

Parish Bugle

Issue 36,
March, 2022



A Hopeful Easter Message

For me personally, the Easter period this year is quite distinct. Heading into this Easter, it was hard to imagine rejoicing. I kept wondering instead, what is this world coming to? Lenten days were full of ominous news. Torrential rain and flood waters have impacted communities across south-east Queensland and NSW. The Russian invasion has devastated several Ukrainian cities, triggered a humanitarian crisis and fuelled insecurity around the world.

The world is coming to a place like the world into which Our Lord was born. Politicians were not "for the people". Babies were killed, thousands of civilians died, refugee crisis accelerated and all that affecting the global economy. It was into a world like ours that Jesus was born. It was a world like ours, with all its sin and fears and horror, that he took on his shoulders so it could be nailed to a cross. And it was a world like ours that woke up Easter morning to the startling, amazing news that none of the horror of the preceding days had any permanent power at all.

The death of Jesus is a death in struggle and pain. His sacrifice renews our lives. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). On Easter Sunday, every time we remember Jesus' blood and sacrifice, we remember that we are new creatures. Our tired souls are refreshed by his grace. Our old perspectives are renewed by his love. God does not promise a new world or new reality. Rather, God gives us a new perspective to seeing reality.

It is my prayer that in the midst of political and similar situations constantly fraught with uncertainty and tension, the Easter message of hope and a new reality in Jesus Christ will help to heal the heart-breaking situations around us.

*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.



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Q&A - Religious Freedom, Free speech, & the Federal Election

Ever since the lead up to the Postal Ballot for the legalisation of gay marriage it became obvious that the Anti-Discrimination Laws in some states could be used to silence religious groups and indeed silence opponents of that legislation by inhibiting free speech.

In Hobart, Archbishop Julian Porteous distributed amongst Catholic families a pamphlet pointing out the Catholic position on Marriage titled "Don't mess with marriage"

He was immediately attacked by activists and referred to the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner. After 6 months of deliberation the complaint was withdrawn without the issue being resolved. Around this time both major political parties made commitments to pass federal Religious Freedom legislation that would override such laws to enable religious groups to teach their members in their tenets and belief in good faith.

Efforts by the government to bring such laws and the stated willingness of the Opposition to support such legislation, have recently failed to pass in the Parliament and the government has now shelved the process until after the coming election.

As the laws stand, the teaching of the Catholic position on marriage and other subjects is in danger of being prevented by Anti-Discrimination Boards in some states.

It behoves us as Catholics to stand up for our long held religious freedom in Australia and make our voices heard on this issue.

One way of doing this is to demand of our political candidates in the coming election, their position on this vital issue for us and for the Church.

We should insist on protection under the law for our right to practice our religion in its entirety, the education of children and people in faith, ethics, dogma, and our right to proselytise and to have our say in public discourse. Should you wish to avail yourself of further information on this topic the following links are provided for your convenience.

We are living in a hostile environment, and we need to point out to society that religious freedom is a fundamental human right enshrined in major statements by the UN the US constitution but now under threat in Australia.

"After the next election, it would be desirable for our Parliament to legislate a lean and clean *Religious Discrimination Act*. The *Religious Discrimination Act* and the *Sex Discrimination Act* should be harmonised to ensure that no school can discriminate against any child on the basis of their gender or sexual orientation; and that 'nothing in the *Sex Discrimination Act* renders it unlawful to engage in teaching activity if that activity is in good faith in accordance with the doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings of a particular religion or creed, and is done by, or with the authority of, an educational institution that is conducted in accordance with those doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings'

The above paragraph is reprinted from an article written by Father Frank Brennan SJ on this most important subject and the article can be viewed in full via the following link.

<https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/religious-discrimination-and-equality-before-the-law>

Terry O'Shea

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.

Our Parish



Our new Parish Secretary.

Josephine Thomas was a parishioner at St Peter Apostle Mission Parish, Hoppers Crossing since migrating to Victoria in April 2005 where she was also blessed to work as Parish Secretary from 2006 until February 2018 when she and her husband decided to move to Queensland for family reasons.

A parishioner since arriving in Queensland at Maximillian Kolbe Parish in Marsden, Josephine worked with Centacare Prisoners Services, South Brisbane from mid-2018 until early January 2022. When the opportunity was given to work closer to home, Josephine gladly accepted it and joined our parish at Beenleigh on 10 January 2022 working three days a week.

On the days that she is not at St Patrick's, Josephine volunteers at the Australian Anti Ice Campaign supporting those recovering from ice and other drug addiction, helping them to remain clean of their addiction and return into the community. Josephine is very thankful for the warm and loving support of the parishioners and her colleagues at St Patrick's and is enjoying her work here as Parish Secretary.



Josephine Thomas, our new Parish Secretary

St. Patrick's Sacramental Program

St. Patrick's Church, Beenleigh, is in the process of running their sacramental program. A group of parish councilors have come together to discuss and attend little workshops to actively form a sacramental team that will work closely with Fr. Subin. It has been an exciting time for us and a learning curve as we develop and brainstorm ideas to put together an interesting but enriching experience for those eligible to receive the sacraments in our faith community.

At present, the team is running two workshops on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and has had its first information session for parents and children on Wednesday, 16th March. Although numbers were small it was a successful evening with the children and their families. The evening, started off with Fr. Subin, introducing the sacrament and explaining to parents and children what the sacrament was about and what was to be expected from participants and their families, followed by Helen and Meryline presenting the rest of the session with the children. It was a great start to our first information session as we look forward to the second session next Wednesday, 23rd March where children will role play the actual reconciliation format, preparing them for Monday 28th March, the actual Reconciliation mass.

It is a new step forward for our parish as we work to build and create a program that will be enlightening and enriching for our parish community. We therefore ask for your prayers and support, that we will embrace all there is to follow. I am very excited to be involved with my fellow colleagues, Michael Zarate, Helen Bradford, and Terry O'Shea and of course our parish priest Fr. Subin. May the Holy Spirit guide us to open our minds and hearts united in doing his work. Thank you. *Meryline Croker-Falani*



Meryline Croker-Falani, Parish Councillor, choir and sacramental team member



ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. As always Fr Subin celebrated Ash Wednesday with Masses at 7am and 7pm. They were solemn Masses asking parishioners to reflect and repent from sin.

We were invited to receive the ashes from Fr Subin, symbolizing death and repentance. The ashes were prepared by John Truelson by burning palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday.

Fr Subin was assisted at the 7pm Mass by the St Patrick's Senior Choir, led expertly by Michael Zarate.



Fr Subin making the Cross of Ashes on Parishioner's forehead.



The 40-day period (46 counting Sundays) of Lent represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him.

Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

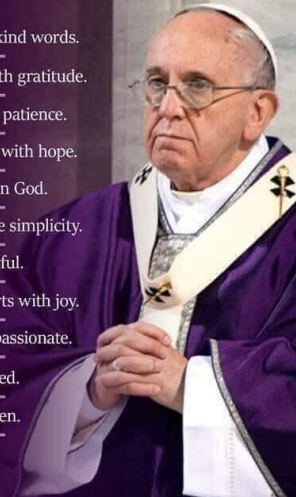
The altar is decorated with the cross and a scene from the desert, where Jesus fasted for 40 days.

Two Lenten programs are running at St Patrick's; Monday 9am in the Truelson room and Tuesday 10:30am in the church. Still time to join!

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.



St Patrick's Easter Calendar



Holy Thursday 14/4 Mass at 7pm

Good Friday 15/4

Stations of the Cross 10am

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3pm

Easter Saturday 16/4

Easter Vigil Mass at 6pm

Easter Sunday 17/4

Mass 7am & 9am

NO 6PM MASS on Easter Sunday Evening

Archbishop Mark Coleridge's Lenten Pastoral Letter

Led by the Spirit



Dear sisters and brothers,

"Grace be with you who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an incorruptible love"

Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert where he fasts for forty days. The same Spirit now leads the Church into the forty days of Lenten preparation for Easter when the desert becomes a garden as "death is swallowed up in victory". The Spirit can take us to some strange places, even to places we would rather not go, but always for the sake of love's transformation.

In 2016 the same Spirit led the Australian Church to begin a journey to a new place. The Bishops Conference decided for a Plenary Council to chart a course into the future consisting of two assemblies.

It was the Spirit who prompted the Conference's decision and still accompanies us. It has been a time of testing and of deep listening to the word of God rather than to other voices, like Jesus in the desert.

The Plenary Council has three phases – **preparation, celebration, and implementation**. The **preparation** phase ended with the first assembly in October 2021. Our plan was to have the first assembly face-to-face, but COVID-19 forced it online. Satisfactory, but a vastly different experience.

Now we are in the middle of the **celebration** phase, between the two assemblies. This fermentation time, a huge task of processing the raw material from the first assembly and agenda preparation for the second.

At the first assembly, many voices spoke, before discernment in smaller groups, producing the raw material for the complex work of collating and sifting.

The second assembly's agenda we hope will contain creative, practical, and affordable proposals designed to produce the change needed in the Church. Hopefully, the second assembly will be in Sydney in July.

The Plenary Council sought and gained papal assent. Pope Francis announced a worldwide Synod process climaxing with the Synod of Bishops in Rome 2023. The Plenary Council therefore must interweave with the wider Synod process, each enriching the other - many voices in the Church being heard. The **preparation** phase of the Council saw broad consultation, and you are now invited to speak your mind as part of the global Synod process. So, I ask: What would you say to Pope Francis about change in the Church not just in Australia but around the world?

At the conclusion of the Council's second assembly, begins the **implementation** phase. The results of the Council will be sent to the Holy See for confirmation, before become binding for the Australian Church. Hopefully Brisbane Archdiocese will have a Synod afterwards to embed the changes into the life and mission of the Church.

Councils and synods are conversion needed to produce cultural change. The need for change was made clear by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; and by COVID-19. Nothing can be the same since the Royal Commission, nor the pandemic.

This is no time for turning inwards and looking just to our own institutional interests or a judgmental Church which never notices the plank in our own eye but makes a fuss about the splinter in another's eye. We need instead to be a humble, compassionate, and outward looking Church that asks how we might be more like Jesus who "came not to be served but to serve". That will require a practical, evangelical imagination: "Never see a need without doing something about it." - St Mary MacKillop. This is the kind of Church to which both the Plenary Council and the global Synod are looking. This is what the Spirit is now saying to the Church, speaking to all of us in these desert days of Lent.

Full text: [Archbishop Mark Coleridge's Lenten Pastoral Letter 2022 - Archdiocese of Brisbane](#)



St Patrick's Day

On the 17th of March Fr Subin celebrated St Patrick's Day with a special Mass. It was a beautiful, inspiring Mass, enjoyed by everybody. It was a joy to see the touches of green throughout the church as parishioners dressed up for the occasion. After Mass we enjoyed light refreshments in each others company.



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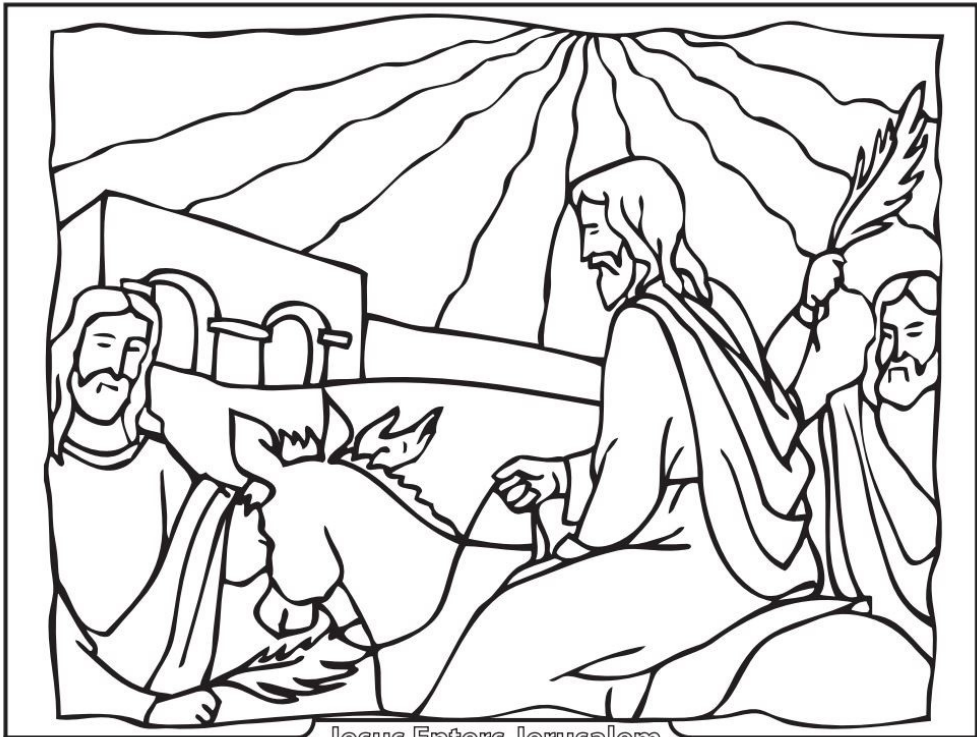
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Lenten Quiz—Test your knowledge



1. How many days are there in Lent?
2. What was the original meaning of the word "Lent"?
3. What is the first day of Lent called?
4. What do we call the day before Lent begins?
5. What colour vestments does the priest wear during Lent?
6. What prayer of the Mass is omitted during Lent?
7. What word is never said or sung during Lent?
8. What do Catholics abstain from eating on Fridays during Lent?
9. On what days are Catholics required to fast during Lent?
10. What snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt?
11. What food was traditionally eaten the day before Lent begins?
12. What Irish saint's feast day takes place during Lent?
13. On what Sunday during Lent does the priest bless palms?
14. What event in the life of Jesus do the palms recall for us?
15. On what day during Lent does the Bishop bless holy oils for the year?
16. How many Stations of the Cross are there?
17. How many times does Jesus fall in the Stations?
18. Who helped Jesus carry his Cross?
19. When does Lent officially end?
20. What is the Triduum?

40, Spring, Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday, Purple, The Gloria, Alleluia, Meat, Ash Wednesday & Good Friday, Pre- into Jerusalem, Holy Thursday, 14, 3, Simon of Cyrene, Holy Thursday before Mass, 3 holiest days of Good Friday Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday



Jesus Enters Jerusalem



Stations of the Cross for Married Couples

OPENING PRAYER

O passionate Redeemer, the shadow of your suffering and death falls across our own path today, and we turn to you in faith. Because you have tread this way before us, humbly and gently, we trust in your presence. Bless us with strength, grace us with honesty, and embrace us with courage - as we pray.....

FIRST STATION - Jesus is Condemned to Death

Reflection

Unjustly accused, Jesus stands condemned. He is subjected to merciless indignities. Those participating in the harassment of Jesus are not cruel and heartless persons. They are everyday folks like the two of us, caught in the fervour of the crowd. They are afraid: afraid of authentic authority, the Authority of Truth. They are afraid of change.

Prayer

O condemned Redeemer and Author of life, we're afraid. There have been times when our fearfulness has not let us set aside our pride, our need for security, our need to be right; we have hurt and bruised each other. Reflecting on your own sentencing, Lord, we have condemned that which is demanding of us.



lower our eyes in sadness and sorrow. We have condemned that which is demanding of us. Forgive us and teach us to forgive each other.

SECOND STATION - Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Reflection

Ah, the weight of that tree across human shoulders is tremendous. No rest; no morning meal. Jesus has been abused all night and is now burdened with the weight of his own crucifixion. Splinters slice his skin; the crowd roars in approval. There is no respite for him; none.

Prayer

O weary Redeemer, we know nothing of the weight of your cross. Yet, we do know the weight of crosses in our marriage, in our family. How often have we considered each other's little idiosyncrasies as burdensome, bothersome, heavy. How often have concerns for the kids, the budget and health problems pressed down on our marriage to make us weary. We reflect on the weight across your shoulders and how your skin must have been chafed and torn. We ask for strength - strength to carry the weight with you today. There's nothing we bear that you haven't already carried for us.



THIRD STATION - Jesus Falls the First Time

Reflection

Stumbling to the ground, Jesus is bruised and humiliated even further. The multitude that had once surrounded him looking for hope now surrounds him looking for a political scapegoat. What little strength Jesus has left is poured into his final steps of life.

Prayer

O crushed Redeemer, we know the experience of failing. Again and again, the weight of sacramental love has brought us to our knees, sometimes in pain and humility, sometimes in praise and gratitude. We reflect on you buried under the weight of sin and love. We ask for wisdom as we stumble to our feet to move ahead with hope, day by day.



Stations of the Cross for Married Couples



FOURTH STATION - Jesus Meets His Mother

Reflection

Their eyes meet and they exchange a knowing glance. Mary's heart, - a heart that once danced with joy as she watched her child toddle, walk and run - is ripped with pain as she watches her child crawl to his death; she is helpless. And Jesus; he feels his mother's pain and grieves - not for himself, but for the woman who said "Yes" to her role in bringing the Word to flesh.

Prayer

O tormented Redeemer, you come face to face with love and it adds to your pain. How many times we've felt helpless, unable to lift the agony from the body, heart or soul of our beloved. We reflect on this moment of love meeting love. We ask that our own moments of helplessness be life-giving and redeeming rather than crippling and debilitating.



FIFTH STATION - Simon Helps Carry the Cross

Reflection

Jesus' strength ebbs away with each ragged step. Finally, Jesus is given a helping hand. A stranger yanked from the crowd is forced to slip his shoulder next to Jesus' to take on a hardship he neither asked for nor anticipated.

Prayer

O helpless Redeemer, a stranger is shoved against you, and the two of you haul the beam of death. We reflect on the shrouded privilege this was for Simon, though he knew nothing of the role he was playing in redemption history. We, too, know nothing of the privileges hidden in the crosses we bear together. Unlike Simon, however, we willingly place our shoulders side by side, as wife and husband, soul-mates and partners in life, and tread through the years together. Jesus, Simon lead us.



SIXTH STATION - Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Reflection

A brief moment of compassion from a woman in the crowd brings a soft cloth against the tormented features of Jesus of Nazareth. Risking her own safety, Veronica is moved to offer the slightest relief to the Son of God. No swaddling clothes here, no comforting arms of reassurance; only a passing moment of risky tenderness.

Prayer O battered Redeemer, although a cloth against your face did little to ease the agony of your body, you were soothed with this woman's courage and compassion. We reflect on her selflessness and the risk she took in that compassionate moment. We're capable of the same selfless giving for each other - but we so often fail, afraid to take the risk. We're afraid to step out of ourselves and risk losing - what? We don't even know. Imprint on our hearts our spouse's sweet goodness and engender in us the will to risk compassion and tenderness.



SEVENTH STATION - Jesus Falls a Second Time

Reflection *Jesus falls again. Did he slip? Did he and Simon trip over each other? Was he shoved by some tormentor from the crowd? It doesn't matter. The cross gets heavier, and each rising seems progressively more impossible.*

Prayer O bowed Redeemer, did you ask yourself how much further? Did you wonder if this time you might not be able to get up? We reflect on your second fall and remember our own experiences of being crushed - not by our misjudgements but by forces which we seemed powerless to control. The grace of our sacrament, however, has brought us to our feet again and again. Teach us to trust that grace; let us not court hopelessness.





Stations of the Cross for Married Couples

EIGHTH STATION - The Women Weep Over Jesus

Reflection

There is no holier water than tears. Jesus' route to Golgotha is sprinkled with tears that cannot cleanse, heal or diminish the horror of this moment. These tears mingle with the sweat of Jesus' forehead and the moisture of his blood and thus join the waters of Jesus' baptism, anointing the Prince of Peace.

Prayer

O anguished Redeemer, tears are powerful. They can heal, cleanse, and nurture; they can also manipulate and inflict unwarranted guilt. While we reflect on the tears of the women of Jerusalem, we recall our own tear-stained and tear-blessed moment. We recall how our shared faith journey has been sprinkled with tears: our own, our children's, our loved ones'. Bless our tears with fierce honesty that they may bear life.



NINTH STATION - Jesus Falls the Third Time

Reflection

Three times, Jesus' knees are raw from the impact of jagged stones that slice his skin each time he falls. The weight of the beam crushes down across the back of his head, and he is blinded with pain. The crowd gets angrier with Jesus; in his crushed helplessness, their own broken humanity is mirrored back to them.

Prayer O prostrate Redeemer, we ponder in silence this scene of horror. Your powerlessness awakens in us our own sense of powerlessness. More than that, your third fall and the roar of the angry crowd shames us. Too many times we've identified with the anger of the crowd when our own weaknesses have been noted. Too many times we've failed to love each other when our expectations were crushed by reality. Soften our hearts; lift the weight of bitterness and resentment from our burdened souls so we can rise and walk together again in your footsteps.



TENTH STATION - Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

Reflection *Stripped, made naked. Jesus' brutalized body is bared for further humiliation, exposing him to the piercing glimpses of accusers, persecutors, and curious bystanders. He's made empty and utterly vulnerable. Only the eye of God covers him.*

Prayer O bare Redeemer, nakedness is the symbol of our covenant that you modelled for us in your dying hours. Your nakedness points the way to vulnerable love. As we reflect on the garments ripped from your body, we see that garments of security, ego and control that we bind tightly to ourselves to hide our fear, vanity and false pride. Invite us into naked existence with each other - and cover us with the courage to respond.



ELEVENTH STATION - Jesus Is Crucified

Reflection *Spike rips flesh; bone shatters. The Prince of Peace, Wonder-Counsellor, God-Hero, Sacred Way, Root of Jesse is bolted to a tree. The cross is then hoisted to an upright position. While Unconditional Love suffocates on the beams of a cross, the world waits and watches.*

Prayer O crucified Redeemer, waiting is a cross. We have endured many waiting periods through the years of our marriage - not always with faith and grace. During some periods of waiting, we've clung to each other for reassurance. During others, however, we've pulled apart and covered in the dark corners of our individual souls. We reflect on your final hours of suffering, suspended between the finite here and our Father's eternity. In the embrace of your arms, which reaches beyond the limits of the universe, we place our restless waiting. Soothe our impatience and frustrations; make gentle our seasons of holy waiting.



Stations of the Cross for Married Couples



TWELFTH STATION - Jesus Dies on the Cross

Reflection

He gives up his spirit. He lets go of life. He trusts that all things have been fulfilled: "It is finished." For Jesus, his suffering is over; for the crowd, the show is over; for us, a life of faith and joy is about to begin.

Prayer

O spent Redeemer, you let go of life just as you had taken hold of life: at the bidding of God. With no honours or fanfare, you entered life in the company of barnyard animals; with no respect or dignity, you depart life in the company of common criminals. We reflect on your humility - and realise the need to crucify the savage pettiness that feeds our ego. Too often we've responded to each other's need with a puffed-up sense of our own saintly goodness. Before we are separated from each other by death, help us to accompany one another through life with humility, dignity and respect.



THIRTEENTH STATION - Jesus is taken Down From the Cross

Reflection

The saviour of the world, the Son of God, Emmanuel is pulled from the device of torture and death and cradled by loving arms. His body is pierced, torn, broken and lifeless. Meaninglessness defines the moment.

Prayer

O lifeless Redeemer, meaninglessness often haunts human life. We lie in each other's arms at night sometimes and cower before a chasm of meaninglessness. We do not face torturous death, but nevertheless we feel pierced, torn, broken, lifeless - and in those moments, empty. We reflect on the mystery of your death and pray for the faith to trust that your grace redeems our meaningless spaces.



FOURTEENTH STATION - Jesus Is Placed in the Tomb

Reflection

In the quiet dusk of the afternoon, Jesus' body is hauled to the tomb of a stranger. Fearing harsh treatment from Roman guards, his friends hastily prepare his body for burial, position the boulder across the entrance to the tomb, and scurry away. Tomb time begins.

Prayer

O enshrouded Redeemer, darkness envelops your lifeless body. Only the God you know sees you now. We cannot see your goodness, your laughter, your misery. We've stared into the darkness of the tomb; we've been blind to each other's goodness, laughter, and yes - misery. We reflect on this darkness; we have to trust that we will not see resurrection dawn without treading Holy Saturday hours.



Closing Prayer

O risen Redeemer, your promise to us is hope; your gift to us is life. As we ponder the splendour of that first Easter dawn and feel the stirrings of joy deep within, we renew our covenant of fidelity - to you and to each other. We open ourselves to the daily mysteries of our sacrament, bless each other with mutual love, and commit ourselves - again - to follow you along this path we have chosen in faith. Amen.

From Stations of the Cross for Married Couples by Kass P. Dotterweich.

Ligouri Publication, distributed by Majellan Media.

Contributed by Anne Erbacher.

Photos from Stations of the Cross performed by the Youth Group on Good Friday 2016.



St Joseph Tobruk Primary School

On Friday 18th March we celebrated, as a whole school, St Joseph's Day.

We started with a beautiful liturgy where we focused on the strength and courage of Saint Joseph to place his trust in God that all will work out for his family.

During this liturgy we recognized Sr Jenny and the Sisters of St Joseph who helped to establish our wonderful school in Beenleigh and the care and compassion of the sisters in their ministry here in our community.

The children and staff celebrated their day eating pancakes and joining together in special activities in their classrooms for the day.



*Kathryn O'Toole,
APRE, St Joseph Tobruk Primary*

Mother Teresa News



With the delayed start to the school year, we have had a very busy start to Term One at Mother Teresa. Some of the events the students have enjoyed participating in included:

Opening Mass and Commissioning of Staff and Student Leaders

On Thursday March 26, the whole school community gathered to celebrate our Opening Mass and watch our students leaders be commissioned. It was the first opportunity that we could gather as a whole school community due to Covid restrictions. It was a great morning for everyone, especially our staff and year 6 leaders. A big thank-you to Fr Subin for leading mass!



Stations of the Cross

At the beginning of Lent, 14 Stations of the Cross were placed throughout the school. Classroom teachers have been taking their classes out to visit and pray each station. At each station we have placed different symbols that represent Christ's journey from The Agony in the Garden to the Christ's death. The stations are based on Pope John Paul the Second's Scriptural Stations of the Cross.

Adam McCoy, APRE Mother Teresa School





St Vincent De Paul Society—St Patrick's Conference

CONFERENCE UPDATE: As no doubt you have noticed, our Vinnies House has disappeared and we are now homeless. The society is not prepared to spend money on new premises and has asked us to operate from home. As a result we have lost many of our wonderful members and are not able to provide a satisfactory service to o those in need.

FUND RAISING: Due to a lack of volunteers, the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle has been temporarily cancelled.

VINNIES QUEENSLAND FLOOD APPEAL 2022: As mentioned in a recent parish newsletter, we have commenced a parish flood appeal. It is interesting to note that the first Vinnies conference in Queensland started in Brisbane in direct response to the 1893 floods that swept through the community. And so, nearly 130 years later we are faced with floods that are affecting a larger area and certainly a much greater population. May thousands of people have been left with the task of rebuilding their lives after devastating floods inundated southeast Queensland as well as many parts of eastern NSW. It is vital that we extend a helping hand to those in need right now, which is why the society has launched the Vinnies Flood Appeal. ALL funds received will be properly distributed to those in need and will provide ongoing, long term support during the recovery process. All donations, large or small will be gratefully received. The Appeal in our Parish commenced on the weekend of 12/13 March. Anyone still wishing to donate can do so by placing money into a large donation box outside the piety stall in coming weeks. Thankyou in anticipation. Alternatively you can Google donate.vinnies.org.au It is a very simple process and you are instantly issued a receipt.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation 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 2-3 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 bruce.laker@svdpqld.org.au OR Diocesan President JOHN BLAKE. 041196775 OR Our conference President FAY O'TOOLE. 0407465478

John Maksimas

Family Scribbles



When 2021 turned its back and exited out the door, we greeted 2022 with hope for a much calmer more mediocre kind of year. Yet, here we are- three months in and it's already hit the fan. A new Covid strain hit our community; war broke out in Ukraine; petrol prices have skyrocketed; and we were ravaged with flash flooding.

I remember one evening I lay in bed with anxiety running through me like a tidal wave from listening to the heavy rain on the roof for the third night in a row. I'd read about how some people were being evacuated from their homes because the water was getting higher. I could no longer lie still so I got out of bed and proceeded to

pack a bunch of bags with essentials. Food. Clothes. All the undies, all the nappies. Documents. The essentials. After I packed the boys' stuff I thought about what to pack for Matthew and I... Other than important documents I had nothing I wanted to bring with me. I could deal with just having the clothes on my back because at the end of the day everything is replaceable- except my children and my husband.

During these troubled and scary times, God reminds us of the things that really matter. We're reminded to be thankful for what we have and who we have in our lives, and to tell them unconditionally. I know I've spoken about being thankful before, but when life is going at full speed it's easy to get caught up in it all that you forget to just sit. Sit with your feelings to take in the beauty around you, because if 2022's hit the fan already, who knows what's coming in the coming months. So be thankful. Be grateful. Love unconditionally. *Erica Ng Philips*

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World Day of Prayer



This year we celebrated the World Day of Prayer at the Uniting Church on Mt Warren Boulevard.

The event had to be deferred to the 18th of March due to the widespread flooding in the area.

The chosen countries this year were England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme was 'I know the plans I have for you'. Although those countries may be considered affluent there is however areas still facing poverty and family violence. The stories told by some of the women there were powerful and described how God's plan for them helped them through their difficult times.

Pastor Peter also spoke beautifully of the need for all Christian church-

es to come together for the betterment of the world. Leslie-Anne, the Uniting Church representative welcomed everybody so warmly.

St Patrick's participated by reading the Prayers of Confession and at the end of the service accepting the challenge to be the host church in 2023 when we will be praying for the people of Taiwan.

Next year we will be trialling two services, one in the morning and one in the evening, to allow people who work a chance to attend. It will be a great challenge for St Patrick's and we are counting on the support of parishioners for this important ecumenical event.



Roses from Fr Subin's garden

St Patrick's World Day of Prayer Group

Going Deeper



Going Deeper is a ten-session online series of pre-recorded discussions about the heart of the Catholic faith.

It explores different aspects of what it means to live a Catholic life. Together we will dive beneath the teachings and practices and instead ponder, 'what is this all for?' Here we enter into the wonder and mystery of God's relationship with each of us individually and collectively. No matter your faith background or experience, Going Deeper is for you..



St. Patrick's study group started on Friday the 25th of March, after the Stations of the Cross. There will be 10 sessions in total with the final session scheduled for Friday the 10th of June. Participants in our previous Going Deeper series of workshops thoroughly enjoyed the lessons and discovered other parishioners on a similar faith journey. Not only have they learnt more about their faith, deepened their relationship with God, but also made new friends in our church.

If you'd like to join the study group but missed the earlier sessions, transcripts will be available of the previous sessions. To register or find out more information, please contact the Parish office.



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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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Funerals with Faith



Dine with Joy Flood Relief

With the massive rains we again saw devastating flooding in Queensland and New South Wales. The Lismore area was particularly badly affected, with TV coverage of people being rescued off the roofs of their properties and out of flooded vehicles. Sadly some lost their lives.

While recovery and clean-up teams went into action, volunteers proceeded to cook for the people who were unable to. One of the cooks was Joy Dine, who produced 300 gluten free (coeliac safe) and dairy free meals at her Dine with Joy eatery in Loganholme.

Some meals were picked up by volunteers, and sent to Lismore in a big pink Followmont truck and others were taken down by Joy and her husband Gary. The meals were donated to flood victims and volunteers. Congratulations Joy and all the other volunteers on a job very well done!

Joy is a long term coeliac sufferer and an accredited member of the Coeliac Australia association. The March issue of their magazine features an article about Dine with Joy. (page 43). Through her personal experience with food allergies she completely understands the fears people have about food safety and cross contamination.

Dine with Joy serves all manner of café staples as well as dishes from Joy's native Durban. She also caters for functions with multiple dietary requirements.

Congratulations Joy!

Meals were an absolute hit thank you so much you made many coeliacs very very happy 🙏



St Patrick's Mass times:

- 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

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