The Miraculous Medal Association Australia

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Bulletin No 29 Issue No. 1

Easter 2025

Incorporating AMM Sydney, New South Wales & AMM Adelaide, South Australia

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Easter Reflection 2025

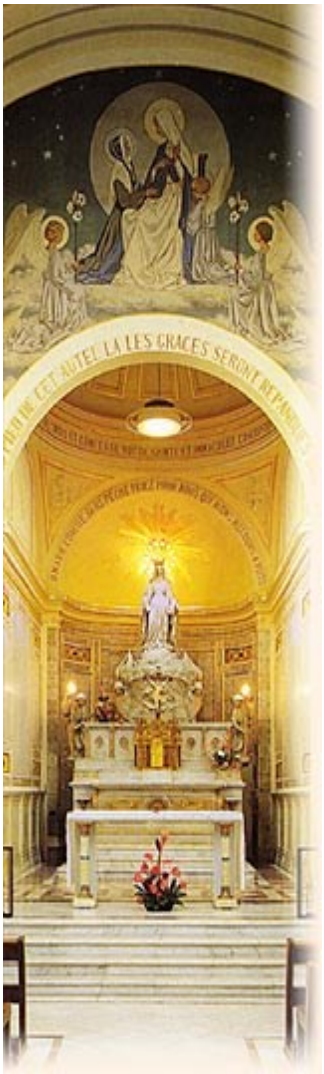
By Fr Kevin Canty, CM (National Director)

Death for Jesus was no different from death for any of us. It meant the end of the kind of presence that his disciples knew. No longer could they see him, touch him, or be touched by him. The "*He is not here*", that we hear at this time raises the question, *"where is He?"* And our faith answers, he is at the heart of the mystery of life. As Jesus himself said, "*God is God not of the dead, but of the living"* (Luke 20:38). Wherever God is, Jesus is, and since God is everywhere, Jesus is still present among us though mysteriously beyond our empirical experience.

Hence the call to remain alert (Luke 12:37), and *"to stand up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near"*.

Women at the Empty Tomb
Fra Angelico, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

This may explain the irony of the response of the women. Instead of raising their heads, they 'bowed their faces to the ground'. They are not expecting redemption. This is something they were invited to believe. The women themselves could not see for themselves, *'that He has risen'*. This is something which they were invited to believe. Jesus himself had told them it would be so, and they could find indications of it, in the sacred writings of their tradition.



The women, the first missionaries of the Resurrection, tell the eleven and all the rest (i.e. the apostles) but no one believes them. Luke does not present the empty tomb as a proof of the resurrection. The women are simply 'perplexed', and the others do not believe. The empty tomb, however, raises a question. It is a reminder of what Jesus himself hoped for. And it prepared the women. And it can prepare us to be vigilant. So that when the risen Jesus comes to us, we will be open to his presence and his call. If we are vigilant, we will see him when he comes. Let us conclude here with part of a reflection by Fr Ron Rolheiser, OMI, about the "Resurrection".

> *"The challenge of living this out is not just that of believing that Jesus rose physically from the grave but also, and perhaps even more importantly, to believe that no matter our age, mistakes, betrayals, wounds, and deaths, we can begin each day afresh. No matter what we have done; our future is forever pregnant with wonderful new possibilities. Resurrection is not just a question of one day after death, rising from the dead. But it is also about daily rising from the many mini graves, within which we often find ourselves. We are human and we cannot avoid falling into depression, bitterness, sin, betrayal, cynicism, and the tiredness that comes with age. Like Jesus, we too will have our crucifixions. More than one grave awaits us. Yet our faith in the Resurrection invites us precisely to live beyond these. The resurrection teaches us not how to live – but how to live again, and again, and again!*

Daybreak Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter, page 63

Resurrection of Christ
Michel Corneille the Elder, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

Easter blessings to everyone!
May this sacred season bring us renewed faith, love, and unity!

AMM Flores de Mayo 2025

Statue of Our Lady of Grace (Miraculous Medal) in the Philippines
Swarm Cheng, Public domain via Wikimedia Commons

Join us for a special event, '***Flores de Mayo'***, in honouring Our Blessed Mother. We will commence with a beautiful procession around the church, offering prayers, flowers, and saying the Holy Rosary. This will then lead to the first Saturday of the month Miraculous Medal novena mass inside the church.

- Date 3rd May 2025, Saturday
- Time 9:40 a.m.
- Place St Anthony's Church ,54 Agincourt Road, Marsfield, NSW

Bring your family, flower offering, prayers and share in this sacred and meaningful celebration! Light refreshments to follow after the novena mass. All are welcome.