

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	March 5	Mass: 7:00am

Tuesday	March 6	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm

Wednesday	March 7	Mass: 7:00am (Sts Perpetua & Felicity)

Thursday	March 8	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm (St John of God) (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm

Friday	March 9	Mass: 9:30am (St Frances of Rome)

Saturday	March 10	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5 - 5:30pm Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday	March 11	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Rose Sunday Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

4th MARCH, 2018

READINGS: Ex 20:1-17; 1Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Jesus' action in cleansing the Temple was a protest against the commercialisation of religion and the desecration of the Temple. But it went deeper. It was a symbolic action declaring that temple worship alone, with its ritual and animal sacrifices, could not bring people to God. There must be a spirituality as well.



Jesus was also protesting at the way religion had become narrow, nationalistic, and exclusive. Israel had failed to fulfil her universal mission to human-kind. It was God's intention that the Temple should be a house of prayer "for all nations". But the Temple had become the jealously-guarded preserve of Israel. Jesus declared that salvation was not just for the Jews but for all peoples.

The FIRST READING gives one of the two versions of the Ten Commandments. They were seen as a map of life for the people who enjoyed a special relationship with God. They were seen as a gift, not a burden.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Lewis COX

Rosters of next weekend

10 th Sat	Church Cleaning	W Brown, P & A Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6pm	P Jones	L Milan	Volunteer
11 th Sun 7am	M Walsh	C Walsh	Walsh Family
9am	R Klaus, C Carolan	M Rodwell	Y Brunero, S Michielin
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		
Children's Liturgy	K Hertsch, S Walsh		

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League: 2nd Thursday of the month, 10:30am

St Joseph's room. New members welcome.

Contact: Barbara 42711584 or Margaret 42715804

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: Tues, 7:30pm St. Joseph's room

Parish Pastoral Council: 2nd Monday of alternate months, 7:30pm

St Joseph's room

Nursing Home Masses

Hillside Nursing Home: 1st Tuesday of the month, 2pm

Figtree Nursing Home: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:45am

Villa Maria Nursing Home: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 9:30am

Refreshments after the 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.

This weekend's edition of **The Catholic Weekly** features coverage of the **installation of the new Bishop of Wollongong, Brian Mascord.**

FR GRAHAM'S LENTEN TIPS

- * 5 minutes prayer each day
- * An extra Mass each week
- * A good Confession
- * Generosity to the poor through PROJECT COMPASSION

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (14 February 2018) and Trinity Sunday (27 May 2018) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.



LENTEN GROUP

at St Joseph's Meeting Room

Wednesdays 7:30pm

A MASS IN FRENCH is celebrated at St John's Parish Campbelltown every second Sunday of the month.

The next one will be on Sunday 11 March at 6:00 pm.

The celebrant is Fr Jan Chrzczonowicz 0412 786 245.

Catholic Women's League

CWL Monthly Meeting will be held on Thursday, 8th March at 10.30 in St Joseph's Room.

Everyone is invited to join us for morning tea at 10.30 followed by the meeting.

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, UNANDERRA SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2018

The reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Penance and Eucharist in the Diocese of Wollongong are conducted at a Parish level.

Enrolment for the following Sacraments, Confirmation, Penance and Eucharist will take place at the following Masses:

Sunday, February 18th at the 7am and 9am Mass

Sunday, February 25th at the 7am and 9am Mass

Sunday, March 4th at the 7am and 9am Mass

Enrolment should be made by a parent.

Children are prepared in the following School Terms for the Sacraments:

Term 2 Confirmation (date unknown until new Bishop is installed)

Term 3 Penance Reception of Sacrament readiness of the child

Term 4 Eucharist Reception Feast of Christ the King, 25th November

Confirmation requirements: Child in Year 6 or High School. They should be practising their Faith and have the desire to receive the Sacrament.

Penance and Eucharist requirements: Year 3, practising their Faith and attending Mass.

- Sr Joan Goodwin, Sacramental Co-Ordinator

Tel: 4272 9980 | Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au



“Try at least to excuse what you cannot understand”

St. Mary of the Cross 1877

FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

FROM BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD’S 2018 LENTEN MESSAGE

‘In my family, my parents were very practical about this time of the Church’s calendar. Yes, there was the giving up, the penance of Lent, but they saw this time as also being an opportunity to take something up, a challenge, so to speak—perhaps some radical form of kindness or deliberately going above and beyond in service to each other in the family.’

ROSEMARY GOLDIE International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate ROSEMARY GOLDIE, an Australian from Sydney, was one of the first women appointed an auditor at the Second Vatican Council where she took up the challenge to promote the inclusion of laity at the Second Vatican Council. As a distinguished Australian Catholic woman, Rosemary Goldie occupies a place in our nation’s Catholic story alongside the likes of Caroline Chisholm and Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Read the full story of Rosemary Goldie by Dr Michael Costigan:
<https://www.opw.catholic.org.au/latest-news/a-reflection-on-the-life-of-rosemary-goldie.html>

THE WOLLONGONG CATHOLIC DINNER CLUB TOGETHER

with newly ordained Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD are delighted to announce a keynote speaker The Hon Timothy Andrew Fischer AC on the topic of “From the Riverina to the Hub of Rome”. You are invited to dinner on Friday 13 April 6pm for 6:30pm start at Centro CBD, 28 Stewart Street Wollongong (Opposite Aldi). For Tickets (\$45 each) please contact Cathedral Office 4228 6511 or mjcambo@gmail.com 0490 022 313 or Jim 4228 6791. RSVP by Friday 6 April.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 4 MARCH 2018

This week on the Journey, we continue to use the Gospel reflection from Wollongong Diocese Lenten program, Sr Hilda talks to us softly with her Wisdom from the Abbey, Marilyn Rodrigues, the Peaceful Parent reminds us of Bearing Our Daily Crosses. We are so very lucky to have such talented music artists on our show. Put it all together and you have an inspiring and up lifting show about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

2018 LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING

- Acolytes, Altar Servers & Extraordinary Ministers
Wollongong Sat, 14 April; Campbelltown Saturday, 26 May; Nowra Saturday, 7 July
 - Communion of the Sick & Homebound
Wollongong Saturday 16 June
- For more information, please visit our website <http://www.liturgydow.org.au> or contact Paul Mason, Liturgy Coordinator paul.mason@dow.org.au or Helen Bennett helen.bennett@dow.org.au

CATHOLICCARE ST PATRICK'S RACE DAY FUNDRAISER – SAT 24 MARCH KEMBLA GRANGE RACECOURSE

All monies raised will go towards supporting siblings in families of children with a disability. Single tickets or tables available. For more info contact Trish on 42549318
trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

VIDEO AND PHOTOS OF THE ORDINATION OF BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD

The ordination of our new Bishop Brian Mascord was a magnificent celebration last Thursday at the WIN Entertainment Centre. It had all the ingredients of emotion, prayerfulness, sacredness, reverence, sincerity and beauty. If you didn’t attend the ordination, or if you would like to relive the experience, the video is available to watch online at www.livestream.dow.org.au (the proceedings commence 4min 35sec into the video). There are also over 500 photos of the ordination taken by the official photographers that can be viewed at www.photos.dow.org.au

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR A JUST FUTURE

Third Sunday of Lent
4th March 2018



Bayan, a 12 year old Syrian girl in Jordan, struggled to overcome the trauma of living in a conflict zone, facing the prospect of missing out on school. With Caritas Australia’s support, Bayan is excelling in her studies with ambitions to become an ophthalmologist.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help equip young people to succeed in the future, providing just futures for others like Bayan.

A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

My dear people,

The Holy Father uses a line from St Matthew's Gospel as the theme for his Letter to the Church for Lent. **"With the increase of lawlessness, love in most people will grow cold"** (24:12). In reply to a question of the disciples, shortly before His Passion, Jesus foretells a great tribulation in the future—false prophets would lead the people astray, and love of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many.

Such false prophets can appear as 'snake charmers', mesmerizing God's children by momentary pleasures mistaken for true happiness. So many live entranced by the dream of wealth—this simply makes them slaves. Many go through life believing they are self-sufficient, and end up trapped by loneliness.

False prophets can also be 'charlatans', offering easy solutions to suffering—drugs, disposable relationships, and dishonest gains. These swindlers, peddling things that have no real value, rob people of dignity, freedom, and the ability to love. They appeal to our vanity and end up making fools of us. We shouldn't be surprised. The devil, "a liar and the father of lies" (JOHN 8:44), has always presented evil as good, and falsehood as truth. This Lent we are called to peer into our hearts to see if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets.

In his description of hell, Dante Alighieri pictures the devil seated on a throne of ice. We might well ask ourselves how it happens that charity can turn cold within us. What are the signs that indicate that our love is beginning to cool? More than anything else, what destroys charity is greed for money, "the root of all evil" (1 TIM 6:10). The rejection of God and His peace soon follows—we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in God's Word and sacraments. All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own 'certainties': the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the alien among us, or our neighbour who does not live up to our expectations.

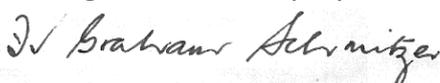
Creation itself becomes a silent witness to this cooling of charity. The earth is poisoned by refuse, discarded out of carelessness or for self-interest. The seas, themselves polluted, engulf the remains of countless shipwrecked victims of forced migration. The heavens, designed to sing God's praises, are rent by engines raining down implements of death.

Love can also grow cold in our own communities. Evident signs are selfishness and spiritual sloth, sterile pessimism, the temptation to self-absorption, constant warring among ourselves, and a worldly mentality that makes us concerned only about appearances, thus lessening our missionary zeal.

The Church, our Mother and Teacher, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. By devoting more time to **prayer**, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers. **Almsgiving** sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour as brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of His children. If through me God helps someone today, will He not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence. It allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. And it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

By listening to God's Word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be even more ardent in faith, hope, and love. The Holy Father ends his letter by promising to pray for us, and sending his blessing. He asks us to pray for him.



Fr Graham Schmitzer
Parish Priest

