

# NEOTÈS

M A G A Z I N E

*SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA  
BY THE YOUTH, FOR THE YOUTH*

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# SFX YOUTH

*Following the 5:30pm Mass, the St. Francis Xavier Youth Group is held at the Ballina Parish during school term for local High School students.*

*The Youth Group is a warm and welcoming group, who aim to provide a sense of community, culture and belonging to the St. Francis Xavier Parish through development of their social and spiritual needs.*

*The Parish Youth Group has an Instagram Page: “SFX\_YOUTH” and throughout the year is regularly updated with photos and videos from Youth Group, events and any partnerships with the schools.*



@SFX\_YOUTH



# IN THIS ISSUE

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**THE PARISH**

1.



**OUR YOUTH  
MINISTERS**

2.



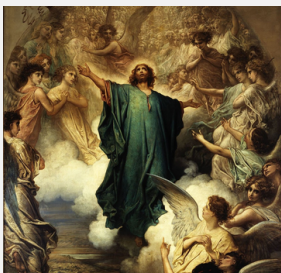
**YOUTH GROUP**

3.



**SAINTS THIS  
MONTH**

4.



**HOLY WEEK AND  
THE PASCHAL  
TRIDUUM**

5.



**WHAT'S ON**

6.

# BALLINA PARISH

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## *SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PARISH, BALLINA*



The St Francis Xavier Ballina Parish is a vibrant parish where people from all cultures will be warmly welcomed into our faith community; people will share their baptismal calling to witness the love of God in action; people will receive the Sacraments throughout their life journey in a community embraced with encouragement and love.

### **Brief History**

- 1890 Parish of Ballina established – Ballina population 1000
- 1901 New St Francis Xavier Church opened
- 1955 Holy Family Church opened in Lennox Head
- 1962 New brick church opened at Ballina by Bishop Farrelly

### **Vision Statement of St Francis Xavier's Parish Ballina/Lennox Head**

- **Celebrate:** We are disciples of Jesus and celebrate his presence amongst us.
- **Evangelise:** We are called to recognise Jesus, accept him in our lives and spread the GOOD NEWS of salvation.
- **Develop:** We are committed by developing the life and mission of our parish
- **Collaborate:** We are a community who welcome everyone without exception.
- **Care:** We are a people who acknowledge the worth of every individual and the environment in which we live.



*“It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one’s progress, not the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.”*  
*St Francis Xavier*

# MEET OUR YOUTH MINISTERS

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC  
PARISH, BALLINA



**Brendon Clarke**  
Xavier College  
Youth Minister



**John Kearney**  
Ballina Parish  
Pastoral Associate



**Kailani Tiernan**  
Ballina Parish Youth  
Coordinator



**Oliver Dwyer**  
Richmond Regional  
Ministry Assistant

The Ballina Parish has been running a youth group since 2015 in conjunction with the parish priests and local Youth Ministers. We have a team of experienced Leaders who have worked in both Parish and School roles as Youth Ministers, participated in Diocesan run events, attended the Australian Catholic Youth Festival and recently represented the Parish at World Youth Day in Portugal.

*“These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture,[a] to exhorting, to teaching.” 1 Timothy 4:11-13*



*Left to right: Kailani Tiernan, Brendon Clarke, John Kearney and Oliver Dwyer dressed in their green for an early St. Patrick's Day celebration at Youth Group.*



# YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

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## *BY THE SPIRIT OF FAITH*

The St. Francis Xavier Youth Group is a warm and welcoming group, who aim to provide a sense of community, culture and belonging to the youth of the Ballina Parish through the development of their social and spiritual needs. Following the Saturday 5:30pm Mass, the Youth Group is held in the Ballina Parish Upper Room from 6:30-8:00pm, during school term for local High School students.

At Youth Group each week, we discuss the life of a particular saint. Learning about the lives of saints is important in inspiring us to lead lives for God.

The first Youth Group of the month saw us explore the life of Saint John Paul II and his contributions to the Church throughout his life. We were also lucky enough to be joined by





### UPDATE CONTINUED...

a special guest, Sr. Di, a Carmelite Missionary sister who works as the Lismore Diocesan Youth Coordinator. We discussed the themes of peace, purpose and respect, and reflected on the scripture passage from Luke 15:11-32, 'Parable of the Prodigal Son'. We had a brief session with Sr Di, where she answered questions about Youth Ministry, Saint John Paul II's life, and saintly miracles, before moving back into running around. The games of the week included 'Pacman', various chair games and a 'Pig Food Relay' in theme with the night. Some of our Youth Group members also led us in some drama games, that involved quite a bit of team work and thinking ahead. We finished the night off by making 'Snow Angels' in the soft balls used previously for 'Capture the Loaves'. Thank you Sr. Di for joining us and answering all of our questions.

Week five's Youth Group occurred the night after the Encounter Youth Rally. We discussed our highlights from the night before and the new friends that were made. The saint of the week was John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus, who preached in the desert. We explored the themes of humility, courage and responsibility, reflecting on the scripture from John 6:16-21, 'Jesus Walks on Water'. We played games such as 'Captain's Orders', before finishing the night with a karaoke session where each member of the Youth Group sang a randomly selected song whilst the rest of us danced along.



### UPDATE CONTINUED...

In week six, we celebrated an early St. Patrick's Day by dressing in green, listening to classic Irish jigs, and collecting chocolate golden coins. We discussed Saint Patrick and his contribution to the Catholic history of Ireland, as well as his values of integrity justice and forgiveness. We played various team games including 'Jockeys up!', 'Golden Toss' and a repeat of last week with 'Captain's Orders'.

In week seven, we had our last Youth Group of the term. A quiet movie night where we watched the 2005 film 'The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. We briefly spoke about Saint Veronica and her values of charity, compassion and kindness. We also discussed the importance of the upcoming Holy Week, relating the themes from the movie to Jesus' experiences in the Gospels.

We have continued to decorate the Youth Group Photo Wall with memories from over the years, new photos from this past term will be added in the coming weeks.

There is no Youth Group in April due to the school holidays. The next Youth Group will occur on Saturday May 4th at 6:30pm in the Parish Upper Room. It will be a Star Wars themed night, so we encourage members to come in their best Jedi costumes.



*Reminder: No Youth Group for the rest of Term One due to Easter and school holidays*





# ENCOUNTER YOUTH RALLY

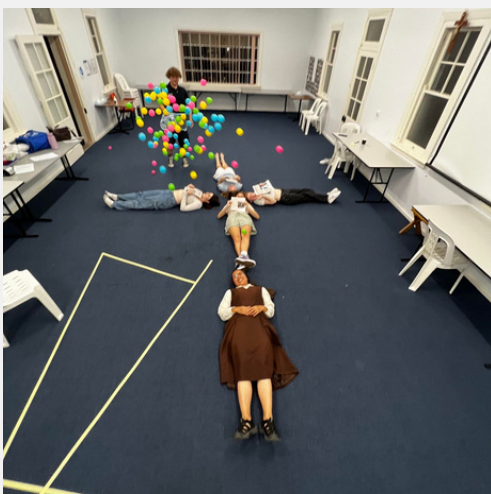
## YOUTH GROUP EXCURSION

The Parish Youth Group was invited to attend the Encounter Rally at St Joseph's College Banora Point at the beginning of the month. The Youth Rally was a high energy faith event, with dinner, music and a guest keynote speaker, one of our Youth Leaders, Brendon.

The theme of the night was "Famous 4", reflecting on the life and importance of Jesus during this time of Lent. Jesus was known to do miraculous things, and now over 2000 years later He is still the most talked about person in the world. The night unpacked what it looks like to be a young person living in 2024, exhortation on the life of Jesus, and the impact He has on our life today.

Members of the Youth Group caught the Xavier Minibus up to Tweed Heads, where they showed off their theatre skills with a group Disney Musical Marathon. When they arrived they met students from the Tweed, Kingscliff, Pottsville and Murwillumbah Parishes. The night included a series of team building games, some basketball during free time, music by Wildfire, keynote speakers and prayer. On offer to the students was a reflective prayer activity, prayer teams, worship music and a chance for dynamic faith formation.

We thank the Parish and the parents of our members for all their support in this brilliant experience.



# YOUTH GROUP GALLERY



# YOUTH GROUP GALLERY

# SAINTS THIS MONTH

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*Image: Raúl Berzosa's depiction of St. John Paul II | photo courtesy of <https://www.wordonfire.org/topics/john-paul-ii/>*

## **SAINT JOHN PAUL II**

Feast: 22nd October

Patron Saint of World Youth Days

Saint John Paul II was the youngest Bishop in Polish history at the age of 38, and just twenty years later he became the first non-Italian Pope elected in 455 years. During his papacy he visited 129 countries gathering some of the largest crowds in human history. He met with heads of state, held massive open-air Masses in stadiums, initiated World Youth Day celebrations, met with religious leaders of other faiths, survived an assassination attempt, and almost always spoke the native language of the place he was in. He canonised 482 saints and beatified 1334 people, that's more than any of his predecessors.

Pope John Paul II was a prolific writer, producing fourteen encyclicals, fourteen apostolic exhortations,

forty-five apostolic letters, eleven apostolic constitutions, thirty *motu proprio*, and many catecheses, homilies, plays, and books. He reformed the Church's Code of Canon Law and promulgated the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

“Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ. To His saving power, open the boundaries of States, economic and political systems, the vast fields of culture, civilization and development. Do not be afraid. Christ knows “what is in man.” He alone knows it. So often today man does not know what is within him, in the depths of his mind and heart. So often he is uncertain about the meaning of his life on this earth. He is assailed by doubt, a doubt which turns into despair. We ask you therefore, we beg you with humility and trust, let Christ speak to man. He alone has words of life, yes, of eternal life.” - Inaugural homily of Pope John Paul II

“Dear young people of the century now beginning, in saying “yes” to Christ, you say “yes” to all your noblest ideals. I pray that he will reign in your hearts and in all of humanity in the new century and the new millennium. Have no fear of entrusting yourselves to him! He will guide you, he will grant you the strength to follow him every day and in every situation.” - Address at World Youth Day, Rome, August 19, 2000

## SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Feast: 29th August

Patron Saint of baptism, bird dealers, converts, monastic life, motorways, printers, tailors, lambs, and prisoners

Born to Mother Mary's cousin Elizabeth, John the Baptist served as a precursor to the Lord. He was the last of the Old Testament Prophets and the first of the New Testament Prophets, bridging the gap to Christ. John received inspiration from God in the Judean desert and started to gather disciples whom he taught, called to repentance, and baptised with water. John's preaching was fierce, branding some a "brood of vipers" and demanding evidence of their conversion. He called tax collectors, soldiers, religious leaders, the average townspeople, and even Herod to repent. Many responded. John's criticism of Herod Antipas's unlawful marriage to his brother's wife led to his ultimate death.



*Image: San Giovanni Battista predicazione (St. John the Baptist Preaching) by Mattia Preti c. 1665*

### John 1:23-34

He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands One whom you do not know, the One who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of His sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, "After me comes a Man who ranks ahead of me because He was before me." I myself did not know Him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that He might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him, but the One who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the One who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'



## SAINT PATRICK

Feast: 17th March

Patron Saint of Ireland

Saint Patrick was born in Roman-ruled Britain and captured by Gaelic slave traders from Ireland when he was 16 years old. While in captivity, Patrick spent much of his time in the forests, enduring the snow, ice, and rain. At first, Patrick didn't know God. Then, he began to think about God. Then he began to speak to God. Within six years, he was praying a hundred prayers every day and a hundred prayers every night. Heeding God's call, Patrick escaped his captors and fled back to Britain. After being ordained a bishop he returned to Ireland to convert his captors. During the fewer than thirty years that Patrick evangelised the people of Ireland, he endured many hardships, including another short captivity, the constant danger of being killed, and staunch opposition from the druid spiritual leaders. But he also converted countless pagans, baptised and confirmed "so many thousands," built churches, established religious life, and ordained native clergy.

St. Patrick's *Confessio*, is a medieval autobiography fully translated from Latin into English by the Royal Irish Academy, and survives as only eight manuscripts (one of which is held by the British Library). Patrick wrote the text when he was an older man, reflecting on his faith in God and referring to his life as a spiritual journey. It recounts his life from an early age, and details the trials that he underwent throughout his life. Accompanying the *Confessio*, is the *Epistola*, a letter he wrote to the soldiers of Coroticus. In this letter St Patrick condemns and excommunicates Coroticus and his soldiers for attacking newly baptised converts and carrying them off into slavery.

"I, Patrick, a sinner, a most simple countryman, the least of all the faithful and most contemptible to many...was taken captive. I was at that time about sixteen years of age. I did not, indeed, know the true God; and I was taken into captivity in Ireland with many thousands of people...And there the Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief, in order that, even so late, I might remember my transgressions and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God..." - Confession of Saint Patrick



## SAINT VERONICA

Feast: 12th July

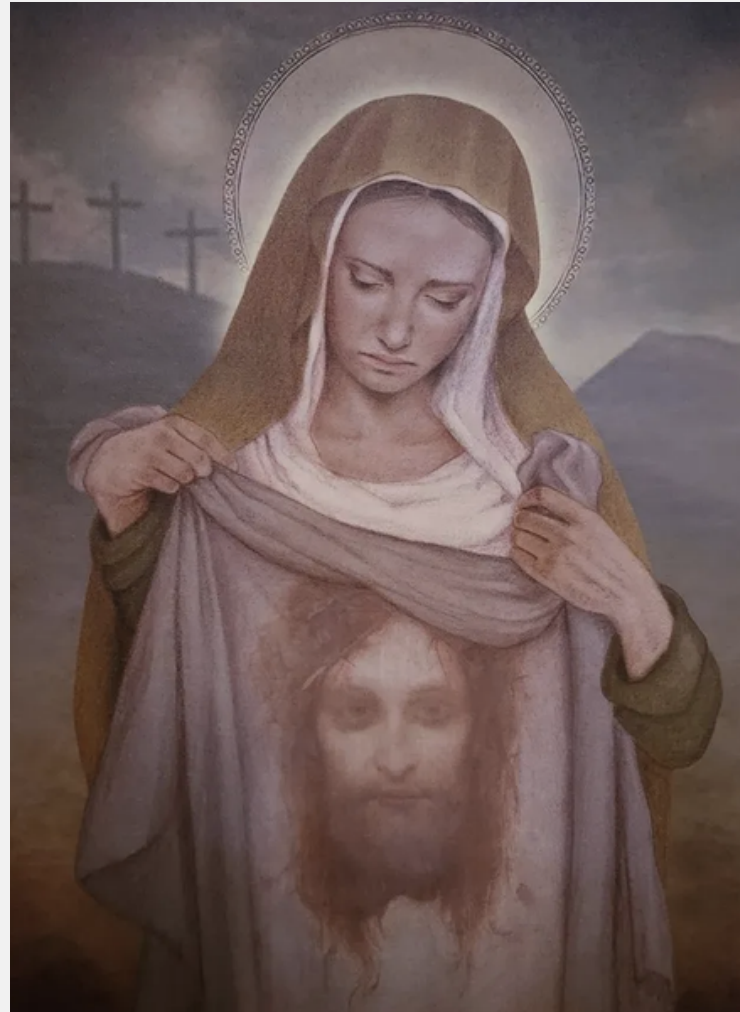
Patron Saint of French mulquiniers, laundry workers, photographers, images, photos and kindness.

Though she isn't mentioned in Scripture, pious tradition has long held the story of the compassionate woman wiping the face of Jesus whilst he carried his cross, in spite of the brutality of the Roman soldiers. The woman discovered that the portrait of Christ remained on the cloth. This is depicted in the Sixth Station of the Cross, "Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus". This cloth, known as the *Veil of Veronica* or sometimes simply the *Veronica* is displayed, in the Vatican on the 5th Sunday of Lent each year.

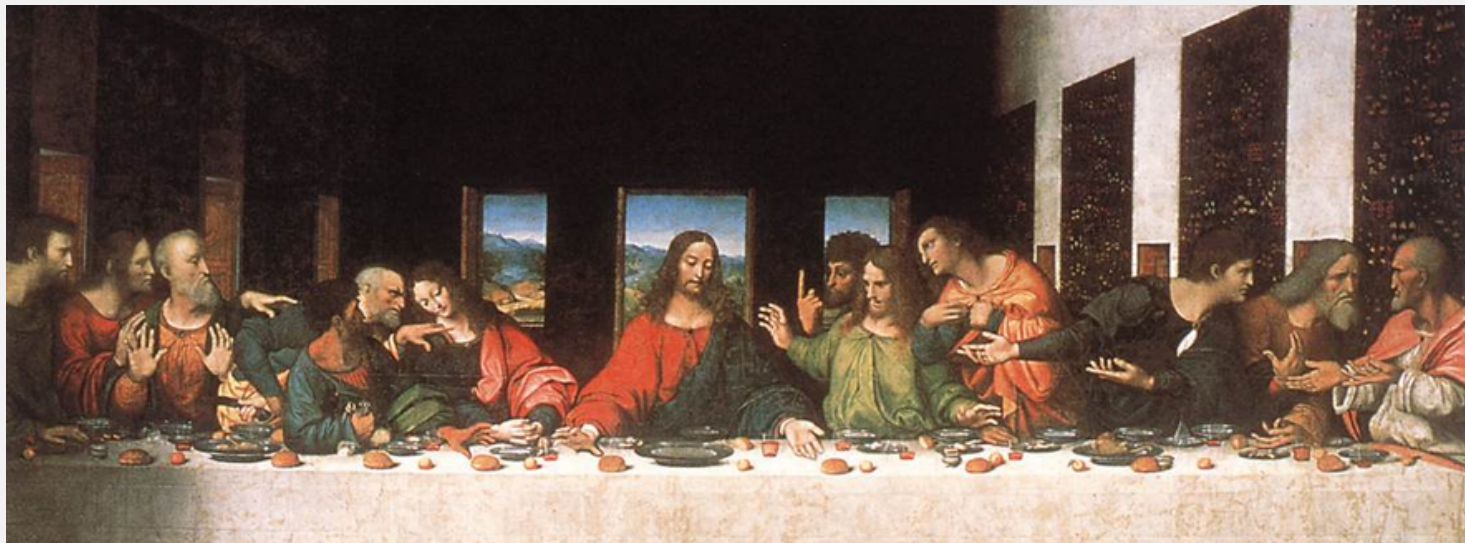
Many holy women followed Jesus to the mount of Golgotha, watching and weeping. Our Lord paused in His path toward Calvary and spoke to their hearts of the true horrors to come. He prophesied the evil that many would suffer and the sin into which many would fall. Jesus' death is painful, yes. But the greatest tragedies are yet to come when persecutions will burn so hot against believers that the resulting fire will be

like one fueled by the driest timbers. One of the holy women, Veronica, approached Jesus in silence. She removed a clean veil and carefully wiped His bloody face with it. This wordless act of love was received by Jesus with serenity. Posterity has reciprocated Veronica's small act of charity by forever blessing and honouring her holy name. - from My Catholic Life, 'Day Twenty-Six - The Holy Women and Veronica

"Veronica does not appear in the Gospels. Her name is not mentioned, even though the names of other women who accompanied Jesus do appear. It is possible, therefore, that the name refers more to what the woman did. In fact, according to tradition, on the road to Calvary a woman pushed her way through the soldiers escorting Jesus and with a veil wiped the sweat and blood from the Lord's face. That fact remained imprinted on the veil, a faithful reflection, a "true icon." This would be the reason for the name Veronica (vera icon, or true image). If this is so, the name which evokes the memory of what this woman did carries with it the deepest truth about her" - St. John Paul II, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, 21 April 2000.



*Image: Tracy Christianson's depiction of St. Veronica | photo courtesy PortraitsOfSaints.com*



# HOLY WEEK

## THE SEASON OF LENT

Bishop Greg held his final Lenten Talk at the beginning of the month. Some of our young adults in the Parish have been in attendance, where the Bishop discussed themes from St Thérèse of Lisieux on spirituality and how it is distinct and grounded in a personal experience of the Living God.

### **Palm Sunday**

Holy Week began this year on Sunday the 24th March with Palm Sunday. This is the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem. In Jesus' time it was a common custom to cover the path of someone worthy of the highest honour. The palm branch was a symbol of triumph and victory.

### **Mark 11:8-11**

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the

highest heaven!' Then He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

### **Chrism Mass**

On Monday 25th, the Chrism Mass was held in the St Carthage's Cathedral, where some of our young adults assisted as altar servers. The Chrism Mass is an important event for the whole diocese, in it, the local Church shows its care for those being initiated, those designated for the ordained ministry and those who are sick. This is where the Holy Chrism, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Oil of the Sick, for the year are blessed by the Bishop. The renewal of commitment to priestly service takes place during this Mass as well.

The use of oil in sacred rites was common in the semitic world of the Old Testament. When Aaron and his sons were consecrated as priests they were anointed (Exodus 30:22-31). Kings were anointed: Saul, David, Solomon -

either by priest or prophet (1 Samuel 16:12-13). The purpose of anointing was to dedicate a person or object as sacred in God’s service.

*Jesus, the Anointed One.* The Hebrew word for *messiah* and its Greek translation from which we derive the name *Christ* means ‘the anointed one’. At the start of His ministry, in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus attributed the words of Isaiah to Himself, ‘*The Spirit of the Lord has been given to Me, for He has anointed Me...*’ (Luke 4:18). St Peter expressed his faith that Jesus is the Messiah in the words, ‘*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*’ (Matthew 16:16).

“Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet and king. The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from the.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church para. 783)

*Anointing with Chrism.* Reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination to the priesthood and episcopacy are accompanied by anointing with the Oil of Chrism. These sacraments give a permanent, irremovable character, the seal of the Holy Spirit which lasts to eternity. They confer an intimate identity with Christ, conforming us, in the depths of our being, more closely to his person and his mission as priest, prophet and king. The anointing is the sign that a person has been chosen and consecrated to fulfil a specific role in God’s plan under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The Oil of Chrism is also used by the bishop to anoint the consecration of crosses on the walls of a church when it is consecrated and poured on an altar when it is dedicated.

*Mass of Chrism.* The blessing of oil is very

ancient, there is documented evidence of this liturgy from the fourth century, but it is certainly of earlier origin. The Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens are plain olive oil, the Oil of Chrism is perfumed with *balsam*.

*From the Diocese of Derry, Chrism Mass - Holy Thursday - St Eugene's Cathedral (2018)*



*Two of our Youth Ministers, John and Brendon, serving at the Cathedral*



# PASCHAL TRIDUUM

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The Paschal Triduum is a single liturgical celebration that spans over three days. It includes the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. In the Sacred Triduum, the Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried, and risen.

## **Maundy Thursday**

Holy Thursday's celebration begins the liturgical commemoration of the Passover (Pascha) of the Lord, the one single 'event' which advances stage by stage through Good Friday to its culmination in the Easter Vigil. In this Liturgy the Church celebrates with gratitude and devotion Christ's institution of the Holy Eucharist, and of the Priesthood which he ordained on the night of the Last Supper as the means of extending His saving work to every time and place "until He comes in glory".

The Mandatum (Maundy), or Washing of the Feet, is an ancient feature of this Liturgy, acting out the passage of the Gospel which precedes it in which Our Lord enjoins His commandment of love and is the first to illustrate it by His own example.

At the beginning of the Mass the tabernacle stands empty and open. After the Gloria the bells are silent until the Easter Vigil. Votive candles are not lit nor is holy water used until Easter Water is blessed at the Vigil. There is no final blessing or dismissal as the liturgy doesn't formally conclude, it simply pauses. The night ends with the transfer and procession of the Blessed Eucharist to the Altar of Repose.

## **John 13:1-15**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this



*One of our Youth Ministers, Brendon, serving at the Cathedral*

world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray Him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table took off His outer robe, and tied a towel around Himself. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around Him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to Him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with Me.' Simon Peter said to Him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to

wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.’ For He knew who was to betray Him; for this reason He said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’

After He had washed their feet, had put on His robe, and had returned to the table, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.



*Image: Verleugnung Jesu durch Petrus (Peter's Denial) by Carl Bloch*

### **Good Friday**

The Solemn Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

occurs on Good Friday and consists of three parts; the Liturgy of the Word, culminating in the chanting of the Passion according to St. John; the Adoration of the Cross; and reception of Holy Communion.

### **The Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ**

#### **John 18:1 - 19:42**

After Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which He and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to Him, came forward and asked them, ‘For whom are you looking?’ They answered, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus replied, ‘I am He.’ Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, ‘I am He’, they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again He asked them, ‘For whom are you looking?’ And they said, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus answered, ‘I told you that I am He. So if you are looking for Me, let these men go.’ This was to fulfil the word that He had spoken, ‘I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave Me.’ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given Me?’

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound Him. First they took Him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high

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priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and about His teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' When He had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Is that how You answer the high priest?' Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike Me?' Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of His disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.' One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with Him?' Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this Man?' They answered, 'If this Man were not a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take Him yourselves and judge Him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when He indicated the kind of death He was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked Him, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about Me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed You over to me. What have You done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If My kingdom were from this world, My followers would be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked Him, 'So You are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice.' Pilate asked Him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against Him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want Me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this Man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

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Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they dressed Him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking Him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no case against Him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the Man!' When the chief priests and the police saw Him, they shouted, 'Crucify Him! Crucify Him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take Him yourselves and crucify Him; I find no case against Him.' The Jews answered Him, 'We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has claimed to be the Son of God.'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Do You refuse to speak to me? Do You not know that I have power to release You, and power to crucify You?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over Me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' From then on Pilate tried to release Him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this Man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by Himself, He went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This Man said, I am King of the Jews."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took His tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing beside her, He said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then He said

to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, He said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, He said, 'It is finished.' Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed His body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where He was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### **Holy Saturday**

The first official celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Vigil begins with the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil, starting outside around a fire, where the Paschal Candle is blessed and lit. The Paschal Candle is left near the altar until Pentecost and is alight during liturgical celebrations. The *Exsultet*, Easter Proclamation (Paschal Praeconium) is sung and is to call the people of God to worship, to proclaim the coming of Easter, and as part of the blessing of the Paschal Candle. The Vigil also includes the Baptismal Liturgy, where the blessing of the Easter water and renewal of Baptismal Promises



*Image:* Christ and St Mary Magdalen at the Tomb by Rembrandt (1638)



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takes place. The Vigil ends with a formal dismissal and a double alleluia, this continues for the Easter Octave. The Paschal Triduum is then complete.

“Of this night’s Vigil, which is the greatest and most noble of all solemnities, there is to be only one celebration in each church. It is arranged, moreover, in such a way that after the Lucernarium and Easter Proclamation (which constitutes the first part of this Vigil), holy Church meditates on the wonders the Lord God has done for his people from the beginning, trusting in his word and promise (the second part, that is, the Liturgy of the Word) until, as day approaches, with new members reborn in Baptism (the third part), the Church is called to the table the Lord has prepared for his people, the memorial of his Death and Resurrection until he comes again (the fourth part).” - from the Roman Missal

### **Mark 16:1-7**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’



*Image:* The Empty Tomb by Mikhail Nesterov (1889)

### Easter Sunday

CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA! The empty tomb, and the neatly folded burial cloths, were signs that led the Beloved Disciple to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In the witness of the apostles, and the faithfulness, courage and love of our fellow Christians, we too have powerful signs that Christ is risen and loves among us. Observing them, our faith cries out: 'Alleluia!'

### John 20:1-9

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.'

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.



Fr Peter and parishioners at the sunrise Easter Liturgy



The Resurrection of Jesus is the fundamental event upon which Christian faith rests (cf. 1 Cor 15:14). It is an astonishing reality, fully grasped in the light of faith, yet historically attested to by those who were privileged to see the Risen Lord. It is a wondrous event which is not only absolutely unique in human history, but which lies at the very heart of the mystery of time. In fact, "all time belongs to [Christ] and all the ages", as the evocative liturgy of the Easter Vigil recalls in preparing the Paschal Candle. Therefore, in commemorating the day of Christ's Resurrection not just once a year but every Sunday, the Church seeks to indicate to every generation the true fulcrum of history, to which the mystery of the world's origin and its final destiny leads. - Apostolic Letter, *Dies Domini*, of the Holy Father John Paul II



# BISHOP GREG'S EASTER MESSAGE 2024

## Dear Brothers and Sisters

Throughout history, in every culture, humans have struggled with two questions: Why is there suffering? and, what is death? On Good Friday Jesus shares our suffering and like us dies. Amazingly the story does not end there. The next day is Holy Saturday when Jesus hovers in the space of death waiting for the Resurrection.

The Christian answer to suffering and death is Jesus Christ, and the key is Holy Saturday because the liminal experience between suffering and life is common to us all. This experience stretches us until we are able to look beyond ourselves. We recognize that we are not alone in this space. Grief and suffering open us to something greater than ourselves. We can find God, we can meet Jesus in our suffering and grief.

What seemed the end of the story opens us to life – the Resurrection.

I wish you a happy and blessed Easter.

*Bishop Greg*

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*“That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me.” - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8*

# WHAT'S ON



## Parish Mass Times

Ballina St Francis Xavier Church

- Saturday Vigil– 5.30 pm
- Sunday – 9.00 am
- Sunday – 11.00 am
- Tuesday to Friday - 12:00 noon

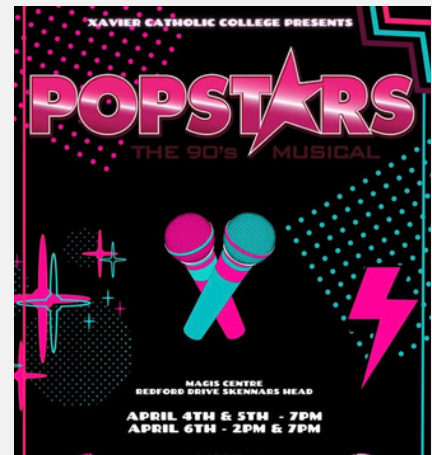
Lennox Head Holy Family Church

- Sunday –7.30 am

Reconciliation is 9:00am Saturdays at the Ballina St Francis Xavier Church

## Xavier College Musical - Youth Group

Members of our Parish Youth Group will be performing in the upcoming Musical, Popstars! Set in the late 90s, Popstars! follows the journey of two groups of high school students who enter a talent show. The prize? A recording contract, and impressing an international superstar. We are excited to see them perform.



## Abide - Young Adult Retreat

Our Young Adults are getting ready to attend the Abide retreat in Lismore next month where they will receive spiritual formation with Bishop Gregory Homeming OCD. This event will be held from the 12 April, 6 PM to 14 April, 1 PM at Invercauld House, 163 Invercauld Road, Goonellabah, 2480, NSW.

## Aspire - Young Adults (18-35 years)

Bishop Greg's monthly young adult spiritual formation begins again next month. The first meeting will be Wednesday 24th April in Lismore, 5:30-6:30pm. We encourage everyone to try attend in person, but if you are unable to there is a zoom link you can join:

<https://lismorecatholic.zoom.us/j/2996657662?omn=82183637889>

Zoom Meeting ID: 299 665 7662

For more information, contact: [youth@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@lismore.catholic.org.au) or 02 6626 0253



The emotional, physical and spiritual well-being and dignity of all people is an integral part of the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Lismore is committed and dedicated to safeguarding all those within our community, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Diocese of Lismore is committed to fostering communities of safety and care. We acknowledge our legal, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to care for - and uphold the dignity and rights of - children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

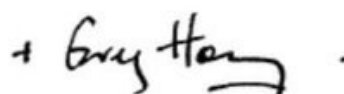
The Diocese of Lismore has;

1. a zero tolerance to the abuse or neglect of children, young people or vulnerable adults and commits to acting in their best interests at all times;
2. established a policy and developed a range of procedures that work together to protect, and, where required, to respond immediately and compassionately to any harm, or risk of harm; and
3. safeguarding procedures and practices underpinned by legislation – ensuring ongoing compliance, accountability and transparency in all ministries undertaken by the Church.

Creating safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by parishes, schools, families and communities. Safe environments are marked by collaboration, vigilance and a proactive approach to safeguarding. Workers have a responsibility to safeguard children, young people and the vulnerable through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment. All workers, including clergy, employees and volunteers are to be educated as to their responsibilities to undertake their roles in a way that enhances a safe and caring environment.



**BISHOP of LISMORE**  
— GREGORY HOMEMING OCD —



19<sup>th</sup> May, 2020



# Diocese of Lismore

is committed to implementing the Child Safe Standards



## STANDARD 1

Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture



## STANDARD 3

Families and communities are informed and involved



## STANDARD 2

Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

## STANDARD 4

Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account



## STANDARD 5

People working with children are suitable and supported



## STANDARD 6

Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focused



## STANDARD 7

Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training



## STANDARD 8

Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur



## STANDARD 9

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved



## STANDARD 10

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe

For more information on the Child Safe Standards visit [www.ocg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ocg.nsw.gov.au)



Office of the Children's Guardian



# SUPPORT SERVICES



care | protect | act

**Child Protection Hotline**  
**13 21 11 (24 hours/7 days)**

**NSW Police Emergency**  
**000 (24 hours/7 days)**

**NSW Victims Access Line: 1800 633 063**

**NSW Victims Support Scheme:**  
[www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au](http://www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au)  
Counselling, financial support and a recognition payment to victims of a violent crime in NSW.

**Child Wise**  
**1800 991 099**

Phone and online counselling for all forms of childhood abuse - [www.childwise.org.au](http://www.childwise.org.au)



**Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636**

Information and support for mental health.  
[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)



**Headspace:** Free counselling services to help young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health) alcohol and other drug services - [headspace.org.au/](http://headspace.org.au/)



**Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800.**  
24/7 phone and online counselling for young people aged 5-25.  
[www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)



**Lifeline: 13 11 14**  
Crisis support 24/7.  
[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)



**Link Up NSW**  
**Aboriginal Corporation**  
**1800 624 332**

(not available to mobiles) or **02 9421 4700**. Counselling, healing and culturally appropriate support for Indigenous Australians - [www.linkupNSW.org.au](http://www.linkupNSW.org.au)



**MensLine Australia**  
**1300 789 978**  
Phone/online support.  
[www.mensline.org.au](http://www.mensline.org.au)



**Youth Beyond Blue**  
**1300 224 636**  
Information and support for young people about issues associated with mental health conditions.  
[www.youthbeyondblue.com](http://www.youthbeyondblue.com)



## ABUSE OF ELDERLY / DISABLED

**NSW ageing and disability Abuse Hotline**  
**1800 628 221**

## BULLYING

**Bullying No Way:**  
[bullyingnoway.gov.au/](http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/)



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Domestic Violence Line: 1800 656 463**

**1800 Respect: 1800 737 732**  
[www.1800respect.org.au/](http://www.1800respect.org.au/)



**Services Australia**  
[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/family-and-domestic-violence](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/family-and-domestic-violence)



## ONLINE SAFETY

**eSafety Guide: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>**



## SEXUAL ABUSE

**NSW Rape Crisis: 1800 424 017**  
Health Sexual Assault Services.  
[www.health.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/)

**Sexual Assault Counselling Australia**  
**1800 211 028.** Telephone counselling.  
[www.sexualassaultcounselling.org.au](http://www.sexualassaultcounselling.org.au)

**Bravehearts Inc**  
**1800 272 831**

Advice and support to those affected by sexual assault.  
[www.bravehearts.org.au](http://www.bravehearts.org.au)



**Blue Knot Foundation**  
**1300 657 380.** For adult survivors of child abuse. [blueknot.org.au](http://blueknot.org.au)



**Survivors and Mates Support Network**  
**1800 472 676.**

For male survivors of childhood sexual abuse and their families.  
[www.sexualassaultcounselling.org.au](http://www.sexualassaultcounselling.org.au)



**Interrelate: 1300 473 528**  
Counselling and support for those affected by institutional child sexual abuse. [www.interrelate.org.au](http://www.interrelate.org.au)



## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**Sexual harassment | SafeWork NSW**  
[www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/sexual-harassment](http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/sexual-harassment)



ballina

MAGAZINE

parish

# NEOTĒS

