

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	March 19	SAINT JOSEPH Mass: 7:00am
Tuesday	March 20	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm
Wednesday	March 21	Mass: 7:00am
Thursday	March 22	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
Friday	March 23	Mass: 9:30am
Saturday	March 24	Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 4:30 - 5:30pm Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday	March 25	PALM SUNDAY Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish) (If weather is fine the 9am Mass will begin in the front porch)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

18th MARCH, 2018

READINGS: JER 31:31-34; HEB 5:7-9; JN 12:20-33

The prophet
Jeremiah tells a
shattered people that
God has not forsaken
them (First Reading).



Through His
obedience and
suffering Christ will
be glorified and will become the source of eternal life
for those who follow Him (Second Reading & Gospel).

We adore You, O Christ,
and we praise You. +
Because by Your holy
Cross You have redeemed the world

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Sr Agnellus GREIG SGS (Sister taught at St Pius X in the early 1960s)

Anniversaries: Clare & Walter SHANLEY, Nancy PLENDERLEITH, Ryan TEASDALE,
Mary Elizabeth VARLEY

Deceased members of the SHANLEY & WILSON families.

Rosters of next weekend

24th Sat	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Walsh	
	Lawns		
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6pm		M Gillis	Volunteer
25th Sun 7am	M Walsh	S Walsh	Walsh Family
9am	R Klaus, C Carolan	A Kelly	C Hailstone, K Hertsch
Counters	M Murphy (FT), R Wilson, J Carolan, S Alessi		
Children's Liturgy	C Hailstone, L Galea		

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.

Morning Tea will be served after 9am Mass next Sunday (Palm Sunday).

Every one is invited to come and join us.

(Helpers—Margaret, Sandra, Pat)

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

Gospel Reflection

Each of us is like a grain of wheat.
Just as the grain must die so as to produce a harvest, so we must die to self in order to bear the fruits of love.
This dying to self is a gradual process and happens in little ways.

Every act of humility involves dying to pride.

Every act of courage involves dying to cowardice.

Every act of kindness involves dying to cruelty.

Every act of love involves dying to selfishness.

Thus the false self dies, and the true self, made in God's image, is born and nurtured.

It is by giving that we receive:

It is by giving that we are forgiven;

It is by dying that we are born to eternal life.

EASTER CEREMONIES

Volunteers are needed for the various ministries for the Easter Ceremonies.

If you would like to be involved in the parish ceremonies for the most important week in our Church please write your name on the sheets on the seat in the centre aisle of the church.

- ◆ **Acolytes**
- ◆ **Readers**
- ◆ **Servers**
- ◆ **Welcomers**
- ◆ **Volunteers for the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday**

INVITATION TO THE CHRISM MASS – WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH 7.30PM

Each year during Holy Week the Chrism Mass is celebrated at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. If you have never participated, you are missing one of the most solemn and significant liturgies of our Church. During the Mass, the Priests of the Diocese renew their commitment to priestly service; Bishop Brian blesses the oil of catechumens (for Baptism) and the oil of the sick (for Anointing of the Sick) and consecrates the oil of chrism (for Baptism, Confirmation, the Ordination of clergy and the consecration of altars). The oils are then distributed to clergy to be used during the year with their local communities. Everyone is warmly invited to join Bishop Brian and our clergy to celebrate this significant event in the life of the Church.



“All will be right with time and a little patience.”

St. Mary of the Cross 1873

FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

FROM BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD'S 2018 LENTEN MESSAGE

‘It might all sound a little naïve and simplistic, but that’s what discipleship in Christ is all about. We invite Jesus closer and Jesus says, “Yes!” Jesus calls us out further into the deep and we respond, “Yes!”

CALLED TO MINISTRY? – UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING EVENTS

Have you considered serving your parish as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or an Adult Altar Server, or a Minister of Communion of the Sick and Homebound? The 2018 Diocesan Training courses in these ministries are scheduled as follows:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion 10am-1pm, Servers continue 10am-3pm Saturday 14 April 2018

Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong

Bishop Brian Mascord and members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will lead two sessions in the morning covering the common ministry of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and one session after lunch for servers. Morning tea and lunch provided.

Communion of the Sick & Homebound 10am-2.30pm

Saturday 16 June 2018 at Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong

Wollongong

Pre-requisite of prior training as an Acolyte, Adult Altar Server or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Led by members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Morning tea and lunch provided.

For further information visit www.liturgy.dow.org.au or contact Paul Mason liturgy@dow.org.au or

4222 2462. Registration essential to Anthony Rewak 4222 2465 or anthony.rewak@dow.org.au

NEED HELP AT HOME OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Flyer attached CatholicCare offers practical in-home aged care services, so you or someone you love can continue living a happy and healthy life in the comfort of their own home.

For more information please call 42549342 or visit www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 18 MARCH 2018

This week on the Journey, we continue to use the Gospel reflection from Wollongong Diocese Lenten program, Sr Hilda From the Abbey speaks softly to us, Pete Gilmore in his Living the Gospel segment, reminds of the story of The Lion of Judah, Francene Pirolas gives some advice on How to Save a Marriage in Trouble in her segment, Smart Loving. We are so lucky to have amazingly talented music artists to help pull our show together to create a 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.

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.

WHERE ARE ALL THE MEN? – CAN YOU HELP?

Under 40% of those who attend Catholic Parishes are male and the figures are getting worse. Our Diocese is connecting strongly with the MenALIVE movement to help Parishes bring men together, to renew their faith in God and to encourage them to become an active force within the Church. A non-residential weekend for multiple Illawarra parishes will be run on 5-6 May 2018 in Wollongong. We need 1-2 men from each interested Parish to help get men involved. If you can invite, cook a BBQ and make other men feel welcome, the MenALIVE team will do the rest. Can you help? Please contact Mr Jude Hennessy on 4222 2407 or jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre
247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566
Ph: 02 8795 3400

retreats@carmelite.com | www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER RETREAT

March 28: 6:00 pm – April 1, 9:30 am

Holy Week and Easter Retreat

Presenters: Carmelite Team

Cost: \$480.00

We invite you to accompany the Carmelite Community as we enter the Most Holy Triduum of the Lord’s Passion, Death and Resurrection.

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR A JUST FUTURE



Fifth Sunday of Lent

18th March 2018

Ditosa in Mozambique is cared for by her grandmother after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. Featured in Project Compassion 2013, aged 12, thanks to Caritas Australia’s support, Ditosa has now graduated from school with plans for university.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help young women like Ditosa to grow up with an education, confidence and hope, providing them with a just future.

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,

Our memories are a very important part of our lives. But we should never live on memories alone, for we should always be making the most of the present. But what we are **now** is a result of what we **have been** - the people we have known and loved (or not loved), and the experiences we have lived. We are (or we should be) in a state of change, and so there is a continuity of part, present, and future.

The Church lives on memories—the memories of God’s love. The Church could not act in the present, nor have the courage to face the future, if it were not for her memories of what God has promised and of what He has already done. Lent and Easter are especially a time of memories. Through the Scripture Readings she has chosen and through her celebration of the Liturgy, the Church will once more try to come closer to God by **remembering** His love.

In the Liturgy **remembering** takes on a unique dimension. God is not a God of the past, He is the God of the NOW. We cannot think of the past concerning God without realizing that He is present with us **now**. Certainly, this was the understanding of the Jews. They believed that every time they came together to celebrate the Passover, the God who saved their ancestors actually became present to them **as they remembered**. They were taking part in the original Passover years and even centuries afterwards.



So, when Jesus told His apostles to “do this in **memory** of me” they understood the implications. Every time they would “break the Bread”, as the Mass was first called, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus would become **present**. And so Christians from that time on believed that at Mass they were participating in the actual events of Christ’s saving death and resurrection. In fact, a Christian was recognised and defined as one who sacramentally, or in SIGN, celebrated the sacred mysteries of Christ. (Sadly, the Protestant Reformation divided Christians on this basic issue)

Salvation, then, is always a thing of the present. It is not something that **has** happened or **will** happen. Salvation is happening **now**. And so the Church will in this coming HOLY WEEK, in a more solemn way than usual, celebrate what God has done and is doing for us in Christ. It is important, then, that we prepare ourselves **this** week in spirit. We should enter Holy Week in a spirit of inner peace. A famous German Benedictine nun in a book on Holy Week uses the beautiful image of a ship entering port after a long voyage—the weeks of effort and strain will be over. The Church is like that ship. Lent has been a long voyage, but now in Holy Week the ship will have entered port. It will be time to rest in the Passion of Christ. We should do our best that week to take time off for God.



Fr Graham Schmitzer

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Parish Priest