



BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD'S EASTER MESSAGE 2025



My dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we journeyed together through Lent, I invited you to embrace an inner turning towards God—not just external actions—so we might find ourselves open-hearted when

Holy Week arrived. Now I ask you, are you ready to receive the gift of Easter?

Now is the time to lay aside the garments of sorrow and penance we have worn throughout Lent so that the peace and joy of the risen Lord will fill our hearts today as we celebrate his victory over sin and death. Now is the time for our homes and communities to resound with our Easter song: the Lord is truly risen, alleluia!

On that first Easter Sunday morning when the women were dismayed by the empty tomb, two men in brilliant clothes appeared and said to them, *“Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?”* (Luke 24:1-12) Herein, we find a powerful lesson for us this Easter. My dear sisters and brothers, remember what he told you!

Memory plays a powerful role in the Scriptures. For the Jewish people, remembering the promises and actions of God—like the rescue of the Israelites from Egypt—was not simply calling to mind fond memories, but making them present. In the same way, Jesus did this by instituting the Eucharist, making his body and blood truly present. God’s saving action in the past, promises

of a future full of hope, and pledge to care for us here and now, are truths we can make present at all times, especially when we feel sorrow or distance from God. And yet, so often, we forget to remember.

In this Jubilee Year, the gift of Easter takes on a particular character: we are called to remember our sacred hope in Jesus and his promises. Death is not the end and does not have the final word. We can trust in his love and mercy. My dear sisters and brothers, we can have hope. The *gift* of the Jubilee Year may be the generous and merciful offer of indulgences, but the *joy* of the Year is drawing close to God and remembering that he has not, and will not, abandon us—now or ever.

And so, on this blessed day, may our hearts be genuinely open so that the truth may dwell richly in us. Though we stand before an empty tomb, may we hear the words of the angels: “Remember what he told you!” And may we **remember hope**—Hope that holds us yesterday, today and forever. Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

With every blessing,

*+ Brian Mascord*

**Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD**  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG



*Easter 2025*