

The Bulletin is Downloadable from our website at <https://fssp-canberra.org/bulletin/>

**MEN OF ST JOSEPH MEETING**

We will not be holding our usual meeting on the second Wednesday of April, as it falls very close to Easter Sunday, and we also have an important celebration coming up - the Feast of St Joseph the Worker on 1 May, which is also the anniversary of our group.

Instead, we will gather on: 1 May (Fri) – Feast of St Joseph the Worker Following the evening Mass, we will have a meal and time together to celebrate.

- There will be:
- No Men of St Joseph meeting in April
  - A special gathering on 1 May after Mass
  - Our next regular meeting on Wednesday, 13 May (Rosary, Mass, meal, and discussion)

**THURSDAY ONLINE CLASS**

is currently on break and will resume after Easter. The date of resumption and the topic will be announced soon.

**SATURDAY BIBLE CLASS**

is currently on break and will resume after Easter. The date of resumption will be announced soon.

**CHILDREN'S CATECHISM**

Classes will resume after the Easter break on 19th April.

**DONATIONS:**

**Cheque donations to:**  
FSSP Australia  
PO Box 6241, Mawson, ACT2607

**Bank Account Details:**  
For online donations ONLY

**First Collection (Apostolate)**  
BSB 062 786 A/c No: 00020007  
A/c Name: Priestly Fraternity of St Peter

**Second Collection (Church)**  
BSB 062 786 A/c No: 00021179  
A/c Name: Priestly Fraternity of St Peter

**Church Building Fund**  
BSB 062 786 A/c No: 00029891  
A/c Name: Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (Building fund)

**LEGION OF MARY** meeting will be held **THIS MONDAY** at 6:30pm.

**CASH & ONLINE DONATIONS**

29<sup>th</sup> Mar - 4<sup>th</sup> April, 26  
First Collection: \$ 1757.65  
Second Collection: \$ 1403.5  
Building fund: \$ 515.1

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The FSSP District of Oceania has a zero tolerance policy towards abuse in any form.

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**  
Denise Sheehan: 0401 404 539  
[Latinmass.safeguarding@cg.org.au](mailto:Latinmass.safeguarding@cg.org.au)



**St Michael the Archangel Latin Mass Chaplaincy, Canberra**

Served by **The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (FSSP)**



**Chaplain:**  
Rev. Paul Leung, FSSP  
**Tel:** 0405 527 880

**Assistant Priest:**  
Rev. Brendan Boyce  
**Tel:** 0414 055 633

**Website:**  
<https://fssp-canberra.org>

**Email:**  
[canberra.fssp@gmail.com](mailto:canberra.fssp@gmail.com)



**Postal Address:**  
PO Box 6241,  
Mawson, ACT 2607,  
Australia

**Prebystery Tel:**  
6161 5320

**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/FSSP-Canberra-St-Michael-the-Archangel>

**Mass & Confession Schedule**

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	(Low Mass)
	<b>10:00am</b>	(Sung Mass)
<b>Mon - Thurs:</b>	<b>7:00am</b>	(Low Mass)
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	(Low Mass)
	followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:15pm	
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	(Low Mass)

**Venue: Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Garran**  
**2 Boake Pl, Garran, ACT 2605**

**CONFESION**

30 minutes before all Masses until circa 5 minutes before Mass.  
Also during Masses where two priests are available.

**5th April 2026**  
**Easter Sunday**



# CALENDAR

DATE	FEAST	LOCATION / TIME
Mon, 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Monday	<b>9AM (Low)</b>
Tue, 7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Tuesday	7AM (Low)
Wed, 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Wednesday	7AM (Low)
Thurs, 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Thursday	7AM (Low), followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:30am.
Fri, 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Friday	6:30PM (Low), followed by Holy Hour until 8:15pm.
Sat, 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Saturday	8:30AM (Rosary) 9AM (Low)
Sun, 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Low Sunday	8AM (Low); 9:30AM (Rosary) 10AM (Sung)



**Easter Community Lunch**

Join us for a joyful community gathering to celebrate Easter!

**Date: Easter Sunday, (TODAY)**

**Time: After the 10am Mass**

**Please bring a plate to share with the community.**

**All are warmly welcome!**

## Was Easter Originally a Pagan Holiday?



From time to time, we hear the claim that Easter was originally a pagan festival. This idea is often repeated, but when we look carefully at history, Scripture, and the tradition of the Church, it becomes clear that this claim is based on confusion, especially about language, not about the feast itself.

First of all, Easter is unquestionably a Christian feast. It celebrates the central event of our faith: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the Gospels testify, Christ rose from the dead on the third day after His crucifixion (cf. Matt. 28:6). From the

very beginning, Christians gathered to commemorate this event. In fact, long before Christianity had any contact with later European cultures, believers were already celebrating what they called the Pasch - from the Greek pascha, which comes from the Hebrew pesach, meaning Passover.

This is very important because Easter is deeply rooted in the Jewish Passover. Just as the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, Christ, the true Passover Lamb, frees humanity from sin and death. As St Paul says, "Christ, our Paschal lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Cor 5:7). So Easter is not borrowed from paganism, it is the fulfillment of the Passover, the culmination of God's plan of salvation.

The early Church consistently used this term Pasch to describe the entire mystery: the Last Supper, the Passion, and the Resurrection. This is why many languages today still use words derived from it, such as Pasqua (Italian), Pascua (Spanish), and Pâques (French). Even the liturgy reflects this, referring to Christ as "our Pasch".

So where does the confusion come from? It mainly comes from the English word "Easter." According to the Venerable Bede, an 8th-century historian, the word may have come from Eostre, the name of a local springtime goddess. If this is true, it does not mean the feast itself is pagan. Rather, it means that when Christianity spread into northern Europe, the Church simply adopted a local word and gave it a completely new, Christian meaning. In other words, the word was "baptized," just as many cultural elements were purified and redirected toward the worship of the true God. There is also another possible explanation. Some scholars suggest that the word "Easter" may be connected to terms meaning "dawn" or "rising light," which beautifully fit the Resurrection of Christ, who rose at daybreak and is called "the light of the world" (John 8:12).

In any case, the key point is this: the name may have a complex history, but the feast itself does not. Unlike Christmas, which coincided with certain Roman festivals, Easter was never established as a replacement for a pagan celebration. Its timing was determined by the Church, especially at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., based on the Jewish Passover and the spring equinox.

Therefore, any confusion about Easter being "pagan" comes from etymology, not theology. The word may have pre-Christian roots, but the reality it expresses is entirely Christian.

Easter is, and has always been, the celebration of Christ's victory over death, which is the heart of the Gospel, and the foundation of our hope.