

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	5 Nov	No Mass
Tuesday	6 Nov	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm Mass: 5.30pm
Wednesday	7 Nov	Mass: 7am (Convent)
Thursday	8 Nov	Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm (Reconciliation Available) Mass: 5.30pm
Friday	9 Nov	Dedication of St John Lateran Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	10 Nov	St Leo the Great 7.15am: Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help 7.30am: Mass Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday	11 Nov	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time <u>Centenary of Remembrance Day</u> Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish)

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B

4 NOVEMBER 2018

READINGS: Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28-34

According to the Rabbis 'the Law' consisted of 613 commandments. The scribe's question as to which commandment was the greatest was one frequently discussed.

Jesus was asked to name one, but responded by naming two. Both are found in the Old Testament - the first in Deuteronomy 6:4 (**FIRST READING**), the second in Leviticus 19:18. What Jesus did was to put the two together, thus emphasising the essential relatedness of them. No Rabbi had ever done this.



The emphasis on love became for Christians the identifying characteristic of their religion.



**PLEASE
REMEMBER
IN YOUR
PRAYERS**

Recently Deceased

Marta VISAGGIO

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

to intercede for more priests

**Every Saturday morning
up to and including
Saturday 22 December**

7.15am: Novena Prayers
7.30am: Mass



ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

November	Church Washing	Barbara Faraway	
Sat 10 Nov	Church Cleaning	W Brown, P & A Browne, L Harper, J Hoxha	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, M Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 10 Nov 6pm Mass	P Jones	V Cleary	V Cleary
Sun 11 Nov 7am Mass	M Walsh	P Gunning	A Browne
Sun 11 Nov 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	R Green	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	M Murphy (FH), C Stratton, A McQueen, M Winner		
Children's Liturgy	M Rodwell, S Michielin		

Gospel Reflection

If only the heart was right
we could give so much more.
Lord, open our hearts when they are closed,
soften them when they are hard,
warm them when they are cold,
brighten them when they are dark,
fill them when they are empty,
calm them when they are troubled,
cleanse them when they are sullied,
heal them when they are wounded,
and mend them when they are broken,
so that we, your disciples,
may bear the fruits of love.
Amen.



PARISH ACTIVITIES



- Catholic Women's League:** 2nd Thursday of the month - 10.30am in St Joseph's room
New members always welcome!
Please contact: Barbara - 4271 1584
- St Vincent de Paul Conference:** Every Tue 7.30pm in St Joseph's room
- Parish Pastoral Council:** 2nd Monday of alternate months 7.30pm in 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 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING



The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held on
Thursday 8 November at 10.30am
in St Joseph's Room.

Everyone is very welcome to attend!
Join us for a cuppa and chat before the meeting. Hope to see you there.



CHURCH MINISTRIES FOR 2019



Have you considered being involved in one of the various ministries of our parish?

Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to volunteer for 2019.

Please give careful consideration to participating in one or more of the following ministries:

Acolytes, Lectors, Children's Liturgy, Welcomers, Church Cleaners, Counters, Church Lawns and Gardens, Church Washing, Ministers of Holy Communion to Aged Care, Choir, Altar Servers, Catechists and Sacramental Team Leaders.

New Volunteers will have the opportunity to work with those who have experience. Please indicate your availability to help by putting your name on the relevant sheets, which are located on the middle pew in the church. Your assistance will be appreciated!



“Refuse nothing to God’s love.”

St Mary of the Cross — 1880

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND

Join Bishop Peter Ingham on pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 30 January 2019, retracing the footsteps of Jesus from his Nativity in Bethlehem to his Passion and Resurrection in Jerusalem.

Limited seats remaining for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

22-day Pilgrimage - Departs 30 January 2019



Enquire now:

Call 1800 819 156

www.harvestjourneys.com

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2018 –

This week on The Journey, our very own Monsignor Graham Schmitzer reflects on the Gospel of Mark; Sr Hilda Scott shares her Wisdom from the Abbey reminding us that “God is Love”; Bruce Downes, the Catholic Guy, shares moments of “Encountering God”; and Sam Clear in his Walking the Walk God Spot, reminds us of “Pain and Suffering in God’s Plan”. We are so very grateful for the beautifully talented Christian Music artists that supply us with their fabulous music.

Go to www.jcr.org.au or
www.itunes.jcr.org.au

where you can listen any time and
subscribe to weekly shows via email



PRAY FOR OUR PLENARY 2020 REGIONAL LISTENING SESSIONS



Local Animators are currently preparing to represent their local community at one of four Diocese of Wollongong Plenary 2020 regional listening days. Animators will have the opportunity to address Bishop Mascord about processes, express what they have heard and encountered in their community and provide a written reflective submission. In order to allow for deep, orderly listening, only local animators, clergy and up to 2 other key members of the team will be attending these days on behalf of local communities. Please pray for your local Animator who will represent your community at these regional sessions.

URGENTLY SEEKING CARERS FOR ELLA*

CatholicCare is urgently looking for a forever home for a 14 year-old-girl. Ella* is a friendly and engaging girl who enjoys art and craft, reading and bushwalking. She attends a support unit in a mainstream school. Ella needs foster carers who are patient, kind and stable to help her thrive and reach



CatholicCARE

hope begins with us

her potential.

If you think you or someone you might know has the right qualities to be her carers, please call **4227 1122** or

email enquiries@catholiccare.dow.org.au for more information.

** Not her real name*

Plenary Council Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.*

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
broad for the journey from age to age.*

Amen.

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*



PLENARY COUNCIL

Copies of the Plenary Council 2020 Notes have been placed at the side door near the brown Plenary Council mailbox for anyone who may not be able to access the internet.

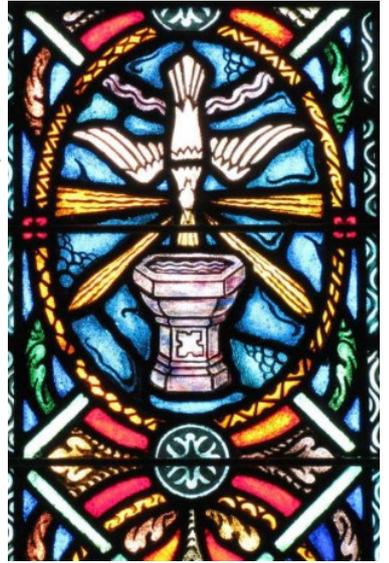
Feel free to take hard copies. Electronic copies can be accessed on the Plenary Council website at:

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au



My dear people,

The Catholic Church's teaching on death and dying is based on her understanding of the meaning of Baptism. Human life has been changed forever by the Incarnation of the Son of God. In order to redeem us from sin and death, God the Son became flesh in the womb of Mary and thus became one of us. There is nothing human that has not been touched by Christ. "For by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every man. He worked with human hands, He thought with a human mind, acted by human choice, and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, He has truly been made one of us, like us in all things except sin." (Church In The Modern World, 22). We can no longer say that God does not know how we feel. Christ redeemed us by His life, death, and resurrection. What He went through as man, He went through for us. We proclaim at Mass: "Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life." Since the Resurrection, Christians are invited to daily die to sin and to live a new life. They are empowered to do this by the Holy Spirit who has been sent into the world since Pentecost.



Christians enter this mystery - what we call the Paschal Mystery - at Baptism. Christ's Passover mystery was a fulfilment of God's redemptive action in the Old Testament when He rescued His people from slavery in Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea. He led His people to Mount Sinai where, through Moses, He made a solemn covenant or contract with them. He would be their God and they would be His people. Every nation of people must live by a Constitution which enshrines their rights and privileges and obligations. Their Constitution was created by God Himself - the Ten Commandments. The Covenant was sealed in blood as were important contracts in those days. An animal was sacrificed and its blood was sprinkled on an altar, representing God, and then on the people. The New Covenant was sealed forever by Christ on Mount Calvary. These two covenants we solemnly celebrate in Holy Week - specifically Holy Thursday to Holy Saturday, the Sacred Triduum.

In the early Church, Baptism was celebrated very symbolically. Fonts were usually a type of pool lower than the floor level of the church. Three steps led down to the font. The candidate was completely immersed three times in the water, a sign of being buried with Christ for three days. The newly baptised would then rise from the font, be clothed in a white garment as a sign of new life (the origin of the christening dress), and would take a lighted candle as a sign that Christ would now enlighten his/her life. This was all the more symbolic by the fact that Baptisms took place only once a year at the Easter Vigil. That moment was the Christian's real death, for Baptism gave the promise of immortality. Our second death, then, at the end of our natural lives, has no power over us. Christ's promise of immortality is renewed for us every time we receive Holy Communion. "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Every Holy Communion is a little death for us as we hand ourselves over to God in preparation for death, which will be our final communion when we give God everything. Death, then, is something we do, rather than just something that happens to us. In fact, it is the most important thing we will ever do.

The Church has a Sacrament of death - we call it *Viaticum*. It literally means 'Food for the Journey' - Holy Communion received at the moment of death. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is exactly what it says - strength for those who are seriously ill. Christ wishes to be with us at every important moment of our life. A person who has become seriously ill is facing a big challenge in life. Depression and negativity can slow down recovery. The prayers of the Sacrament pray for healing and health. If the person is not to get better, then Christ wishes the ill person to find positive value in suffering and unite it to His.

With death and dying we are, of course, dealing with mystery - as life itself is mystery. Death and dying are sacred realities, for in them the Christian participates in Christ's own dying and death.

Christ's promise to the Church that we will be raised from the dead has begun to be fulfilled already. This is the importance of the doctrine of Our Lady's Assumption. Because of her total fidelity to Christ she has already been raised body and soul to glory. What Christ intended for Mary, He intends for each of us. The Assumption teaches us not only about our final destiny, but the absolute sanctity of the human body.

Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest