

#### One man can change the world

One way to think about the significance of an event, whether big small, is to consider what things would be like if the event had never occurred. You compare actual life with a hypothetical "what if" alternative scenario. In the long history of the Church no conversion has been more consequential than St. Paul's. What if St. Paul had remained a zealous Jew? What if he had never converted? Never wrote one letter? Never travelled the sea on missionary voyages? It can safely be assumed that the world itself, not just the Church, would look different than it does today. It's impossible to say. The global scale of the effects of Paul's conversion speaks to the significance of his conversion.

Some conversions are dramatic, some are instantaneous, and some are gradual. Augustine heard a boy in a garden repeating "Take and Read" and knew the time had come. Saint Francis of Assisi heard Christ say from the cross "Rebuild My Church" and responded with his life. The details of Paul's conversion are well known. He was thrown from his horse on the road to Damascus and Paul heard the voice of Jesus: "Why are you persecuting me?" Not "Why are you persecuting my followers." Jesus and the Church are clearly one. To persecute the Church is to persecute Christ. Jesus is the head and the Church is his body. To love Jesus is to love the Church and vice versa. The Church is not just a vehicle to carry God's revelation. The Church is actually part of God's revelation.

Paul's conversion teaches us that when Jesus comes to us, He doesn't come alone. He comes with His angels, saints, priests, and bishops. He comes with Mary, the sacraments, doctrine, and devotions. He comes with the Church because He and the Church are one. And when we go to the Lord we don't go alone either. We go as members of a Church into whose mystical body we were baptized. Thus St. Paul heard from God Himself, and thus we believe today.

Fr Subin Thomas, Your Parish Priest

We acknowledge and pay respect to the land and the traditional families of the Yugambeh region of South East Queensland, including the Kombumerri, Mununjali, Wangerriburra and others, and their Elders past present and emerging.



24 Tobruk Street, Beenleigh, Q 4207 P O Box 84, Beenleigh, Q 4207 Phone 3287 2282 or 3287 5633 Fax: 3287 2472, Office hrs: 8.30am - 1.30pm beenleigh@bne.catholic.net.au www.stpatricksbeenleigh.com.au

# Jesus and the Big Bang



Recently NASA launched the *James Webb Space Telescope* into space, the biggest and most expensive telescope ever built. It will take six months for it to find its permanent place in space, and then start transmitting pictures back to earth. The hope is that it will see to the very ends of our still expanding universe, right to the first particles that issued forth from the original explosion, *the Big Bang*, that began time and our universe.

Scientists estimate that our universe began 13.7 billion years ago. Prior to that there was nothing in existence, except for God. Then, out of this seeming nothingness, there was an explosion (*the Big Bang*) of which everything in the universe including our planet formed. When investigators try to determine the cause of an explosion, they are particularly interested in examining those pieces that were most closely tied to the original force of the explosion.

The force of *the Big Bang* is still going on and the *James Webb Space Telescope* hopes to see some of the original parts. By seeing and examining them, science hopes to better understand the origins of our universe.

Looking at the excitement scientists feel and their hopes that it will show us pictures of particles from the beginning of time, can help us understand why the Evangelist, John, has trouble restraining his enthusiasm when he talks about Jesus in his first Epistle. He is excited because Jesus was there at the beginning of the universe, indeed at the beginning of everything.

Let me risk paraphrasing the beginning of the First Epistle of John (1, 1-4) as he might have written it for our generation vis-a-vis our curiosity about the origins of our universe:

You need to understand of whom and what I am speaking:

Jesus wasn't just some extraordinary person who performed a few miracles or even who rose from the dead.

We are speaking of someone who was there at the very origins of creation,

who himself is the foundation for that creation, who was with God when "the Big Bang" occurred, and even before that.

Incredibly, we actually got to see him in the flesh, with human eyes,

the God who created "the Big Bang", walking among us! We actually touched him bodily.

We actually spoke with him and listened to him speak, he who was there at the origins of our universe, there when "the Big Bang" took place!

Indeed, he is the One who pulled the switch to set it off, with a plan in mind as to where it should go, a plan that includes us.

Excuse my exuberance, but

we got to walk and talk with someone who was there at the beginning of time.



There are different kinds of knowledge and different kinds of wisdom, along with different avenues for accessing each of them. Science is one of those avenues, an important one. For many people theology and religion are at odds. That was a tragic mistake since science has the same founder and same intent as theology and religion. Theology and religion have been wrong whenever they have sought to undercut science's importance or its claims to truth. Sadly, science has often viewed theology and religion as a foe rather than as a colleague. The two need each other, not least in understanding the origins and intent of our universe.

How do we understand the origins and intent of our universe? Science and Jesus. Science is probing those origins in the interest of telling us how it happened and how it is unfolding, while Jesus (who was there when it happened) is more interested in telling us why it happened and what it means.

RonRolheiser, OMI www.ronrolheiser.com, Submitted by Terry O'Shea

### Christmas Memories

St Patrick's had a wonderful Christmas program celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Fr Subin made such a great effort with the Children's Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve, followed by the Youth Mass at 8am and Carols at 11:30 and concluding with Midnight Mass at 12am. On Christmas Day Fr Subin celebrated Masses at 7am and 9am. It was a sterling effort!

Thank you so much!

The Parish Council also organised an inaugural Christmas Carol celebration at St Joseph's School

Hall. It was a very memorable night which highlighted the width of talent we have in the parish.

Fr Subin opened the proceedings with a prayer and the CLOW group followed by singing 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' and this was followed by St Patrick's Adult Choir. The Youth group combined with the Youth for Christ for a wonderful performance.

The evening had a multicultural flair with the Fijian group singing in the Rotuman language. For Jesus Youth Australia sang in the Malayam language, from Kerala, India and the Couples for Christ entertained us in Tagalog language, Philippines.

The multicultural flavour was also present in the delicious supper cooked and donated by parishioners and organised by the Parish Council. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the success of the evening. It is hoped that this can become a regular annual event.



#### Bequests to the Parish

Should any Parishioner be considering making a financial bequest to St. Patrick's Parish, such a bequest must be included in your Last Will and Testament.

There is an exactly worded statement required to be used when making such a bequest. This exact statement can be obtained from the Parish Office.

#### Disclaimer

The views, opinions and comments expressed in the Bugle are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Roman Catholic Archdioceses of Brisbane, the Catholic Parish of St Patrick's Parish Beenleigh, or any other agency, organisation or company.





# Fruits of first Plenary Council Assembly published

The fruits of the first general assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia have been gathered in a new report that contains dozens of proposals to shape the ongoing Council journey....

The document published today reveals the directions of the small groups discernment and offers them as a basis for the ongoing preparation for the second assembly. "These dozens of pages cannot come close to capturing all that was shared in the



assembly, but there is great richness in what is contained, including the many proposals the small groups and individual members have put before us." Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costello SDB said.

Archbishop Costello said the first assembly was "inspiring, challenging and sometimes unsettling" for the members. The report, as much as possible, "retains the original voice of those who spoke, without attempts to produce a harmonised or homogenous account". "This is another document in our years-long journey that can help carry forward the hopes of the members of the Council and, indeed, the hopes of the People of God across the country,"

The proposals already put forward will be used to identify thematic focuses for the second general assembly of the Council in July 2022. The Council's drafting committee, supported by expert theologians and other contributors, will lead that work. Final versions of the propositions, which will form the agenda for the second assembly, are expected to be published in June. Reflection, praver and conversation will precede final discernment and voting at the second assembly.

Plenary Council members have this week begun their reflections on the document and its proposals, and the wider Catholic community can now commence its own prayer and discernment on the report. Archbishop Costello suggested one way that could happen is through the local consultation phase of the Synod of Bishops, which is considering how the Church is "journeying together" to announce the Gospel.

"The complementary nature of the Plenary Council and this Synod of Bishops process is quite clear, and I encourage people to be as engaged with the Synod as they have been in the Plenary Council," he said.

Archbishop Costello asked the People of God to continue to keep the Plenary Council in their prayers - as they have done for the past four years or more. "We are very mindful of all those who have trusted us to carry their hopes and dreams with us," he said. "I am confident that we will continue to walk together as we share our experience of the first assembly and as we reflect together on the ever present and pressing question: what do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

Access document: https://bit.ly/PCAssembly1Final Dec 9, 2021 by ACBC Communications.



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St Vincent De Paul Society—St Patrick's Conference Beenleigh

#### VINNIES HOUSE UPDATE:

As at today, Tuesday 18 January, the removal and demolition of our home for more than 30 years, has finally commenced. Removal should be complete by the time you read this edition of The Bugle.

#### FUND RAISING:

#### CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

Yet again we have had a marvelous response to our yearly Christmas Appeal. Total raised is \$ 5716.15. This total includes donations from our parishioners, non-parishioners, Trinity College, St Joseph's Primary School and Mother Teresa Primary School. A large part of this money was used to provide 40 Christmas Hampers which



St Vinnies building being transported to its new home

were delivered to families in need with the help of our members and a number of members of your Parish Council. Thankyou everyone for your generosity and time.

#### BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLES:

We conducted our third fund raiser at Bunnings Bethania on Saturday 15 January. Despite a number of volunteers unable to help due to Covid isolation, we still managed to get through the day and realised a profit in excess of \$1000. Thankyou to all the helpers.

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organization that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy and working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

St Patrick's Conference here in Beenleigh is a small community which constitutes the front line of the Society. We cover a huge area and need new members in order to adequately respond to the ever growing demand for our services.

Our Conference needs people to carry out face-to-face interviews, home visitations and visits to those who are socially isolated.

**TIME COMMITMENT** - As little as 2 or 3 hours per week. Induction and training will be provided.

#### BENEFITS TO YOU.

- \*A chance to make a difference in people's lives.
- \*Meaningful social action.
- \*Opportunities and development.
- \*Connections with like-minded people.

#### **READY TO INSPIRE CHANGE?**

For more information please contact:

Regional President BRUCE LAKER 041119631 <u>bruce.laker@svdpqld.org.au</u> OR Diocesan President JOHN BLAKE. 041196775 john.blake@svdpqld.org.au John Maksimas



# Praying with Children

At a young age, children are like sponges and will soak up what we teach them about our Catholic Faith and foster a living relationship with God.

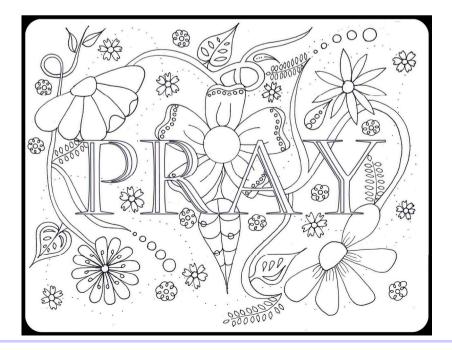
Teaching children how to pray and communicate with God is an essential part of Catholic parenthood. We can be both a model and a participant and help guide our children to become aware of the presence of God already around and in them.

**Make prayer a part of each day**. Have a Family Prayer Time and create a sacred space by inviting the children to focus on the presence of God. Begin by leading the children in praying the Sign of the Cross. Speak slowly, deliberately, and reverently.

**It takes time and practice**. Each family member can take turns saying the prayers out loud. Allow each child to pray for intentions and what they are thankful for. If the child does not know what to pray for, you can ask a question or two to prompt him or her. Be patient, listen and guide them gently.

**Be an example** When you pray with your children, they will see you praying and hear your prayers, which will give them an idea of what to pray for and how to pray.

**Help children to memorise prayers.** As part of our beautiful Catholic Faith, we have numerous prayers to God and you can start helping your children to memorise them. Simply saying these prayers during your daily family prayer time can help them to do this.



# Praying with Children

#### Top 10 Catholic Prayers to teach children:

Our Father Hail Mary Glory Be Prayer to St Michael Guardian Angel Prayer Table Blessing or Grace Before Meals Act of Contrition Fatima Prayer Memorare St Patrick's Breastplate

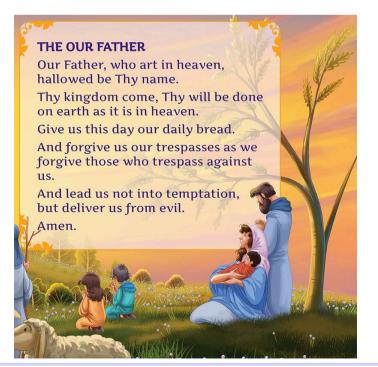


Here is another useful resource link from Loyola Press: <u>https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/prayer/</u>childrens-prayers/

St Patrick's Parish conducts Children's Liturgy of the

Word (CLOW) during the 9.00am Sunday Mass. The Liturgy is facilitated by volunteer members of the parish community for children in the congregation using a more structured approach approved by the Parish Priest. If you would like to be involved, please contact Clodelia Zarate at 0417 353 018 or email <u>clodelia.zarate@gmail.com</u>

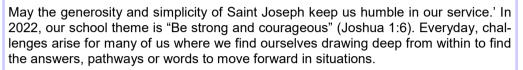
CLOW will recommence on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2022. *Clodelia Zarate* 



# St Joseph Tobruk Primary School

St Joseph's Tobruk is a place where all learn to grow together in Courage, Faith and Love. Together, we serve the school and wider community, grounded in the charisms of our co-founders to inspire future generations to create a preferred, hope-filled future.

United in this mission 'may the spirit of Saint Mary MacKillop infiltrate our hearts and transform us. May the courage and camaraderie of the Rats of Tobruk embolden us to face the challenges that lie ahead and give character and depth to our friendships.



We may find ourselves in situations where we need guidance and wisdom to move forward or where hurt and anger stand in the way of progress. It could be that we need to stop, be still and open to the grace and presence of God in our lives. We can choose to be closed, hide and walk away from these challenges or find the strength and courage that can inspire and transform those we serve and meet along the way, including ourselves. We look forward to sharing snippets of our journey with you throughout the year.

Kathryn O'Toole, Acting APRE—St Joseph Tobruk Primary

# Why a Catholic Education

Your child's education should not be the same as their classmates. Why? Your child has unique gifts and deserves teachers who seek opportunities for progress, every school day.

Catholic schools offer this and more by not only pursuing academic excellence but excellence in all pursuits.

Of course, academic achievement is important in every school. However, academic achievement alone does not define success in our world.

Your child's education should not only be measured by tests and scores. Teachers in Catholic schools know a ranking upon graduation is not the sole definition of your child's success.

Their education should also be filled with encouragement and wonderment; where their heart sings with joy, every school day.

It should be an education that prepares them to walk gently in an increasingly complex world. And a Catholic education creates a life of purpose, kindness, honesty and compassion.

Catholic schools partner with parents to:

- Teach faith-based, lifelong learning that engages the whole person.
- Encourage every child to pursue academic excellence, plus excellence in all pursuits, so they realise their God-given potential.

Nurture the gifts of each child, encouraging them to follow and live the teachings of Jesus. *www.bne.catholic.edu.au/aboutus/Pages/Why-a-Catholic-School.aspx* 



### Sagrada Famílía

La Sagrada Familia is an absolutely breathtaking church, a minor basilica, devoted to the Holy Family and located in Barcelona, Spain. The architect behind it is Antoni Gaudí a world-renowned architect with masterpieces throughout Barcelona.

It has been under construction since 1882 and when Gaudí died in 1926, only a quarter of the basilica was completed. Although Gaudí spent his last few years dedicated to the project, it couldn't be finished during his lifetime. 2026 is its estimated completion date, but this will almost certainly be extended due to delays caused by Covid.

The picture to the right shows the Star of Bethlehem on top of the Virgin Mary Spire which was completed in November 2021 and was officially "lit" at a special Mass at the basilica on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Gaudí's original design called for a total of eighteen spires, representing in ascending order of height the Twelve Apostles, the Virgin

Mary, the four Evangelists and, tallest of all, Jesus Christ. Nine spires have been built as of 2021, the Virgin Mary spire being one of them.

During the early days of construction, Gaudí built a school on the site for the children of construction workers to attend while their fathers spent their days and nights building one of the most magnificent structures in Europe. The school is now the site of an exhibition on the Sagrada Familia.

La Sagrada Familia was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984, because of its unique architecture and Gaudí's ability to create something so innovative and artistic.

The picture shows a view of the Sagrada Familia from Plaça de Gaudi, from August, 2017. (The construction cranes have been digitally removed.)

When construction first began on La Sagrada Familia, it was understood to be a simple Roman Catholic church. Later on, it was designated as a cathedral, and then in 2010, Pope Benedict XVI declared it a basilica, a great honour for the building and the people of Barcelona.

Source: Dr Google John Maksimas & Monica Boucek



Star of Bethlehem on top of the Virgin Mary spire



The Sagrada Familia from Plaça de Gaudi, Barcelona, Catalonia, August 24, 2017. The cranes have been digitally removed.

# Family Scribbles

Food is my love language. I love to cook, I love to eat, and I love to share a meal with people I love. My strongest memories always involve food. Be it having fresh crab that dad caught at the beach with two minute noodles while on holiday, or having a lamb shank pie at a cozy pub in NZ with my husbands family. Food is my happy place.

So while my twins aren't picky eaters as such, when I started feeding my twins solids it was a wild rollercoaster of emotions for me. I'd pour my heart and soul into their meals only for them to spit it out and refuse it (unless I smothered in plain yoghurt- hooray for safe foods). It's taken us three years to get to a point where I've finally taken on board the idea that it's my job to cook, and it's their job to decide whether to eat and how much.

Just recently I made a meal of lamb shank rendang. Anything with marrow is my absolute favourite and I'll fight anyone for it; but that night I offered it to my kids. They thought they were super special getting such a big bone and the look of delight on their faces as they discovered the joy of eating the bone made my heart explode.

We give up so much for our kids- our time, our sleep, our sanity (because who hasn't lost it after listening to Old MacDonald for the hundredth hour?), but seeing those little moments of pure delight make it all worth it.

I often wonder what moments of pure delight made it worth it for Our Blessed Mary raising the Jesus? I honestly wish she'd kept some sort of diary about raising him! Was he cheeky like my twins when I repeatedly ask them not to eat egg shells!! Or dramatic like mine when you tell them you can't make anymore rice just because they ate it all. Oh, the stories she could have shared! I have no doubt in my mind though that she'd just as easily give up the best part of the meal to her son, because that's just what you do when you love someone. You give them the best part of the meal, so that they know your love them more than anything. More than the marrow of a lamb shank.

Erica Ng Philips



James & Oliver enjoying their lamb shanks

# The Power of Thoughts

Our daily thoughts we chose to focus on, will affect the way we feel. We can't always choose our circumstances, however our choice lies in what perspective we choose to have in every situation. A positive self-talk approach can help to boost your self-esteem, allow you to solve problems and think differently, reducing the effects of stress and anxiety.

We can teach ourselves to pull ourselves up for unhelpful thinking and instead practice to praise and worship through our circumstances:

"This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it" psalm 118:24 "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" 1 Thessalonians 5:18. It's amazing how your feelings can turn around or at least alter when we move forward with a grateful heart and try to instead focus on goodness.

Marleine Azar



#### POWER OF THOUGHTS

Watch your thoughts, for they become words.

Watch your words, for they become actions.

Watch your actions, for they become habits.

Watch your habits, for they become character

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

-Anonymous

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# PRE ARRANGED FUNERAL PLANS AVAILABLE

Dear Parishioners,

The Bugle needs a new facelift!

Instead of employing someone to redesign the Bugle's Front and Back pages, it has been decided that we can run a design contest in our Parish.

Prizes:

Coles Voucher - \$100 (Winner) Coles Voucher - \$50 (Runner up)

Submit a design and you could win a Coles gift voucher and your design will be used in future editions of the Bugle. Open to Parishioners of St Patrick's Beenleigh, One entry per person.

More details coming soon, keep an eye on the Newsletter and Facebook page.

The purpose; to create a different type of community event and maybe we'll find a designer in the parish for future projects.



Short prayer before starting work

O Lord,

Meet me today in the ordinary rhythms of my working life. I invite you to come and breathe your life into mine.

Come, may your love fill this heart and may it overflow into the lives of others. May your hope well up inside me and bring new vision for my life. And may your truth light up my reactions and decisions.

May this ordinary day become extraordinary because of you.

Amen.



# St Patrick's Australia Day Mass

Today we celebrate Australia Day. It marks the date of the arrival of the first European settlers in Australia.

The liturgy marks Australia's national day with prayers seeking God's blessing on all its peoples and commending its destiny into God's hands.

There are some people in our country who believe that this day marks the end of freedom and sovereignty of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The diversity of culture in this great crucible which we call Australia, has the opportunity to build on the foundations of our rich history, stretching back over 65,000 years. It is a time for us to figuratively embrace each other, and continue to develop the great Aussie spirit of a 'fair go' for all.

At the same time, for newcomers pitching their tent here in Australia, it is a time to review lifestyle, and leave behind the tensions experienced in their motherlands, to share their stories and to listen to ours. It would seem to me that these are the build-ing blocks towards true and honest Reconciliation.

An Extract from Fr Subin's Australia Day homily, 26 January 2022



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When a family experiences the heartache and difficulty of the loss of a loved one, funeral arrangements can be a stressful time for everyone involved. Organising for a prepaid funeral can lighten some of that burden and relieve your family in a time of sorrow.

#### Planning for the future is a prudent approach

Nobody likes to think about it, but the fact remains that we are only on this earth for a short time. Pre-arranging a funeral is no different from saving for a holiday or putting money away for an investment. Pre-planning a funeral is a logical and sensitive way to ensure your passing can be celebrated with as little stress possible on the ones who love you. Our professional and helpful funeral director can guide you in completing the appropriate paperwork – nothing morbid or sad, just like filling out a will – practical, sensible and easy.

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### From the Parish!



There are lots of things happening around the church. The St Vinnies house has been removed and there are plans in place to build a church hall in its place.

Fr Subin is having the part of the garden facing Tobruk Street redeveloped. The intention is to create a great area for us to assemble after Mass and when we have refreshments after special occasions.

The big trees had to be removed as they had big systems of surface roots, which could not be removed without making the trees unstable. The new saplings from the surface roots kept popping up, which would have been bad for the new lawn. There were water problems as well, with water pooling in places and rain water running into the concreted entry area. These problems made it necessary to remove the vegetation, including root systems and level the ground, before laying new turf.

The corner garden in the carpark is also being revamped as the vegetation was encroaching on the last

car parking spot. With the vegetation removed the Parish Anniversary wall painting is now visible for all to enjoy. The idea is to attempt planting flowering plants that can be used to decorate the church.

Father Subin wants to refresh our church grounds and if anyone has skills and/or interest in gardening and have the time to help, please let Fr Subin know.

Monica Boucek



Denise and Theresa reviewing the gardening progress. The entire Anniversary painting visible in the background.



Mondays	7am Mass
Tuesdays	7am Mass
Thursdays	7am Mass
Fridays	7am Mass
	8—11am Adoration
Saturdays	8am Mass & Novena
	6pm Mass
Sundays	7am Mass
	9am Mass
	6pm Mass

