

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Sue Briscoe
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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 18 Mar St Patrick
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Mass: 5.30pm

Tuesday 19 Mar St Joseph
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
Mass: 5.30pm

Wednesday 20 Mar Mass: 7am

Thursday 21 Mar Polish Mission: 11am
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm
(Reconciliation Available)
Mass: 5.30pm

Friday 22 Mar Mass: 9.30am
Polish Mission: 11am

Saturday 23 Mar Mass: 7.30am
Polish Mission: 11am
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm
Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday 24 Mar Third Sunday of Lent
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish Mass)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — YEAR C 17 MARCH 2019

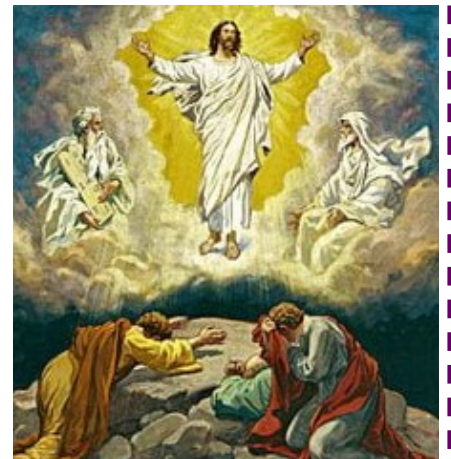
READINGS: Genesis 15:5-12,17-18; Philippians 3:17-41; Luke 9:28-36

God makes a solemn covenant with Abraham and his descendants. The **FIRST READING** relates an ancient practice of the two parties walking between carcasses which had been cut in two, invoking the fate of the animals on themselves should they fail to observe the terms of the contract.

Saint Luke emphasises that the experience of the Transfiguration was for Jesus Himself.

The incident was meant to confirm Him in the course He had taken (last Sunday).

For the Apostles it was a preparation for Christ's Passion.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Recently Deceased

Nilda AY-AX-UY

Anniversaries

Bill CROWE

Rosa EVANGELISTA

Maria FRANCESCO

Valerie WONSON

Ryan TEASDALE

Marino BATTISTA

Angelini & Renato POMPEI

Mary VARLEY

ROSTERS — NEXT WEEKEND

March	Church Washing	Fiona Fernandez	
Sat 23 Mar	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
	Lawns	J Lonard, F Timpano, S Carrigan	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 23 Mar	G Attard	A Kelly	Volunteer
Sun 24 Mar 7am Mass	M Walsh	A Browne	Volunteer
Sun 24 Mar 9am Mass	R Klaus, C Carolan	M Matos	P Cundy, F Fernandez
Counters	M Murphy (FT), A Kelly, S Alessi		
Children's Liturgy	K Hertsch, S Walsh		



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



LENTEN GROUP

Every **Wednesday** during Lent
in **St Joseph's Room**
at **7.30pm.**

ASCEND YOUTH GROUP

ASCEND is back for round 2!

Looking forward to seeing you
all **after 6pm Mass** on
Saturday 30 March 2019!
Also, please remember to
complete your permission
forms and bring them
with you on the night!



Gospel Reflection

All of us can experience moments of great joy because in His goodness God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come.

However, moments of joy, no matter how wonderful, will never satisfy the human heart.

What we long for is a permanent state of happiness.

But that is unattainable here.

So what must we do?

Like desert travellers, we must go forward from one oasis to another, with the conviction that God has a homeland prepared for us at the end of our journey.

This conviction will make it possible for us to travel onwards with an ache in our heart and an unquenchable longing in our soul.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held in the Parish on
Saturday 15 June 2019.

An information night for parents will be held **in the Church** on
Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 7.30pm.

Attendance at the meeting is important.
Children wishing to receive the Sacrament must be in Year 6 or older and practising their faith.





“Let St Joseph’s true children remember their mission and seek first the poorest most neglected parts of God’s Vineyard.”

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1900)

OUR CHILDREN — ENGAGING AND GROWING IN GOD’S LOVE

Tuesday 26 March 2019 - 7.30pm—9pm, Ingham Room, Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour St Wollongong

Wednesday 27 March 2019 - 7:30pm—9pm, Phillip Room, Campbelltown Catholic Club, 20 Camden Rd Campbelltown

Our children are precious to us and to God – made in his image. As parents, grandparents, catechists and sacramental programme leaders, how do we encourage and nurture our children as they grow in this awareness?

Presented by Fr James McEvoy, theologian and priest from Adelaide, we will reflect on the process of growth in faith, how children are actively involved in their own social and spiritual development – sometimes for the good and sometimes through suffering and hardship.

Please **RSVP** to **Helen Bennett** by **Friday 22 March 2019** on **4222 2403** or **helen.bennett@dow.org.au**

DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD

Sunday 24 March 2019

- 10:30am** Mass, St Mary’s Cathedral, Sydney
- 12noon** Angelus, followed by a prayerful procession through the streets of Sydney led by Most Rev Bishop Anthony Randazzo
- 1.30pm** Benediction at St Mary’s Cathedral



LIGHT TO THE NATIONS (LTTN) — 2019

LTTN is an Easter Pilgrimage event held biannually for Catholics (singles and families) aged 16+.

Camp under the open skies with 1,000 other young people as we celebrate the Easter Triduum.

Held in the grounds of Chevalier College Bowral NSW - **18-21 April 2019.**

Visit **www.lttan.org.au** for more information and register today.

Contact

info@ltnn.org.au or
ring **0432 228 250.**



Light to the Nations
EASTER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME

– AIRS SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2019 –

This week on The Journey, our Gospel Luke: 4;1-13, Mother Hilda talks to us about “I don’t want a God like that” with her Wisdom from the Abbey; our Men Alive programme encourages us “be more and the rest will follow”; Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, reminds us to find our AWE.



Some of our music highlights during Lent will be the Responsorial Psalm from our very own Lenten programme, TRUST, along with other talented Christian music artists.

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

PILGRIMAGE - LANDS OF ST PAUL

Fr Christopher Sarkis will be leading a 10-night pilgrimage as chaplain to the Lands of St Paul, following the path of his missionary journey. Visiting Athens, ancient Corinth, Meteora, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Patmos and Ephesus, with an optional extension to Malta where St Paul was shipwrecked on his way to Rome where he was martyred. It departs **15 July 2019.**

For further information contact Harvest Journeys
Freecall **1800 819 156** or email **info@harvestjourneys.com**
or visit **www.harvestjourneys.com**

DISCIPLES SCHOOL OF MISSION

23—28 April 2019

Are you aged between 18-40 and searching for an adventure in 2019? If so, then join us for Disciples School of Mission. This 5-day live in school calls young people from across Australia and beyond to be equipped for youth ministry and evangelisation. Short term missions available to PNG, Indonesia, Townsville, Port Pirie, Darwin and back into your own parish. Be renewed in your own faith, equipped for mission/youth ministry and formed in the Catholic faith – you won’t regret it – it’s an adventure!

For more information, please contact **therese.mgl@gmail.com**

PROJECT COMPASSION

Tati lives in the remote forest of West Kalimantan. She is a mother of three who was earning an income working in a local rubber plantation. Since taking part in eco-tourism training with Caritas Australia and its partners, Tati can now afford to send her children to school.



Tati, Indonesia

With new hope and commitment Tati aspires to a future free from poverty for her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help lift communities in Indonesia out of poverty and give them hope to protect our common home.

My Dear People,

It used to be quite normal to think of LENT in negative terms. But “Lent” comes from the Northern Hemisphere — Spring is approaching (“Lent” comes from the old English word to announce the days are “lengthening” after a long winter). So “lent” actually means “springtime” - hope for the future.

According to the Missal revised by Vatican II, Lent is the time to joyfully recall our Baptism. Baptism is, of course, often taken for granted. But Baptism defines us ontologically — a theological word which means our very being changed that day for all eternity. We may decide to strike our name off the Baptism Register (and priests sometimes get that request — one of the saddest things I have ever had to do), but it doesn’t change the reality. On the day of our Baptism, God officially adopted me as His son/daughter. And God never changes His mind.

In fact, Pope Benedict once remarked that all of us are actually eternal — we have always existed. We have been in God’s mind from the very beginning. “Before the world was made, He chose us.” (EPHESIANS 1).

The most important thing about Pope Francis, for example, is not that he is Bishop of Rome but that he is a baptised Christian.

Lent invites us to say YES to our Baptism. For some this will mean a U-turn. After Jesus was baptised He was tested in the wilderness. Baptism is no different for us — except for the timing. It may be several years after our Baptism that we face this test — to do battle with our demons. We are all impelled by so many unredeemed attitudes — complacency, greediness, hardness of heart. Our main battles are within our divided hearts. No-one becomes a Saint without a battle with himself/herself.

Evil is not easily uprooted. Living out our Baptism demands action on our part. The Gospel will always be countercultural. To arm ourselves for the battle of life, the Church has always recommended prayer in all its forms, fasting to balance our overindulgence, and “alms deeds” - cutting back on our expenses so as to become more aware of the needs of others.

Jesus’ faith was tested. Satan is real. Satan is cunning. Satan hates Jesus. Therefore, Satan hates the Church. Pope Francis has been “booed” because he has invoked the name of Satan as the force of destruction present in today’s Church and today’s world. I couldn’t help but wonder at the timing of Satan’s assault in force on the priesthood (and Pope Benedict noted it) — it became most savage about ten years ago during “The Year of the Priest”.

I am not excusing any member of the Church for the crimes they have committed (“The Devil made me do it” said Bill Cosby). We are all responsible for our actions, and each one of us must eventually face God — priest, religious, lay. The problem is the force of evil unleashed on the good. Where do we stand, and what do we do?

I stand with Christ. If I leave Him, I am only adding to the evil I see. “Do you want to leave?” said Jesus to the Twelve. Simon Peter answered “Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of life.” (JOHN 6).

We could well use as our patron in these troubled times St Thomas More, Henry VIII’s Chancellor. Thomas was executed because he would not renounce his allegiance to Christ’s Church — even at a time when the Pope was not exactly a paradigm of virtue.

Yes, our faith is being sorely tested, as was Jesus’. Pope St John XXIII was a modern prophet when he prayed that the Church would experience a “new Pentecost”. Prophets simply follow the promptings of the Spirit, and rarely see the outcome of their predictions. Pentecost is associated with fire, and the Spirit is truly purging the Church. It hurts. We must stand in the crucible, no matter how much it hurts. We cannot leave Christ, and Christ and His Church are one.

What did Jesus do, faced with contradiction? St Luke tells us “In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly.” (Chapter 22). We are encouraged by the Letter to the Hebrews. It was written to sustain the faith of the first Christians who were tempted to give up under persecution.

“Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy that was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it ... Think of the way he stood such opposition ... and then you will not give up for want of courage.” (12/2-3).



Mgr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest