



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

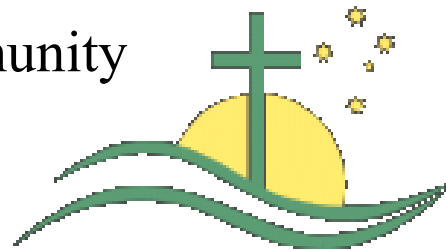
One Family

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Second Sunday of LENT Year A, 4-5 March, 2023

LENTEN MESSAGE FROM SUPERIOR GENERAL

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in the Passionist Family, I greet you with the hope that you have begun this Lenten season with a new found fervour. This is always a special and sacred time for us Passionists, as we are called to reflect on our charism and deepen our relationship with Jesus Crucified and Risen.

LENT is a process we undergo, a journey which we are invited to undertake with the goal of CONVERSION: "Turn away from sin (repent) and believe in the Gospel." However, conversion is a grace, God's gift in response to God's call: "come back to me with your whole heart...let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn" (Joel 2:12-13). The focus is our **hearts** and any meaningful acts that will contribute to its wholeness and sincerity, thereby allowing God's grace to bring about renewal and transformation in our lives. However, we must guard against 'showy' exterior acts which are performed as mere pretentious and empty rituals which Jesus condemned as hypocritical and an obstacle to the grace of conversion. Conversion (metanoia) is a deep interior journey undertaken with trust in a God "who is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in faithful love, and who relents about inflicting punishment." (Joel 2:13). Therefore, we need not be afraid to walk this journey because "God is love" and "in love there is no room for fear, but perfect love drives out fear." (1 John 4:16,18) We know that as human and sinful disciples of Jesus, we are constantly in need of conversion (turning back) to Christ. **Being with** Christ and **obediently following** his way is the path for an ongoing renewal of our minds and hearts.

Lent is an **opportunity**, a graced time to listen to our hearts in openness and sincerity, to examine our lives in accordance with the Gospel, and to put into practice what we believe the Holy Spirit is asking of us. May we not be careless and let this **opportunity** and gift pass by; rather, let us listen to and hear the words of Jesus to the Samaritan woman whom he encountered at the water well: "If you only knew what God is offering..." (John 4:10). Accepting the life giving "living water" that God

is offering will allow us to reclaim the joy of living to the full. So, let us grasp the opportunity offered us once again this Lent and let us consciously ask for the grace of conversion, for Jesus says: "Until now you have not asked anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and so your joy will be complete." (John 16:24).

God opens the door and invites us: "come back to me with your whole heart". We can ask ourselves: What is the condition of my 'heart' at this time? Take the opportunity this Lent to do a heart-check. Identify the blockages which have been built up over time and which you have been unable to clear, thereby preventing you from accepting with humility and gratitude the grace of freedom being offered by God; the blockages caused by pride and self sufficiency which steal your joy and leave you disillusioned with a false sense of security. Instead, let us cultivate the virtue of **humility** and adopt a disposition of **humble listening**, both of which are necessary for conversion, i.e. God's offer to return and drink "living water", and both of which Jesus models for us as we commit to walking with him in his Passion, Death and Resurrection. This is also the Church's present journey of **synodality** which requires 'kenosis', self-emptying. As Sr. Nathalie Becquart (Under-secretary for the General Secretariat for the Synod) said recently at the Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality: "It's really a path of conversion and transformation that asks of us a lot of courage to speak, to listen with humility...It requires attentiveness to the movement of the Spirit of truth within."

Humility is not about putting oneself down and grovelling. Rather, it is about knowing the truth of oneself and living from that truth which is, that God is ALL and I am NOTHING, yet immensely loved by God. In his ministry, Jesus led many people to discover this truth which brought about their conversion and transformation. God's love received with open hearts has the power to heal and create anew! This is the spirituality by which St. Paul of the Cross also lived his life and mission, and the message he wanted us to proclaim in and out of season: that in the humility, and humiliation, of Jesus in his Passion during his entire life, we find expressed the most profound reality of Divine Love for all.

Turn page over.....

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/RLNsoTH5uNc>

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

I conclude with this reflection from the Australian Cistercian monk, Fr. Michael Casey:

Jesus saved people by becoming one with them – with us. If this involved defying expectations by sharing a meal with designated sinners, then expectations had to be set aside. No doubt Jesus enjoyed the meal and enjoyed the company. The unhappy

ones are those who hold themselves aloof, who do not reach out to those who are lost but wrap themselves in their self-satisfaction – and then wonder why they are always so angry.

I wish you a blessed and fruitful Lenten journey.

Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P. Superior General

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) MINISTRY

Following up from our presentation and discussion last weekend, we would like to invite people to nominate someone in the parish who you believe will be suitable to represent parishioners on the PPC. There will be nomination forms available in the gathering space, the foyer and the parish office. You can nominate more than one person. Please return the completed form to the parish office by the 12th of March (*signed by both nominee and the person who nominate her/him*). We will then process them and announce the newly elected PPC members after we have contacted the nominees.



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

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (for children who have been registered into receiving Sacrament of Reconciliation this year)

For all children who have been registered into our Sacrament of Reconciliation this year, but do not attend our parish schools, they must attend ASRE (After School Religious Education) which runs every TUESDAY at 4pm and finishes at 5pm in the Church. Next classes are **7th and 14th March**

Parents must sign in their child as they drop him/her at church. They must also sign them out as they pick them up. Please use the William Hovell Drive entrance, as we will not open other entrances

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Since this group resumed its activity this year at the 11am Sunday Mass, it has grown significantly. The children seem to enjoy participating in the group and we hope they gain new knowledge and insights regarding their faith. Fortunately, there have also been a few people whom responded to our request for more volunteers to

assist with running this group. Therefore, we are now able to hold the children's liturgy at 11am Mass every Sunday. If you are interested in helping out, you are most welcome to join us (please contact the parish office)

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

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

The new sets are now ready to be picked up from the foyer of the church. They are arranged in STREET ORDER. Therefore, if you wish to find your envelope, please look under your STREET'S NAME (eg. If you name is 'SMITH' and lives in 'RAVENHILL CRES', please find it under 'R') 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.

JUSTICE GROUP

Justice Group thank you all for your support last weekend with the egg collection. They received \$944.85 which will be used to help the asylum seekers with protein supplies (egg)



PASTORAL CARE APPEAL (previously known as Chaplaincy appeal)

This weekend we will have a special collection to support the Pastoral Care appeal to assist Catholic chaplains who provide a compassionate presence and spiritual care to thousands of Victorians in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres every year

Readings:

Second Sunday of LENT Yr A

Gen 12:1-4 ;
2 Tim 1: 8-10 ;
Mat 17: 1-9

Third Sunday of LENT Yr A

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

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

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, Adeline Frante, Horace Stolke, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, and ***All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues***

Those who have died

Herman DeZylva, Hernan Ugarte, Mercia Fernandes, Ann van Ratingen, Carmen Hili, Rohini Ferrao, Br Stan Tyler CP, Gil Cortinhal, Teresa Madeira, Franco Elloro, Andre Machado, Teresa Sousa, Antonio Guterres, Jose Pinto, Etelvina Pinto, Manuel Duarte, Egbert Lespoire, Abel Tirant, Leonida Vidot ***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

