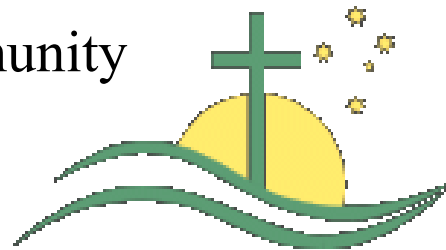




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 18-19 February, 2023

Lent: a guide for the perplexed

(extracted from Melbourne Catholic Magazine)

With Lent approaching once more, we thought it might be a good time to revisit and respond some of the questions that come up every year: What is Lent? Why do we observe it? What is penance, exactly? Below is some guide with some useful pointers on how we might enter more fully into this sometimes challenging but always gracious season.

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Thursday. At this point, the Easter Triduum begins and Catholics enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's Passion before Easter. Although penance is a calling of every Catholic throughout his or her life, Lent is a season specially marked out for the Church to be 'united among themselves by common observance' of it (Code of Canon Law, §1249). It is a way of growing in the faith together.

Although the term penance might sound strange to modern ears, and perhaps hold some negative connotations, you might be surprised to learn that penance in the Catholic tradition is considered a virtue, one we're invited to live in our whole lives, not just in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

What this means is that penance is something that, when practised enough, becomes a habit, something that is second nature to us.

According to St Thomas Aquinas, penance is a species of justice and has two elements: contrition for sin and the making amends for sin.

Simple justice dictates that if we steal something, we should return it; if somebody injures themselves because of us, we should compensate them in some way; if we break something, we should fix it. Seen in this way, justice is about healing what's broken. Penance is like this for our relationship with God: it's about turning ourselves back to God when we might have turned away. It's a healing process, which is why prayer, even contemplative prayer, is a form of penance: prayer, by its nature, turns us back to God.

Lent, as a penitential season, is the time for us to turn radically back to God; to experience true conversion and repentance. This conversion, however,

is primarily the work of grace, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (§1432). Lent should not be approached simply as a season of self-denial, then, but welcomed as a season of grace, in which our hearts can be softened.

Lent is not just about 'giving something up' No. As you've probably caught on by now, giving something up-or fasting-is only one of three things we should be focussing on throughout Lent. The other two, prayer and almsgiving, are very much about 'taking something up'.

In Australia and New Zealand, the obligations for Lent are:

- Catholics aged 18–59 should fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- Catholics aged 14 and older should abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- Catholics aged 14 and over should abstain from meat on every Friday of the year, including Lent, or substitute this with another form of penance, either in prayer, fasting or almsgiving.
- Taking up some form of voluntary penance throughout the season of Lent is also expected

What sometimes is missed in these conversations, though, is that the strictness of a practice does not determine its value, nor does it determine the holiness of the person doing it. In his famous hymn to love, St Paul takes a radical position, stating that love is what determines the value of an action. Even if we were to perform the most heroic act of all-martyrdom-it would be a waste if it were not an act of love (1 Corinthians 13:3).

St Thérèse of Lisieux would take up this idea as her famous 'little way'. And as the Catechism explains, the aim of penance is to foster, and be an expression of, an interior 'conversion of heart' (CCC, §1430). Without this interior transformation, penance is 'sterile and false'.

The focus in Lent, then-as with every other time of the year-should be on *the love with which we do things, not the amount or intensity of the things we do*

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/90OmXiTQYHY>

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

CUPPA AFTER MASS

We invite everyone to join us for a cuppa after Mass this weekend. Have a chat with other parishioners and the parish team. This will provide a great opportunity for us to know each other more.

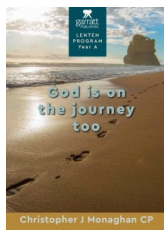
ASH WEDNESDAY, 22 February 2023

We will hold 2 Masses on Ash Wednesday. **There will be one in the morning at 9am and one in the evening at 7pm.**

We ask that if you have any Palm Leaves from last year, can you kindly send them to the parish office no later than the 20th of February. You may bring them to the parish office during the week or directly to the church and leave them in the sacristy. We will be able to use them for the ashes this year.

LENTEN BOOKLETS

If you are looking for material for reflection during Lent, we have Lenten booklets available in the Parish Office. This year's booklet is 'God is on the Journey, Too' written by Fr Chris Monaghan. Price is \$9 each. You can also approach Didi if you see her at the weekend Mass. Copies will be available then also.



2023 SACRAMENT PROGRAM (only for children)

The following are the important dates for our 2023 Sacrament programs:

Reconciliation:

First Family night Tuesday 21 February at 7pm
(Followed by 3 classes at parish schools or ASRE)
Last Family night Tuesday 21 March at 7pm
Service Tuesday 28 March at 7pm
(depending on the number, might have 2 sessions)

First Communion

First Family Night Tuesday 2 May at 7pm
(Followed by 4 classes at parish schools or ASRE)
Last family night Tuesday 11 July at 7pm
Masses Saturday 15 Jul and Sunday 16 July

Confirmation

First Family night Tuesday 3 October at 7pm
(Followed by 4 classes at parish Schools or ASRE)

Last Family Night Tuesday 14 November at 7pm
Session with Bishop:

Friday, 17 November at 11am in the Church

Masses:

Saturday 18 November at 2pm & 3.45pm

Registration for Sacrament of Reconciliation is now open. You may download the registration form from our website <https://www.melbcaatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>. Cost is \$25 per child per sacrament. If your child does not attend our parish schools, they are required to attend ASRE classes. We will provide you with those dates shortly.

PARISH BINGO

Our next parish Bingo is on **FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2023** in the Tim O'Toole Annexe and will start at 7.30pm. Anyone 18 yrs old and older are welcome. 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

WELLSPRINGS FOR WOMEN is inviting you to the launch of 'Know My Story Exhibition' which is a project that honours the contributions of 10 women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, who have shaped the cultural landscape of Dandenong. It is funded by the City of Greater Dandenong and the Victorian Public Records Office. **Two of these women are from our parish. One is Liseby Lapierre who is still active in our parish and the other one is Joyce Rebeiro, who was very active in our parish before she passed away in 2016, nevertheless her legacy lives on.**

The launch will be on **Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023** from 10am to 11.30am at Harmony Square (in front of the Dandenong Library) Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

WORKING BEE... WORKING BEE!!!

You may notice that there are piles of bark positioned around the Church garden. We want to spread them around the garden on **SATURDAY 4th MARCH** from 8.30am to around 11am.

We hope many of you will be able to come and help so that we can finish in one day. If you have a wheelbarrow please bring it when you come as we only have 1 available.



This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Michael O'Connor, Brian Tobin, Fr Brian Gleeson CP, Fr Peter Gaughan CP, Wilhade 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

Hernan Ugarte, Mercia Fernandes, Ann van Ratingen, Carmen Hili, Rohini Ferrao, Br Stan Tyler CP, Gil Cortinhal, Teresa Madeira, Franco Elloro, Henry Logotuli Peteru, Renea Joaicoeur, Jacque Joaicoeur, Claude Noyan, Camilo Dizon, Angelo Ximenes, Cynthia MacLeod, Percy MacLeod, Ruzica Duzel, deceased members of Duzel & Carevic Families Leona Martin, Percy Bengali, Jezbel Castellino **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



Readings:

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18 ;
1 Cor 3:16-23 ;
Mt 5:38-48

First Sunday of LENT Yr A

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 ;
Rom 5:12-19 ;
Mat 4:1-11
www.universalis.com

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

