 Emerald Drive, Eagle Vale
Office: 2 Aquamarine Drive Eagle Vale
Email: eaglevale@dow.org.au

PHONE: 02 4626 3055

Office hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:30am – 3:30pm

Sixth Sunday in ordinary time – year A

15th FEBRUARY 2026

The Meaning of Lent.

Most Catholics have a fair understanding of what happens and what the Church asks of us at Lent. Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

The big question is or at least used to be, 'what are you giving up for Lent?' Catholics in most parishes are urged to contribute to Project Compass. These are the outward signs of our recognition that Lent is a special time when we try to become better Christians.

Lent also holds many valuable lessons for us and reminds us that our lives are not static. The Ash Wednesday liturgy and the distribution of Ashes remind us that 'where we are' not 'where we want to stay'. Life is a progression of events and encounters through which we discover things about ourselves, and our place in the world.

But far from allowing ourselves the luxury of 'navel gazing'. As Christians we understand that we are part of *the sea of humanity* with each individual life affecting the others. With each self-discovery we make we can weigh up our past experiences and discover the potential to change ourselves and relationship with others. Taking on this process requires preparation, personal investment and a determination to see the process through.

Ash Wednesday is not the beginning of this process because this process is what life is all about. Each Lent is the opportunity to give new energy to this process and keeps it in motion.

When the ashes are placed on our heads we are urged to 'turn away....' or to 'repent...' i.e. to look in a different direction or to rethink one's values. It is a challenge to leave the familiar behind us and abandon those things that have brought us 'perceived comfort and safety' rather than actual growth.

The word 'Lent' is a shortened version of the Old English word 'lencten', which simply means 'spring'. And springtime brings with it the promise of new life. The Church's springtime i.e. 'Lent' brings the promise of Resurrection.

If I may carry the analogy a little further, during the winter we can be cosy and inactive and we don't necessarily want to be disturbed. This is acceptable in the short term but unless we eventually get out into the sun, move our limbs and interact with others, our lives (and we) become intolerable.

In the Gospel from Ash Wednesday (Matt 6:1-6,16-18) we are given three proven methods for growth.

- **Firstly**, do not parade your good deeds. By making it about 'you', the deeds cease to be 'good' and 'wholesome'. If you look for the comfort of other's approval you will never grow as a person.
- **Secondly**, do not use 'pray' as a badge of honour. True prayer is how we open our hearts and minds to the Almighty and Loving Father. When we pray we allow our Father to create and recreate us. This is intensely personal.
- **Thirdly**, when fasting (yes! physical fasting) let go of the '*wow is me*' attitude. The Gospel tells us: 'Wash your face, put oil on your head', in other words, know that you are capable of controlling desires and hungers. Know that your Father has given you a great reserve of strength and character for you to become everything your soul longs to be.

Finally, ***Expect failure. But don't accept defeat.*** The *Old Tempter's* favourite trick is to drain every ounce of joy and hope. At the beginning of Lent you will try to be 'good'; to be kinder to others; to avoid sin in all its forms but 40 days is a very long time.

I read somewhere; '**Every time you resist sin, even if it is for a split second, it is still a victory**'. It may be only a little, short-lived *victory* but a *victory* none the less. And great victories can only be achieved through minor ones.

Lent helps us to understand the nature of failure because the light of the Gospel sheds light on our human natures, prone to be sinful. But Lent is not about us. Lent is about God's love given to use in life, death and resurrection of Christ who said. "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." (2 Cor 12:9)

Fr Leo Mifsud OMI

ASH WEDNESDAY 18th February.

MASSES at 9:00am & 7:30pm

On **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** All who are 14 years or older are obliged to **abstain from meat**. All who are 18 to 59 are obliged to fast. Pastors, teachers, parents are to ensure that even those who, by reason of their age, are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence from meat, are taught the true meaning of penance.

Regulations for Lent

Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** are days of Fast and Abstaining from meat.

All Catholics age 14 and older are expected to abstain from meat, and those 18 to 59 are bound to fast.. (although those who can't do so for health reasons, along with pregnant and nursing women, are obviously exempted.)

The Fridays of Lent

On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

- prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
- self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
- helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

19th February to 26th March

2026 Lenten Program

Enrolments will be taken after the weekend Masses -Join our group program that will start on:

19th Feb – 26th March, Thursdays, 6:45pm to 8:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Booklets \$5: If you are joining the group, you can purchase them on the night.

OR

you may want to purchase a book for your own for private preparation for Lent, after the Masses.



Saturday 21 February 2026.

Dare to love as Jesus loved

Presenters: Sr Magdalen Mather O.S.B. and Sr Julian Grigor

Join us on You are welcomed to Mass at 9am in the Abbey Church or begin the day with the first session at 10.15. May it be a threshold into a Lent lived with intention, tenderness, and courage. The day concludes at 3.30 pm. Morning tea is provided. Please bring your own lunch. For more information and to register: jamberooabbey.org.au/events/2026. Cost \$60 (pensioner discount available).

24TH FEBRUARY

Men's Group – Fresh Men

Meeting fortnightly (Tuesday nights) at 7:30pm - BYO, snacks and drink to share.

WHERE: At the presbytery, on 2 Aquamarine Drive, Eagle Vale

For more information contact the parish office (462643055) or Fr Leo.

26TH FEBRUARY

R.C.I.A.

(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Meeting on Thursday Nights at 7:30pm in the Madigan Room in the Church

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT FR LEO MIFSUD at the Parish Office 4626 3055

28th February Get your heal and toe down to...

**GEILIDH
BUSH DANCE**



the Parish Hall

at 7:00pm

Presented by Gary Elford

INFORMATION:

Contact Ann – 0408 340 343

Robert – 0418 221 198

Please bring a plate to share.

13th March 2026 (Friday)

Men's Prayer Breakfast, | 6:30am-8am

Guest Speaker & Topic: Tom Kadmon - "Reading Scripture is central to our relationship with Jesus."

Xavier Conference Room, 38 Harbour St Wollongong

Enjoy a breakfast buffet, prayer and inspiring guest speaker input

Be supported and inspired by other men, seeking to be authentic disciples on mission. Cost is just \$20.

Book here dow.sh/MPB26 by Tuesday 10 March

The Men's Prayer Breakfast Series is organised by the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation and menALIVE in the Diocese of Wollongong

21 March 2026

St Gregor's College Centenary



Back to Greg's Day – From 12:00pm | FREE ENTRY

A day of community spirit, featuring the return of one of our most iconic events...

THE RODEO! (a ticketed event and selling fast to book go to

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1493531>

Rides & Games Food Trucks & BBQ Live Music & Performances /
Old Boys vs Students Sports Challenge College Tours &
Centenary Displays Market stalls, exclusive Centenary Merch &
Art Exhibition Cow Pat Lotto & Gumboot Throwing Petting
Zoo, Face Painting & Family Fun Zone 18+ Licensed Bar

ONE AGENCY
Real Estate Agents | Property Managers
TAG PROPERTY
Joanne Taguinod | 0432 188 299

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent

**DONATE
NOW**

COME TO A VALENTINE'S DAY SOCIAL GATHERING

The gathering will include fun games and trivia over refreshments,
along with open discussions on ageing well.

Date: 17 February Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Venue: Parish Meeting Room, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville

For details please contact Sr. Ines – 0468462814 Tere – 0410185770
Rosemary - 0414453647

Rosemary De Rauwe
Skin Care Clinic

Beauty Therapist & Electrologist
Reflexologist & Paramedical
Dermal Aesthetician
Serving Macarthur since 1979

0475889943

**Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment
Retreat**
13th - 15th March

An opportunity for **single women aged 18-35** to
come and listen for the voice of Jesus,
ask questions and experience prayer, talks,
sisterhood and times of sharing to help you
discern your vocation.

Register: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Launch of the International Eucharistic Congress 2028

The Australian Church is setting out on the journey toward the International Eucharistic Congress, Sydney 2028 (Eucharist28), a great time of renewal and transformation centred on encountering the Eucharistic Lord. In preparation, Australian Catholics will enter a Year of Prayer from **1 March 2026**, focused on rediscovering Our Lord's love in the Blessed Sacrament.

The theme, ***This is My Body, Given for You***, calls us to deeper faith, generosity and mission. Learn more about the way ahead at eucharist28.org.

Habib Ataya
Houseproud Cleaning, Glen Alpine

M 0405 712 935 T 1300 880 198
E glenalpine@houseproud.com.au

ABN 28 436 847 374
www.houseproud.com.au

Volunteer with IMPACT

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering.
Learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact and changes lives.

Venue: Online
- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events

Date: Thursday 19 February
Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT

02 9560 5333
palms@palms.org.au

Want to visit a community first? Encounter Tour to Timor Leste!
Book by **28 February** for the May tour! See palms.org.au/encounters

SRE CATECHISTS NEEDED – Can you spare 30 minutes a week?

Seeking volunteer Catechists to teach Catholic Special Religious Education (SRE) in local government schools. - **No teaching experience required!**

All materials, training, and support are provided by the Parish team and the Diocese. Classes are approximately 30 minutes each week. You can be involved as a teacher or classroom helper. What's involved:

- Participation in training, - Working with Children Check (free for volunteers)
- A commitment to one school year teaching or assisting in Catholic SRE

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sabrina Peroumal on 0447 441 578 or the Parish Office.

Kenneally's Funerals

Gerald Kenneally J.P.
Mob: 0418 221 054
gerald@kenneallysfunerals.com.au

100% Australian Family Owned & Operated

KPS
KALIBUR PLUMBING SERVICES

Shawn Pizarro
Licenced Plumber & Gasfitter

0466 798 173
shawn@kaliburplumbing.com

ABN 84 625 361 421
Licence no. 391335C

L&L Lawn & Garden Services

- ✓ LAWN MOWING
- ✓ GARDEN YARD MAINTENANCE
- ✓ HEDGE TRIMMING
- ✓ GARDEN CLEAN UPS

RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND FRIENDLY LAWN & GARDEN CARE — ONE-TIME TIDY-UPS OR ONGOING SERVICE TO KEEP YOUR OUTDOORS LOOKING GREAT.

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

EDWIN -0435 716 156
LL.LAWNGARDENSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

Cobb & Co blinds

Curtains | Blinds | Interiors

Marianne & Mark Nader
Phone: 02 4620 4014
Mobile: 0425 322 650

3/11 Blaxland Serviceway
Campbelltown 2560
Behind Bob Jane

ccblinds.com.au

@cobbco blinds scblinds
Cobb & Co Blinds

PLEASE PRAY FOR-



THE SICK: Ernesto Datu, Lianne Rominque, Bernadette Lacap, Charbel Aziz, Fr John Pickering, Pauline Iacano, Margaret Roberts.

THE DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of the recently deceased and who's anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATIONS:**

ENROLMENTS ARE IN (for children in Grade 3 or above),
If you have not enrolled your child for this sacrament, this is your **LAST CHANCE**. Visit our webpage or use the QR

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

You are required to attend the Sessions for Parents which will start on the



24th February at 7:00pm. In the Parish Hall

Try Alpha

Alpha is a Safe Space to explore Life, purpose and the Christian Life, ask questions and share your point of view

Alpha is free and everyone is welcome. Starting with dinner at 7:00pm
Wednesday 15th April
Mary Immaculate Parish Hall
61 Emerald Drive, Eagle Vale

Got questions?
Ivanka: 0449 528 609
May: 0416 157 294

MINISTERS for: 21st & 22nd February

SAT 5.30PM

Acolyte: Robert Squires
E.Ministers: Julian Rookes
Readers: Anne Sheldrick Veronica Roson

SUN 8.30am

Acolyte: Michael Arthur
E.Ministers: Lynne Diffield
Readers: Ogbeyelu Onyi Kristy Simpson

SUN 10.00am

Acolyte: Lafi Luigamala
E.Ministers: Emili Taeiloa Ann Webb
Readers: Youth Group 1 Youth Group 2

SUN 5.30pm

Acolyte: Roy Rodriguez
E.Ministers: Sol Taylor
Readers: Judy Byrne Aishwatya Jacob

MASS INTENTIONS 14th – 21st FEB. 2026

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|---|
| Sat 5.30pm | Sat | For the people of the Parish (Pro Populo) |
| SUNDAY | | |
| | 8.30am | For May & Habib wedding anniversary |
| | 10.00am | For Florentina Kuluka on her birthday |
| | 5.30pm | For Ernesto Datu for strength and healing |
| Mon. | 9.00am | For Emily Racca on her birthday |
| Tues. | 9.00am | For Lianne Rominque for peace and comfort |
| ASH WEDNESDAY | | |
| | 9.00am | For the Holy Souls |
| | 7.30pm | For the Holy Souls |
| Thur. | 9.00am | For the Holy Souls |
| Fri. | 9.00am | For the Holy Souls |
| Sat. | 9.30am | For the Holy Souls |

Pope Leo's monthly intention for February: Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm **Sunday** 8:30am | 10:00am | 5:30pm.

Children's Liturgy First Sunday of every month at the 10:00am Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon & Tue: 9:00am / **Wednesday:** 7:30 pm/

Thurs. & Fri 9:00am / **Saturday:** 9:30am

FILIPINO MASS – 2nd Sunday- 4:00pm.

RECONCILIATIONS:

Saturday 10:00am to 11:00am (with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

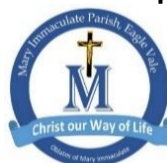
HOLY HOUR First Saturday of the month led by Filipino Group: resumes First Saturday in February

DEVOTIONAL TIMES

ROSARY: BEFORE the weekday Masses.

DIVINE MERCY Chaplet- Fridays after 9:00am Mass / First Fridays – with Benediction / Meetings - 4th Friday @ 6.30pm (in Madigan room)

BAPTISMS: On the 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact the parish office for necessary information.



Celebrating Our Lady of Lourdes with an outdoor Rosary before Mass