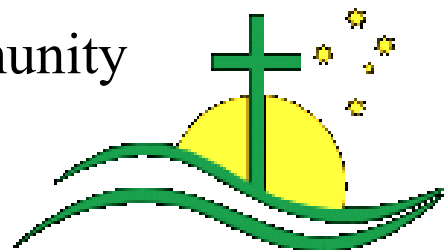




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

5 William Hovell Drv, Endeavour Hills 3802
T. 9700 3781 / F. 9700 6228
office@stpaulapostle.com.au
www.stpaulapostle.com.au



Fourth Sunday of LENT, 26-27 March, 2022

Station of the Cross is on
Friday evenings at 7pm in the Church

They're not as young as they used to be

A long delayed visit to parents begs the question, "Where is home?"

You know...

There is an instant when you are about to leave home with an idealised image of what you are leaving. A mental and emotional picture of people and place imprints a tourist brochure image on the memory that remains frozen in time. It is a useful sanity shield, which helps deal with the confusion and discomfort of new and unfamiliar surroundings experienced during the travels of life.

In times of confusion that idealised picture comes alive. Momentarily, it displaces the confusion. It is a source of security offering a safety net to pause, reflect, recompose and begin to grapple again with the uncomfortable reality of the present.

A tourist brochure picture is an asset in the migratory mind. However, it can also be a prison in which the past is lived out in the present, as if caught between two worlds like a bird whose wings are jammed in two branches, betwixt and between, neither here nor there, hanging between the past and the present, always on a threshold, liminal. It is an unhealthy, anxious situation, probably carrying a burden of unresolved grief, nostalgia, a hankering for the abandoned past. But that is not all this story is about.

My neighbour, Joe Divilly, possessed a business-oriented mindset from his early years. My lasting memory of him is from 1948, as a young boy in short pants reversing his father's truck loaded with agricultural produce for the Galway City Market, stores and hotels, in the dark hours of a Friday morning before school.

After finishing school at 14, Joe started work, an apprenticeship in his parent's village store. Gradually, he soaked up the procedures, processes and politics of running a business. At his father's passing, he took on the day-to-day running of the business, helped by his mother and sisters. In doing so, he gradually became acquainted with the countryside and its people, who were his customers.

It must have been difficult as a teenager in the 1950s post-colonial, newly independent, rural Ireland with its high levels of unemployment, poverty and emigration. Joe must have been seriously tempted to emigrate like his contemporaries, as a declining population is not a good omen or encouragement for business expansion. Yet, he stayed at home, using his energy and acumen to keep the business not just going, but gradually expanding. He had antennas for what was stirring in the country, as the government of the day gradually expanded the economy into the rural farming areas in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He met and married Theresa. She had a business background from her role in her uncle's hotel. Both experiences gelled and brought a new energy to an old, established rural enterprise. They were not just serving the needs of the public. Looking into the future, they were able to preempt emerging needs and market demands. They knew the countryside and the people they served, not just those who came to the store, but through a mobile service that travelled the country byroads. They were, so to speak, the daily eyes and ears, the social media of the Countryside. As their young family grew, they too helped with the daily chores.

Sometime in the 1980s, I was making my way home to visit my parents. Somewhere along the way, I met Joe, who welcomed me. As we sat having a drink and sharing our experiences, we also discussed the past, present and future. Joe talked about the happenings around the countryside, births, marriages and deaths. He recounted how things had changed, people coming and going, business, politics and general gossip. He had a relaxed way of easy conversation about news and events not reported in the formal media. He assured me my parents were hale and hearty.

And then, he said something about my parents I had not thought of, but he felt a neighbourly need to remind me. Joe said, in a kindly under-toned aside, "You know they're not as young as they used to be." Temporarily taken aback, his remark was letting me down easy as it defrosted my frozen tourist brochure

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Weekend Mass

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 9am, 11am and 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow

<https://youtu.be/VhMvmvEga3w>

Reconciliation
Saturday at 10-10.30am

Priests:
Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Passionist Community
Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

image of the way they were the day I left many years before.

There and then I realised I was not coming home to the countryside I knew or the parents I bade goodbye to many years before. In fact, I was not coming home at all. My home was elsewhere. I was a visitor.

My tourist brochure picture of the home and people I loved was out of sync with the reality of the present. Time had moved on. It was a wake-up call to confront and deal with the reality of the present. There and then I realised my parents were in their feeble, senior years and I was no longer young either.

As we went our separate ways, I was confronted with the conundrum of where home was. Was it in the places I went to school, lived and worked, the seminary, the Philippines, London, Jamaica, or did I carry it around on my back? Eventually, I reached the conclusion that home was in my shoes. Home was wherever I happened to be. Meeting Joe was a re-awakening I will always appreciate. Thanks Joe.

.....they're not as young as they used to be.

(by Fr Bobby Gilmore in Far East Magazine)

FAMILY NIGHT - SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

For those who are in this year's sacrament of reconciliation program, please remember your final family night is on **TUESDAY 29 March in the Church**. Sign in start at 6.45pm for 7pm start. All participants with one or both parents must attend this session in order to complete the program.

STATION OF THE CROSS (during LENT)

We will have Station of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent until 8 April from 7pm in the Church. All are welcome to join in.

GOOD FRIDAY STATION OF THE CROSS

Similar to last year, this year's Good Friday Station of the Cross will be conducted both outdoors and indoors. However, in order to enable that, we are inviting young people in the parish who are aged between 16 to 25 years old to help. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact the parish office either by email 'office@stpaulapostle.com.au' or phone 9700 3781 and leave your details (name and contact number)

ALTAR SERVERS

If you were previously an altar server and wish to serve again, or if you have never done it before and want to be part of this group, please contact the parish office so that we are aware. You need to arrive around 10 minutes prior to the Mass if you wish to help

PALM LEAVES FOR PALM SUNDAY

If you have palm trees and are able to spare some palm leaves to decorate our church. Please let us know. You may drop them off at the church on Saturday 9th April around 8-9am

PROJECT COMPASSION

This week's story on how project compassion this year will be allocated to :

Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations

SPECIAL APPEALS

St Vincent de Paul Society is having special appeal to help those affected by flood. Financial donations can be made either directly to either state through: www.vinnies.org.au - Flood appeal - St Vincent de Paul Society - Good Works (vinnies.org.au) or by calling - Queensland - (07) 3010 1000 or New South Wales - (02) 9568 0262

Caritas Australia is also running an appeal to assist the people in Ukraine who are living through a crisis that will impact the country for years to come. To help please go to this site <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/> or contact 1800 024 413

HEALING MASS at St Joseph's Church - Springvale

on Monday 4th April 2022 from 6.30pm by Fr John OFM Conv. Contact Jenny 0447 524 893, Imelda 0406 403 780, Bernadette 0407 307 377 or Joseph 0452 001 714

Readings:

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

Joshua 5: 9-12;
2 Cor 5: 17-21;
Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

Is 43: 16-21;
Phil 3: 8-14;
Jn 8: 1-11

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Horace Stolke, Connie James, Halga Roncon, Rene Weston, Christakis Isodiou, Sam Hili, Mary Hili, Nestor Santos, Collette, Angelo Fernandes, Marcia Fernandes, Reginald, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Kirk Smaller, June Smaller, Camilla D'Rozario, Sr. Serafina, Bryony, Findlay Lawless, Gaetan Clark, Ismael Bermudez, Domenica Lombardi, Dwayne Edmonds, Anne Ghatt, Chase McCarthy, Irma Aiello, Graham Hawkesworth, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues

Those who have died

Rosemary Teljega, Gabriel Martyn, Dorothy Werkmeister, Teresa Sousa, Giovanna Satragno, Graciano Alves, Ivan E. McPherson, Peter Loh, Denise Rodgers, Travis Meerwald, Janet Barry, **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

