

<p><b>THE RESSURECTION OF THE LORD(EASTER)</b> <b>05 April 2026</b></p>	<p><b>BUILDING FUND UPDATE</b> loan balance is <b>\$845,503.00</b> Thank you for supporting our 2nd Collection.</p>	<p><b>CASH COLLECTIONS</b> <b>29 March 2026</b> <i>1st Collection:</i> 5,328.80 <i>2nd Collection:</i> 1,214.70</p>	<p><b>PARISHIONER REGISTRATION</b> <b>New to the area? Want to join the Parish.</b> Check it out on our Parish website or scanning this QR Code.</p> 
<p><b>First Reading</b> Acts 10:34a, 37-43 <b>Responsorial Psalm</b> Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 <b>Second Reading</b> Colossians 3:1-4 <b>GOSPEL</b> John 20:1-18 <b>EXPLORING THE WORD</b> Today's gospel captures a quiet but powerful turning point—from grief to recognition, from confusion to hope. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb in darkness, both literally and emotionally, expecting death to have the final word. When she finds the stone rolled away, her first response is fear and loss, not resurrection. Even when Jesus stands before her, she doesn't recognize him at first—showing how sorrow can cloud our vision. The moment everything changes is deeply personal: Jesus simply calls her name, "Mary." In that instant, she knows him. It's a reminder that faith is not only about understanding events, but about being known and called personally. Resurrection becomes real not through proof alone, but through encounter. Mary is then sent to tell the others—transforming her from a mourner into a messenger. This passage invites us to see that hope often begins in confusion, that recognition may take time, and that even in our darkest moments, we may be closer to new life than we realize.</p>	<p><b>PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MASS INTENTIONS</b> <b>Repose of Soul/Anniversaries of Death:</b> Neal Victor Galford Jr, Jun Factoran, Gloria Francisco (birthday remembrance), Pablito &amp; Priscilla Santos <b>For the Sick:</b> Lilian Yee, Angelina dela Cruz, Blake Wong Ling, Sofia Herradura, Sigrid Alegre, Brilliantito Quitiquit, Noemi Goh, and Ann Hoare, Michael Yee <b>Intentions:</b> Romina Banson &amp; Pauline O'connor <b>Wedding Anniversary:</b> Sabu &amp; Jane (52nd) <b>Birthday:</b> Zuper Galford (20th), Arthur Sabellano</p> 	<p>If you have a family member or friend who is sick, you may send us their names so we can pray for them. Email to <a href="mailto:assistant@flatbushcatholic.org.nz">assistant@flatbushcatholic.org.nz</a></p> 	
<p><b>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY</b> <b>12.04. 2026</b> <b>First Reading</b> Acts 2:42-47 <b>Responsorial Psalms</b> Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 <b>Second Reading</b> 1 Peter 1:3-9 <b>Gospel</b> John 20:19-31</p>	<p><b>INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR APRIL</b> Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.</p>	<p>We <b>SINCERELY THANK</b> all our parishioners for your generosity and heartfelt support of the Caritas Lenten Appeal. Through your kindness and compassion, we have successfully raised <b>\$8,422.40</b> to help those in need. Your spirit of giving is a true reflection of our faith in action. May God bless you abundantly for your continued love and generosity.</p>	
	<p><b>DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PARISH APP</b></p>   <p>GET IT ON Google Play   Download on the App Store</p>	<p><b>DIVINE MERCY FEAST</b> Sunday 12th April 5:30PM St Benedict's Church, 1 St Benedict's Street, Newton <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction.</b> Blessing of Images, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's Relic</p> 	

## Easter Message from Father Benedict

*"Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father; we too may live a new life". (Romans 6:3)*

Dear Friends,

Easter is, primarily, celebration of new life in Jesus. As St Paul reminds us, we too may live a new life with the risen Christ. There are times on our life journey that we may experience loneliness, separations and endless sufferings. The message of Easter tells us that this is only part of our life together as God's people, that there is new life to be found for all of us, no matter how hard the journey at times.

Now that we have begun our Easter celebrations, let us be mindful of the fact that throughout the season of Easter, we continue to celebrate the reality of the Lord's resurrection and its meaning and impact for all of us.

I like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude Wendy Galford-Parish Secretary, Lima Moefana-Office Assistant, Nicky Crestanello, Vivian, Gennie and Shiela- voluntary staff, custodian and sacristan—Sioeli Vaiangina & Melvin Valdevieso, the RCIA RCIC team, the Sacramental Programme team, the members of Parish Council, Liturgy and Finance committees, communities, associations, Ministers of the Word, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, co-ordinators for Masses, ushers and greeters-children, Choirs, projectionists, Youth, Altar servers, gardeners, florists, collectors, counters, volunteers, benefactors, supporters and particularly all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Thanks to the principals and staff of Sancta Maria Primary School and College for their remarkable support and participation in the life of the parish. Your incredible service and generous contributions towards the life and growth of the parish are immensely appreciated.

I wish you all a blessed and holy Easter.

May you all experience a joy-filled and blessed Easter, renewed in mind and spirit.



**Easter** is the Solemnity of Solemnities, the center and climax of the Church year. All the mysteries that we have commemorated from Advent until now have pointed toward Easter; all that we shall yet celebrate in the weeks that follow has its foundation in the mystery of Easter, and receives its meaning and importance from this mystery.

In the very center of the Mass, the great prayer of thanksgiving, from the first words of the Preface, expresses the unrivaled motive for this joy: if it is right to praise You, Lord, at all times, how much more so should we not glorify You on this day when Christ our Passover was sacrificed, for He is the true Lamb who took away the sins of the world, who by His Death destroyed our death and **by His Resurrection restored our life**. Easter means, then, Redemption obtained — sin destroyed, death overcome, divine life brought back to us, the resurrection of our body which is promised immortality. With such a certitude, we should banish all trace of sadness.

The Eucharist intimately unites the faithful to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, making present not only His Passion and Death but the fullness of the Paschal Mystery—His passage from death to risen life. As the "source and summit" of Christian life, the Eucharist offers the risen Lord as spiritual food, pledges our own bodily resurrection, and anticipates the heavenly banquet.

### **The Paschal Mystery Made Present**

The Eucharist is the sacramental memorial of Christ's entire redemptive work, encompassing His life, death, and **resurrection**.

*The Catechism teaches:*

*The Eucharist is the memorial of Christ's Passover, that is, of the work of salvation accomplished by the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, a work made present by the liturgical action.*

### **Pledge of Our Resurrection and Eternal Life**

The Eucharist not only recalls Christ's Resurrection but effects participation in it, granting eternal life and promising bodily resurrection. Jesus declares: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:54). St. Thomas Aquinas, commenting on this verse, explains that worthy reception—sacramental and spiritual—unites the soul to Christ through faith and love, meriting resurrection via the indwelling Holy Spirit (Rom 8:11). The Eucharist, as "spiritual food," sustains eternal life in the soul now and glorifies the body hereafter, since the Word-made-flesh causes "the resurrection not just of souls, but of bodies as well" (1 Cor 15:21).