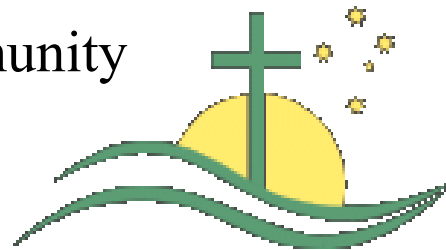




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



Third Sunday of LENT Year A, 11-12 March, 2023

PRAYING OUR GOODBYES

Where are many moments in our lives when we experience painful goodbyes - the loss of a loved one, children leaving home, or family members moving overseas. When we are moving on from our painful goodbyes, we have much in common with the gospel stories of the resurrection. We are like the disciples on the road to Emmaus who, overcome by the death of Jesus, walked dejected and downhearted, thinking all was lost and life no longer held any meaning.

In making our goodbyes, we first need to identify the loss we have experienced and recognise the hurt or pain that is a part of this experience. As the disciples walked along the road to Emmaus, they talked about all that had happened - about how Jesus had been sentenced to death and crucified as a common criminal. They named what they were experiencing. The pain of loss was not only the death of a friend but also the end of their hope that he would be the one to set Israel free.

Like the disciples, we need to take the time to reflect on our goodbyes. This is not easy in our fast-paced culture, where we are under pressure to grieve quickly and get on with life. Our inner world where God dwells can be easily ignored. In reflecting on our goodbyes, we come to discover our deeper feelings; we acknowledge the ache we are suffering. We bring our pain into the intimate relationship we have with God. However, when we most need to experience the tender compassion and strengthening comfort of God, we very often feel a great distance in the relationship. I wonder if the disciples felt any comfort from God as they pondered over the death of Jesus. They had lost all hope. In our helplessness, we may realise we cannot pray through our own efforts alone. God comes to pray in us and sustain us in our dark times.

A part of our goodbyes is to be reorientated- to be drawn quietly into healing. As the disciples walked along and talked with Jesus, they did not know they were being healed. It was in the

breaking of the bread, when their eyes were opened, that they began to understand and accept what their experience meant to them. They were called to let go of their Emmaus experience and hope in the risen Jesus. It gave them courage, and they set out that instant to return to Jerusalem to share their experience with the other disciples.

We, too, are called to let go in our own time — to say goodbye so that we can be free to continue towards new horizons. This letting go is difficult because we fear not being in control, or we fear insecurity. It is natural to want to stay with what we know, to cling to the present pain, the deadness, or the lack of life. If we want to let go, we must recognise what needs letting go. The disciples had to let go of Jesus.

We are not alone as we grieve over our goodbyes. We need the strength to endure the deep emptiness that is a part of us. This strength can come from a family member or a close friend who will stand by us in our pain. This strength also comes from our risen Christ, who gives us hope. Jesus is a witness that when goodbyes do come, we can be raised from our feelings of loss and emptiness and experience something new within us. We can look upon our goodbyes from the direction of hello. Our strength and hope lie in our belief in the resurrection — that there is something beyond death, pain, and hurt.

We read in St Paul's Letter to the Romans 8:18: *"I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory as yet unrevealed which is waiting for us."*

(article from Far East, written by Fr Peter O'Neill)

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am & 6pm Mass

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow

<https://youtu.be/LGojlllyvc0>

Reconciliation

Saturday 10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP

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

STATION OF THE CROSS

During LENT we will hold Station of the Cross every Friday evening from 7pm in the Church. All are welcome. It will be led by our Passionist Companion group. You are also welcome to join for a cuppa afterwards



RECONCILIATION PROGRAM (for children)

Those children who attend NON PARISH SCHOOLS must attend the last ASRE session which is on TUESDAY, the 14th of March from 4pm to 5pm.

ALL CHILDREN who have been registered for this year's program **MUST** attend the FINAL family night on **TUESDAY, the 21st of March at 7pm** in the Church. Sign in starts at 6.45pm for a 7pm sharp start.

This will be followed by Reconciliation Service on TUESDAY, the 28th of March at 7pm in the Church, when these children will receive their first Sacrament of Reconciliation

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Please remember to pick up your new sets of thanksgiving envelopes from the gathering space. We would also appreciate if you could help to deliver those who lives in your street, so that we can minimise the mailing cost. If you are not in the thanksgiving and would like to take part in it, please fill in a form that are available in the foyer) and drop it off in the Parish Office so that we can include you in.

FR BRENDAN'S CELEBRATION

We will hold a gathering for Fr Brendan's 60th birthday. He has requested that we keep it simple. Thanksgiving Mass will be at 11am Mass on Sunday the 26th of March. Followed by a small gathering with drinks and finger food from 12 to 2pm in the annexe. He will cut the cake at 1pm. Everyone is welcome to join in.



THANK YOU for those who have generously supported the appeal last weekend for the chaplaincy work within the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese. Total amount donated is \$746.15

WORKING BEE

We thank all who have joined us at the last working bee on the 4th of March. We are planning to have another one on **SATURDAY, the 1st of**



April (this is not an April fools joke) That weekend we will clean up the Church garden, including trimming the hedges, etc. so that we can be ready for HOLY WEEK. If you have a hedge trimmer, please bring it along as we have many hedges to trim.

PARISH BINGO

Please note that only those who are 18 Yrs old or older are allowed to come in to the room at this event. No one under 18 Yrs is allowed to come in (even if they don't play).

Our next parish Bingo is on **FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2023** in the Tim O'Toole Annexe and will start at 7.30pm. You can come on your own or with friends. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441

PROCESSION OF THE GIFT

As you notice we have slowly brought back 'Procession of the gift' during most weekend Masses. That is to bring the bread and wine from the back of the Church to the altar just after the 2nd collection. We are looking at doing a roster for each Mass. At this stage, the only Mass which we are hoping to have people help is SUNDAY EVENING MASS. Please let us know if you would like to help at this Mass either by approaching Didi after Mass or calling the parish office on 9700 3781. You will be rostered on ONCE A MONTH only.

CUPPA AFTER MASS is another activity we would like to commence. Last month we have begun with PPC offering a cuppa after all Masses (weekend) If you are interested in taking part in this activity please contact us. You will only be rostered ONCE EVERY FOURTH MONTH. Please contact the parish office on 97003781 during the week or speak to Didi after Mass and we can explain to you all the necessary details

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATION

Thank you to all who have sent in their nomination form. We have now closed the nomination period. In a couple of weeks we will announce the updated list of our Parish Pastoral Council for this year. There will be another chance next year to be part of our PPC

DEANERY DINNER

The next Dandenong deanery dinner is on **WEDNESDAY, the 22nd of March from 5.30pm** at St John's Regional College, Caroline St, Dandenong. The topic this time is 'JOY IN OUR LIVES' with Fr Brendan Collins as the guest speaker. Cost is \$45 per person (incl. 3 course meal, wine and beer). RSVP is required to Paddy 0422 296 961 or email to dandenongdeanery@live.com.au

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Ikhlas Jona, Valerie Henriques, Cecil Harper, Michael O'Connor, Brian Tobin, Fr Brian Gleeson CP, Fr Peter Gaughan CP, Wilhada de los Reyes, Crystal Jayamaha, Elma, Alleyah, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Adelina Frante, Horace Stolke, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Juan Bautista Reinoza, Rebecca Maria Dorothy Kaludewage, Herman DeZylva, Hernan Ugarte, Mercia Fernandes, Ann van Ratingen, Carmen Hili, Rohini Ferrao, Br Stan Tyler CP, Andre Machado, Rosina Murgana, Marie-Therese Low Tat, Rebecca Tirant, Egbert Lespoire, Abel Tirant, Leonida Vidot **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



Readings:

Third Sunday of LENT Yr A

Ex 17:3-7 ;
Rom 5:1-2. 5-8 ;
John 4:5-42

Fourth Sunday of LENT Yr A

1 Sam 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 ;
Eph 5: 8-14 ;
John 4: 1-41

www.universalis.com

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

