



# The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

*A warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the Eucharist with us at Pittwater Parish - Sacred Heart Church and Maria Regina Church*



**Thoughts of Blessed Francis Jordan**  
God became a human being for us to redeem us, to rescue our souls. Therefore, let us seek only the honour of God and the salvation of souls.

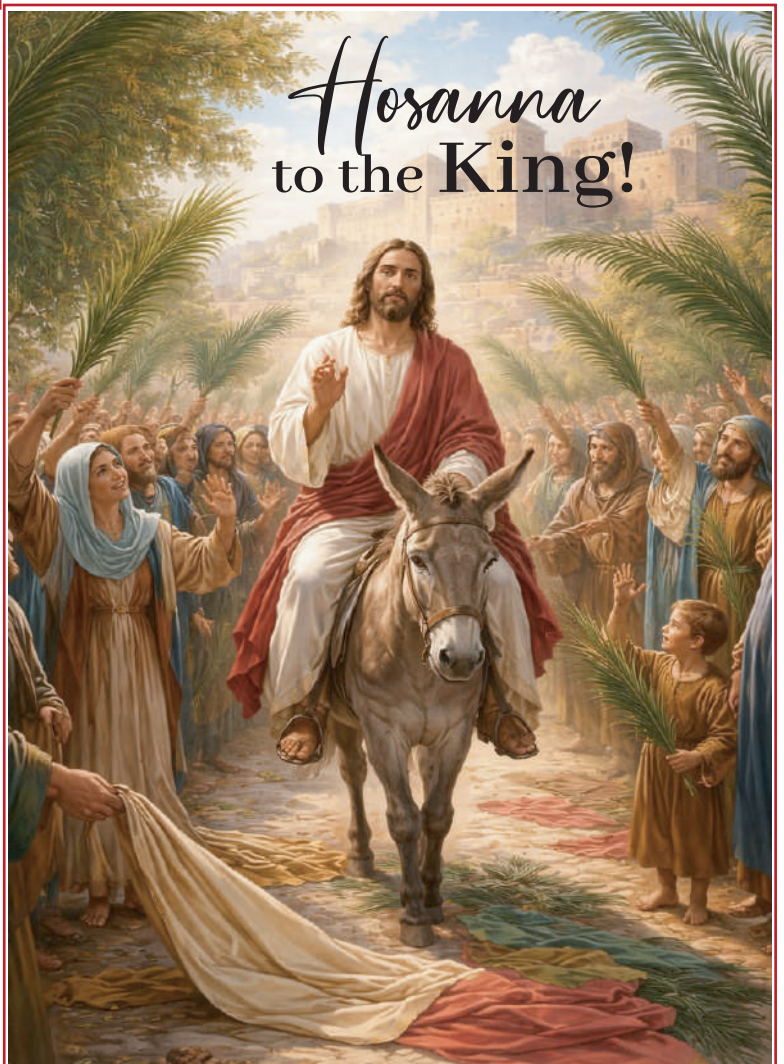
## Prayer of Blessing on Palm Sunday

God, our loving Father, increase the faith of those who place their hope in You. Graciously hear the prayers of those who call on You.

May today hold high these branches to hail Christ in His triumphs. May it bear fruit by the good works accomplished in His home.

May we also receive Your powerful protection from every evil, sickness and misfortune.

Through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen



Follow us on **facebook**  
Pittwater Catholic Parish



FOLLOW US ON **INSTAGRAM**



### SAFEGUARDING

We, the people of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay and the Catholic Parish of Pittwater are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.



### POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR *March* For Disarmament and Peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

# MASS TIMES

## Sacred Heart Church

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tuesday 9.30 am**  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction *from 8.30 am followed by Mass*

**Wednesday 9.30 am**

**Thursday 7 pm**  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction *from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm*

**Friday 9:30 am**  
First Friday of the month, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction *from 9:30 am, followed by Healing Mass/ Anointing of the Sick at 10.30 am*

**WEEKEND MASSES**  
Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm  
Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am & 6.00 pm (SOUL)

**RECONCILIATION**  
Saturday Vigil  
4.00 pm to 4.30 pm

**BAPTISM**  
4th Sunday of the Month  
11.30 am

## Maria Regina Church

7 Central Road, Avalon

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday 8.00 am**

**Wednesday 8.00 am**

**Thursday 10 am**  
9.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and Benediction at 9.45 am

**Friday 8.00 am**  
First Friday of the month, *Healing Mass/ Anointing of the Sick at 8.00 am*

**WEEKEND MASSES**  
Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9.00 am

**RECONCILIATION**  
Before Vigil Mass on Saturday

**BAPTISM**  
3rd Sunday of the Month  
11.00 am

## WE PRAY *for*

### Deceased Anniversary

Melissa Zeituni  
Teresa Shepherd  
Theodore Shepherd

May all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Recently Deceased  
Ann Moss  
Draga Vrcek

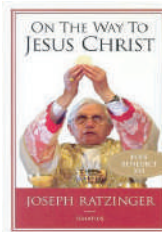
## Prayer for the Sick

Anna Śmigowska  
Lily Janosik  
Sue French  
Maureen Larios  
Elaine Boyes  
Pauline Chipman  
Ron Clarke  
Barbara Clarke  
Anna Katanec  
Otma Nouak  
Angela Miller  
Philip Khalifeh  
Joseph Khalifeh  
George Azoury  
Bruce Farr  
James  
Jacinta Purnell - Major  
Garry Gleeson  
Nenita Roque  
Marie Celine Roque- Maca  
Neda Crvelin  
Jesse Cathersides  
Mary Reilly  
Theresa Keane  
Marta Bizubova  
Ivan Kral

## BOOK REVIEW

### On the Way to Jesus Christ

by: Joseph Ratzinger  
Pope Benedict XVI



This series of meditations, studies the true Jesus, the Jesus of the Gospels who is quite different, demanding and bold and is not convenient for us. The Jesus who makes everything OK for everyone is not a real figure. The true Jesus answers the deepest question of our existence, which-whether we want to or not- keeps on the look-out for God, for gratification that is limitless- for the infinite.



From GOOD FRIDAY,  
3 April  
and will re-open on  
7 April, Tuesday

The phones and emails are monitored regularly. So please don't hesitate to contact us and leave a message.

Have a Blessed Holy Week!

### Liturgy for the Week

- 30/03 Monday, Holy Week  
Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
- 31/03 Tuesday, Holy Week  
Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38
- 01/04 Wednesday, Holy Week  
Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25
- 02/04 Thursday of the Lord's Supper  
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Jn 13:1-15
- 03/04 Friday, Passion of the Lord  
Is 52:13 - 53:12; Jn 18:1 - 19:42
- 04/04 Holy Saturday  
Gen 1:1 - 2:2; Gen 22:1-18;  
Ex 14:15 - 15:1; Is 54:5-14;  
Is 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ezek 36:16-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7



## THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF PITTWATER

Our parish flourishes through the thoughtful care of resources and the generous commitment of our supporters. With gratitude, we thank all who help sustain our parish life, care for our Church and support the ministries that serve our community.

## TO MAKE DONATIONS

SCAN the QR CODE below with your mobile phone camera and follow the prompts

Donations can be made weekly, fortnightly, monthly or one-off.



## Areas of Giving

First Collection  
(Clergy Giving)  
Second Collection  
(Parish Giving)

**Pastoral Works Broken Bay**  
All PWBB donations over \$2 are 100% tax deductible

Pastoral Works Broken Bay is the charitable outreach of our Catholic community, supporting the pastoral priorities of the Diocese. It plays a vital role in funding life changing ministries, strengthening families and nurturing parish communities across Broken Bay.

**Has Your Credit Card Expired?**  
If you support the Parish through credit card giving, please let us know if your card details have changed or expired.

**Direct Debit**  
You may also choose to support the Parish through direct debit. This can be set up easily and securely by contacting the Parish Office, who will arrange it for you.



# GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

*To the people of the Church in Australia, for the Holy Land Collection 2026*

As many of you are aware, 800 years the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus. The people of these countries face their own difficulties, but particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars have never ceased offering their pastoral care.

Over the recent years, with the Covid Pandemic, wars in Syria and Gaza, and now the war in Iran, the people of the Holy Land have endured great turmoil. Until now, the hope for a lasting peace in Gaza remains uncertain and the task of rebuilding lives and infrastructure seems overwhelming.

Just recently last November, I had the privilege of attending the international meeting of Holy Land Commissaries in Jerusalem. There, our group heard from the local people and of what the Franciscan Friars are doing (and have never stopped doing) in support of them. We heard stories of courage and resilience and encountered Christians yearning for a future for their children. From them and Church leaders came the plea for peace and hope. They also pleaded for pilgrims to return, but now the hope for this has been set back by the fear created by the war with Iran. Pilgrims are vital as they generate income that allows the Friars and the local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places, running parishes and schools, and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless, and other social projects. Pilgrims also give much needed employment to local people, allowing Christian families to remain present in the land where Christianity was born.

This year, Fr Francesco Lelpe OFM, the Franciscan leader of the Holy Land Custody reminds us of the urgent need to continue supporting the Holy Land, especially in the light of recent happenings:

*The last few years have been particularly difficult for the Christian communities of the Middle East. The wars have brought death, destruction and fear, not only to Gaza, but also to the West Bank, Israel, Lebanon and Syria. The suffering caused by the conflicts has been compounded by the prolonged absence of pilgrims, which has exacerbated an already profound economic and employment crisis. Many Christian families, who once relied on the Holy Places and pilgrimage-related work, are now experiencing great difficulty.*

*We have just concluded the Jubilee Year of Hope, and hope itself appears to be damaged: in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Northern Israel, as well as in the Christian communities of Lebanon and Syria. The lack of security and employment makes it increasingly difficult to support families and even more so, to imagine a future for young people and the new generation.*

Brothers and sisters, the Good Friday Holy Land Collection remains extremely important and a mission in which we can all participate. The hope is that our Australian parishioners, Parish Priests and Bishops will again be as generous as they have always been. Our donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus in the face of great difficulty. On their behalf, I humbly and wholeheartedly thank you all.

Friar Mario Debattista OFM  
Commissary of the Holy Land (Australia)

*Mario Debattista ofm*

**ENVELOPES will be available on the pews on Good Friday for your convenience. Please take one if you wish to donate return it during the Mass collection or at the Parish Office. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and helps support Holy Land mission.**



## Parish Directory

### Pittwater Parish

1 Keenan Street,  
Mona Vale  
NSW 2103  
Tel 9157 0999

#### Parish Priest

**Fr Richard Sadowski SDS**

Tel 9157 0999 ext 10

pp@pittwaterparish.org

#### Assistant Priest

**Fr Zygmunt Smigowski SDS**

Tel 9157 0999 ext 12

ap@pittwaterparish.org

#### Parish Secretary

**Belinda Cimino**

Tel 9157 0999 ext 30

office@pittwaterparish.org

#### Administrative Assistant

**Sherea Knight**

Tel 9157 0999 ext 30

office@pittwaterparish.org

#### Director of Music

**Monique Reeves**

Tel 9157 0999 ext 17

music@pittwaterparish.org

#### Media & Communications Coordinator

**Conille Felias**

Tel 9157 0999 ext 31

media@pittwaterparish.org

#### Sacramental Coordinator

**Sonia Samartin**

Tel 9157 0999 ext 13

sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

#### CCD Catechist Coordinators

**Maureen Wooldridge**

Mobile 0421 907 469

**Veronica Thomas**

Mobile 0417 061 534

### Sacred Heart Church

1 Keenan Street, Mona Vale

### Maria Regina Church

7 Central Road, Avalon

### SCHOOLS

Sacred Heart School

Mona vale

Tel 8197 6900

Principal: Ms Louise O'Brien

Maria Regina School

Avalon

Tel 7256 2138

Principal: Ms Kirsty Thorpe

Mater Maria Catholic College

Warriewood

Tel 7256 2100

Principal: Mr Anthony Mahoney

## DATES for your DIARY

### CHRISM MASS



Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral,  
Waitara  
31 MARCH, TUESDAY  
at 7.30pm

### HOLY THURSDAY (The Lord's Supper)



Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale  
2 April, Thursday  
at 7.00pm  
(No Morning Mass at Avalon)

### GOOD FRIDAY

(Stations of the Cross)  
3 April



Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale  
at 10.00 am  
Maria Regina Church, Avalon  
at 10.00 am



### THE PASSION OF THE LORD

3 April, Friday  
Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale  
at 3.00pm  
Maria Regina Church, Avalon  
at 3.00pm



### BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS

4 April, Saturday  
Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale  
at 11.00 am

### HOLY SATURDAY

4 April



Maria Regina Church, Avalon  
FAMILY MASS  
at 6.00pm  
Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale  
at 7.30pm  
(No 5.00pm Vigil Mass)

### EASTER SUNDAY

5 April



Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale  
at 8.00am, 10.00am & 6.00pm  
Maria Regina Church, Avalon  
at 9.00am

Some of the people went  
ahead of him, and some  
followed, they all  
shouted,

"Hosanna to the  
Son of David!"  
"Blessed is the one  
who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

[cyndispivey.com](http://cyndispivey.com)



Palm Sunday  
28 March - 29 March 2026

UNITE   
AGAINST  
POVERTY

this Lent

As Project Compassion comes to a close, we Thank You for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion.

Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate! Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice.

Kindly bring back the boxes & envelopes with your donations this Sunday.  
We can't thank you enough for your support and generosity in building stronger and more sustainable futures.

## Jesus Christ's Great Promise about the Divine Mercy Sunday to Mankind

(excerpt from Sr Faustina's diary, 699)

On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.



## Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration and Reconciliation

The Divine Mercy novena prayers were given to St Faustina through an apparition of our Lord Jesus. Each day has a new petition that seeks God's mercy for different purpose. The message of the Divine Mercy is a powerful and moving way to come closer to Christ. His Mercy is central to our lives and we must continually depend on it and ask for it daily.

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday, 2 April and goes until the 2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday

Prayers will be done privately. Booklets are available at the back of both Churches.



## Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Join us for a  
Holy Hour to honour the  
Mercy of God

at Sacred Heart Church,  
Mona Vale

on  
Sunday, 12th April  
at  
3:00 pm



# OUR PARISH SCHOOLS



## Mater Maria Catholic College, Week 9, Term 1

As part of our ongoing partnership with our local parishes, we are delighted to share this week's updates from Mater Maria Catholic College.

Our Project Compassion fundraising initiatives continued this week with a delightful array of activities, including lolly bag sales, bake sales, sausage sizzles as well as a very entertaining teachers' karaoke! We are grateful for the compassion and generosity displayed by our Mater Maria community, truly embodying our five College values: Community, Justice, Hospitality, Spirituality and Stewardship. For over 50 years, Project Compassion has raised essential funds for Caritas Australia, supporting communities affected by poverty and injustice globally.

Nicole Stuart, our English Assistant, has earned the Highly Accomplished Teacher Accreditation in NSW (HALT). Nicole's journey underscores the power of passion and hard work in achieving remarkable milestones. Her dedication to excellence in education makes her a role model for our Mater community.

Students attended the Jarjum Initiative at Mercy Catholic College, engaging in meaningful cultural learning through storytelling, yarnning and creative expression as they explored the significance of totems and created clay and ochre artworks that celebrated connection to Country, kinship and community.

Our Year 11 Geography students recently took part in a fieldwork and camping excursion on the Central Coast, exploring God's creation through hands on learning in the natural environment. The experience encouraged stewardship of the Earth while building practical skills, teamwork and appreciation for the world around us. Meanwhile, Year 11 VET Entertainment students travelled to Sydney Olympic Park for an induction by Youth Up Front, as they gear up to work at the Easter Show for their work placement.

This week, we welcomed parents and students of Year 12 to the Parent-Teacher-Student Evening. We focused on fostering growth for all students and staff, discussing student learning engagement, effective communication, the importance of attendance, and the robust support provided through pastoral care. Our mission is to help each student flourish and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Each Friday, our prefects lead Faith Fridays, inviting students to gather for prayer and music in the Chapel and Courtyard. It is a beautiful way to end the week and come together as a faith community.

Excitement continued to grow around our biennial musical, Spamalot, with rehearsals progressing well ahead of the upcoming May performances.

We would like the parish community to be aware that over the next two years we will be moving towards offering secondary school placements when students are in Year 3. Enrolment applications for Year 7, 2028 close on Thursday 2 April, 2026 and enrolment applications for Year 7, 2029 will close on Friday 3 July, 2026. Families are encouraged to visit [matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolments](http://matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolments) for details.

We thank our parish communities for their ongoing prayers and support and look forward to continuing to share the life of our College with you.

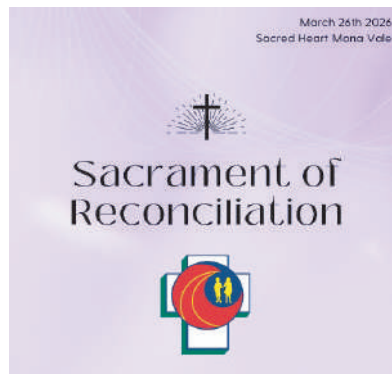


## Sacred Heart Update, Week 9, Term 1

On Friday 20 March we held our School Cross Country at Winnererremy Bay and enjoyed the morning with Years 2-6 students competing in the course. Congratulations to our students who are progressing to the next level in May.



Congratulations to our students who completed their Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday (March 26) evening. This is an important part of their Sacramental Journey.



## Maria Regina Catholic Primary School, Week 9, Term 1



Our Maria Regina Cross Country event this week was a wonderful showcase of school spirit, sportsmanship, and community. Every student gave their best effort, cheered on their friends, and showed what it truly means to support one another. The encouragement along the course was just as inspiring as the running itself! We are so proud of our students and grateful for our incredible community. Days like this remind us how special Maria Regina really is!



## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

### Palm Sunday

- \* Holy Week begins with the First Vespers of Palm Sunday.
- \* We remember and honour Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem before His crucifixion.
- \* The people welcome Him by waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" honouring Him as the promised Messiah.
- \* "Hosanna" is a cry of joy and a prophetic prayer.
- \* Jesus enters Jerusalem as a humble king, riding on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy spoken by Zechariah.
- \* It is called Passion Sunday because during the Mass, the entire Passion narrative is read.
- \* Before Mass, a procession is held and it is not obligatory to use palms. Olive, willow, fir or other trees can be used.
- \* The blessed palm branches are later burned and used to make the ashes for the next year's Ash Wednesday.

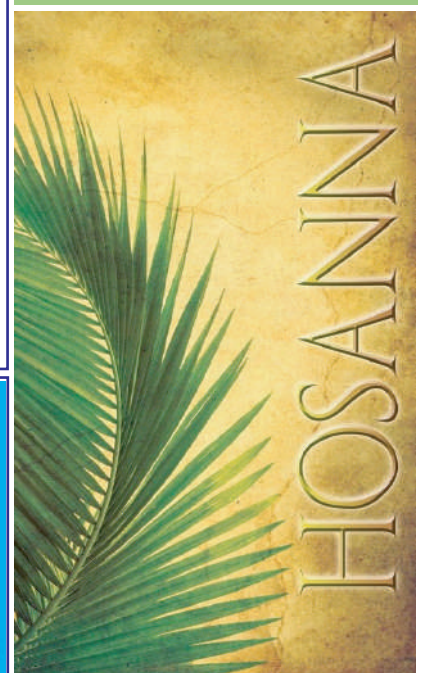


## Maria Regina Catholic Primary School

# SCHOOL TOUR

## Book Today

Enquire Now



# The *Living* Word **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

## Entrance Antiphon

John 12: 1, 12-13; Ps 23: 9-10

Six days before the Passover,  
when the Lord came into the city of  
Jerusalem,  
the children ran to meet him;  
in their hands they carried palm branches  
and with a loud voice cried out:  
\* Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have come in your  
abundant mercy!  
O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!  
Who is this king of glory?  
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of  
glory.  
\* Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have come in your  
abundant mercy!

## First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and  
I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the  
wearied  
he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck  
me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my  
beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

### The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

### (R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me. They curl  
their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.'  
(R.)

Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are  
assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

## Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself to become like us  
and God raised him on high.*

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are,  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the  
underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of  
Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

### *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Christ became obedient for us even to  
death dying on the cross.  
Therefore God raised him on high  
and gave him a name above all other  
names.

### *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

## Gospel

Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

### The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

N One of the Twelve, the man called  
Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests  
and said:  
O What are you prepared to give me if I  
hand him over to you?  
N They paid him thirty silver pieces, and  
from that moment he looked for an  
opportunity to betray him.  
Now on the first day of Unleavened  
Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say,  
C Where do you want us to make the  
preparations for you to eat the passover?  
N He replied:  
J Go to so-and-so in the city and say to  
him, 'The Master says: My time is near.  
It is at your house that I am keeping  
Passover with my disciples.'  
N The disciples did what Jesus told them  
and prepared the Passover.  
When the evening came he was at table  
with the twelve disciples. And while they  
were eating he said:  
J I tell you solemnly, one of you is about  
to betray me.  
N They were greatly distressed and  
started asking him in turn,

C Not I, Lord, surely?

N He answered:

J Someone who has dipped his hand into  
the dish with me, will betray me. The  
Son of Man is going to his fate, as the  
scriptures say he will, but alas for that  
man by whom the Son of Man is  
betrayed! Better for that man if he had  
never been born!

N Judas, who was to betray him, asked  
in his turn,

O Not I, Rabbi, surely?

N Jesus answered:

J They are your own words.

N Now as they were eating, Jesus took  
some bread, and when he had said the  
blessing he broke it and gave it to the  
disciples and said:

J Take it and eat; this is my body.

N Then he took a cup, and when he had  
returned thanks he gave it to them  
saying:

J Drink all of you from this, for this is  
my blood, the blood of the covenant,  
which is to be poured out for many for  
the forgiveness of sins. From now on, I  
tell you, I shall not drink wine until the  
day I drink the new wine with you in the  
kingdom of my Father.

N After psalms had been sung they left  
for the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said  
to them,

J You will all lose faith in me this night,  
for the scripture says: I shall strike the  
shepherd and the flock will be scattered.  
But after my resurrection I shall go  
before you to Galilee.

N At this, Peter said:

O Though all lose faith in you, I will  
never lose faith.

N Jesus answered him,

J I tell you solemnly, this very night,  
before the cock crows, you will have  
disowned me three times.

N Peter said to him,

O Even if I have to die with you, I will  
never disown you.

N And all the disciples said the same.

Then Jesus came with them to a small  
estate called Gethsemane; and he said to  
his disciples,

J Stay here while I go over there to pray.

N He took Peter and the two sons of  
Zebedee with him. And sadness came  
over him, and great distress. Then he said  
to them:

J My soul is sorrowful to the point of  
death. Wait here and keep awake with  
me.

N And going on a little further he fell on  
his face and prayed:

J My Father, if it is possible let this cup  
pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you,  
not I, would have it.

N He came back to the disciples and  
found them sleeping, and he said to  
Peter:

J So you had not the strength to keep  
awake with me one hour? You should be  
awake, and praying not to be put to the  
test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is  
weak.

N Again, a second time, he went away

# The *Living* Word **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

weak.

**N** Again, a second time, he went away and prayed:

**J** My father, if this cup cannot pass by without my drinking it, your will be done!

**N** And he came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy. Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and said to them,

**J** You can sleep on now and take your rest. Now the hour has come when the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is already close at hand.

**N** He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them. He had said:

**O** 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge.'

**N** So he went straight up to Jesus and said:

**O** Greetings, Rabbi,

**N** and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

**J** My friend, do what you are here for.

**N** Then they came forward, seized Jesus and took him in charge. At that, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus then said:

**J** Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father who would promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defence? But then, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?

**N** It was at this time that Jesus said to the crowds:

**J** Am I a brigand, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I sat teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me.

**N** Now all this happened to fulfil the prophecies in scripture. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away. The men who had arrested Jesus led him off to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance, and when he reached the high priest's palace, he went in and sat down with the attendants to see what the end would be.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus, however false, on which they might pass the death-sentence. But they could not find any, though several lying witnesses came forward.

Eventually two stepped forward and made a statement,

**O** This man said, 'I have power to destroy the Temple of God and in three days build it up.'

**N** The high priest then stood up and said to him:

**O** Have you no answer to that? What is the evidence these men are bringing against you?

**N** But Jesus was silent. And the high

priest said to him:

**O** I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.

**N** Jesus answered:

**J** The words are your own. Moreover, I tell you that from this time onward you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

**N** At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said:

**O** He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?

**N** They answered:

**C** He deserves to die.

**N** Then they spat in his face and hit him with their fists; others said as they struck him:

**C** Play the prophet, Christ! Who hit you then?

**N** Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him and said:

**O** You too were with Jesus the Galilean.

**N** But he denied it in front of them all, saying:

**O** I do not know what you are talking about.

**N** When he went out to the gateway another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there:

**O** This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.

**N** And again, with an oath, he denied it, **O** I do not know the man.

**N** A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter:

**C** You are one of them for sure! Why, your accent gives you away.

**N** Then he started calling down curses on himself and swearing:

**O** I do not know the man.

**N** At that moment the cock crew, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, 'Before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound, and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor.

When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer was filled with remorse and took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, saying:

**O** I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.

**N** They replied:

**C** What is that to us? That is your concern.

**N** And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off, and went and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said:

**C** It is against the Law to put this into the treasury; it is blood money.

**N** So they discussed the matter and bought the potter's field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed

me.

Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question:

**O** Are you the king of the Jews?

**N** Jesus replied:

**J** It is you who say it.

**N** But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:

**O** Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

**N** But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at this time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered Pilate said to them,

**O** Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Christ?

**N** For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,

**O** Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

**N** The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:

**O** Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

**N** They said:

**C** Barabbas.

**N** Pilate said to them:

**O** What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?

**N** They all said:

**C** Let him be crucified!

**N** Pilate asked:

**O** Why? What harm has he done?

**N** But they shouted all the louder,

**C** Let him be crucified!

**N** Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said:

**O** I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.

**N** And the people, to a man, shouted back:

**C** His blood be on us and on our children!

**N** Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying:

**C** Hail, king of the Jews!

**N** And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and

# The *Living* Word **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothes by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:

**C** So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!

**N** The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:

**C** He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God'.

**N** Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way. From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

**J** Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

**N** That is: 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:

**C** The man is calling on Elijah,

**N** and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:

**C** Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.

**N** But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

## **All kneel and pause a moment.**

**N** At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:

**C** In truth this was a son of God.

**N** And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. Now Mary of

Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.

Next day, that is, when Preparation Day was over, the chief priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate and said to him,

**C** Your Excellency, we recall that this imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I shall rise again.' Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead'. This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.

**N** Pilate said to them:

**O** You may have your guards. Go and make all as secure as you know how.

**N** So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.

## **The Gospel of the Lord.**

### **Communion Antiphon** Matthew 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

## **REFLECTION**

by Dianne Bergant

*As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives.*

*Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.*

*The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.*

© Dianne Bergant CSA



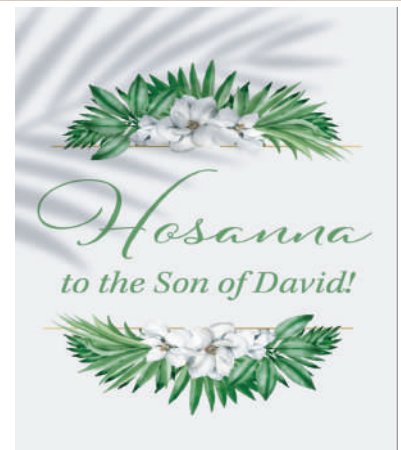
## The Mass of *Chrism*

**The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 31 March at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Waitara**

**Priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay gather for this celebration with Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitments.**

**During the mass, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and brought back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this sacred occasion in the life of our Diocese.**

**Everyone is welcome to attend.**



**PARISH MORNING  
TEA GATHERING**

*Everyone is welcome to join*

**Every month after the 8 am Mass on the 1st Sunday and after the 10 am Mass on the 3rd Sunday at SACRED HEART CHURCH, MONA VALE**

**Last Sunday after the 9 am Mass at the front of MARIA REGINA CHURCH, AVALON**

# SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

# Sacrament of Confirmation

This year the sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in November.  
The following link provides the Bishop's letter with additional information

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/sacraments/confirmation>

Children in Year 3 and above are eligible to receive this sacrament if they have been baptised.

**BOOKINGS ARE NOT OPEN YET.**

For more information about the requirements of the program, the preparation groups, enrolments, etc., you **MUST** attend **ONE** of the following "Parent Information & Commitment" sessions which will take place at **7 pm** (Children do not need to attend):

**Maria Regina Church, Avalon - Wednesday, 22 April**  
**Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale - Wednesday, 29 April**

We need facilitators for the four weekly preparation sessions.  
You can share this role with another parent.

If you would like to be a group facilitator or would like to have more information about the role, please contact **Sonia** on [sacraments@pittwaterparish.org](mailto:sacraments@pittwaterparish.org)

*Congratulations*  
to the **125 children** who have  
received their  
**First Reconciliation.**

May the Lord bless them and may  
they discover the wonder of  
God's forgiveness.  
May his love be upon them and  
his presence always guide them.

Thank you to our Parish Priest,  
Fr Richard, Sonia Samartin  
and all the parents, teachers,  
catechists, group facilitators and  
everyone involved in the  
preparation of these children.

## EASTER MASS TIMES



### HOLY THURSDAY

7.00 pm

Sacred Heart Church,  
Mona Vale

**(NO MORNING MASS at Maria Regina Church)**



### GOOD FRIDAY

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

10.00 am

Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale

10.00 am

Maria Regina Church, Avalon

#### PASSION OF THE LORD

3.00 pm

Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale

3.00 pm

Maria Regina Church, Avalon



### HOLY SATURDAY

#### BLESSING OF THE EASTER FOOD

11.00 am

Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale



#### FAMILY MASS

6.00 pm

Maria Regina Church, Avalon

#### EASTER VIGIL MASS

7.30 pm

Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale

**(NO 5.00 PM MASS at Sacred Heart Church)**

## EASTER SUNDAY

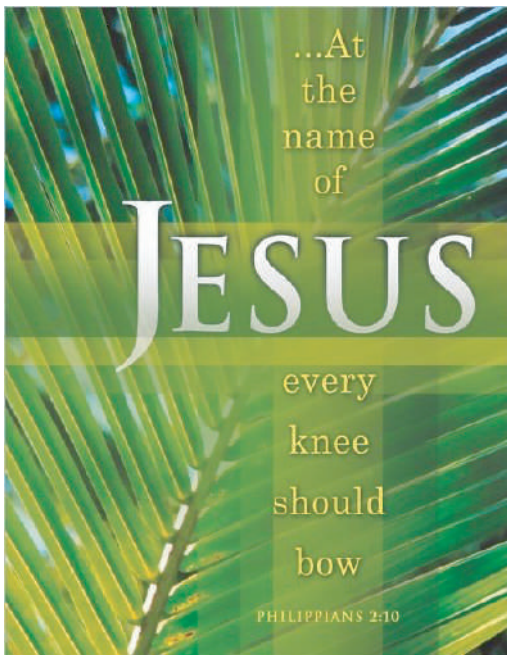
8.00 am, 10.00 am, 6.00 pm

Sacred Heart Church,  
Mona Vale



9.00 am

Maria Regina Church,  
Avalon



## Most Rev Anthony Randazzo appointed Prefect of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts



Pope Leo XIV has appointed Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, until now Bishop of Broken Bay and Apostolic Administrator of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia, as Prefect of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts, with the personal title of Archbishop.

The Holy Father announced the appointment on Monday evening. Archbishop Randazzo has served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay or the past six and a half years, and will take up his role in the Roman Curia when he moves to the Vatican in three months. Until that time he will be the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

The Dicastery for Legislative Texts serves the Roman Pontiff in promoting and safeguarding the proper understanding, interpretation, and application of canon law across the universal Church. Its responsibilities extend to both

the Latin Church and the Eastern Catholic Churches, ensuring that ecclesiastical laws are applied with fidelity, clarity, and juridical precision.

As Prefect, Archbishop Randazzo will oversee the Dicastery's work in formulating authentic interpretations of universal Church law, offering authoritative clarifications on juridical questions, and assisting in the development and refinement of canonical legislation. He will also guide collaboration with other dicasteries, episcopal conferences, and canonists worldwide to ensure coherence and integrity in the Church's legal framework.

"I am profoundly grateful to Pope Leo for the confidence and trust he has placed in me," Archbishop Randazzo, 59 and a canon law graduate of the Pontifical Gregorian University, said.

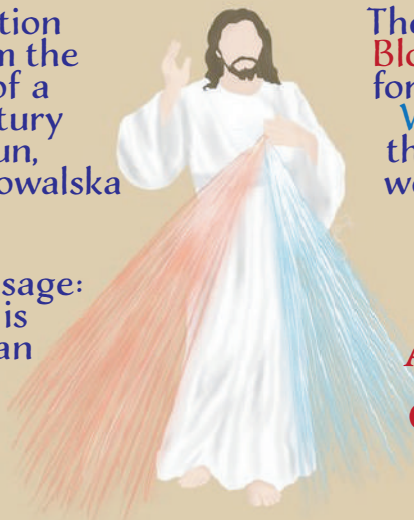
"During my time as Bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay the clergy and faithful have been a true joy in my episcopal ministry. I remain forever grateful to God, who entrusted me with the care of His flock.

## FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE *Divine Mercy*

Jesus asked St Faustina to paint an image with the words: "Jesus, I trust in You".

Jesus promised to defend those who venerate this image, especially at the hour He died, 3:00 pm.

This devotion comes from the writings of a 20th century Polish nun, St Faustina Kowalska



The rays symbolise:  
**Blood:** Christ's gift for our salvation &  
**Water:** Baptism that purifies and welcomes us into God's family.

The main message: His mercy is greater than any sin.

The ABC of Mercy:  
**A**sk for his mercy,  
**B**e merciful &  
**C**ompletely trust in Jesus.



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#### Join Us - Men's Faith Gathering

We warmly invite all men of our parish & community to come together at 7:00 pm for an informal & faith-filled evening of conversation, reflection & brotherhood.

These gatherings offer a welcoming & supportive space to share openly, grow spiritually & encourage one another in our journey of faith.

Together, we seek to renew our hearts in Christ, strengthen our commitment to God & be a vital & active force of renewal within our Church.

Come & be part of a community where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed & the Holy Spirit at work.

All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

For any questions, contact Joe Cillia - 0418 863 814

## ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

ADORATION & RECONCILIATION  
followed by  
BENEDICTION & MASS

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every Tuesday from  
8:30 am - 9:30 am  
and  
every Thursday  
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Maria Regina Church,  
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every Thursday from  
9:00 am - 9:45 am



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name of the Lord!  
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glory in the highest!"

LUKE 19:38  
womans day