



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Fourth Sunday of EASTER Year B, 20-21 April, 2024

Honouring the dignity and courage of women around the world

As your Project Compassion Boxes are returned, we would like to provide an insight into how far your donations have gone and will go in supporting this most worthy cause. In this week and next week's newsletter we will detail stories revealing the positive impact of these donations for the recipients.

The Vatican's recent document *Dignitas infinita* touches on some of the many instances, in cultures throughout the world, where women's dignity is ignored, distorted or abused. 'While the equal dignity of women may be recognised in words,' it says, 'the inequalities between women and men in some countries remain very serious. Even in the most developed and democratic countries, the concrete social reality testifies to the fact that women are often not accorded the same dignity as men.'

Quoting Pope Francis, the declaration points out that often 'we say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story.'

'Let us respect women. Let us respect their dignity, their basic rights. And if we don't, our society will not progress,' the Pope says in the video as he reflects on his prayer intention for the month of April: 'Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.'

'Now in its 60th year, Caritas Australia—a Catholic humanitarian organisation—places a strong emphasis on honouring the bravery and contributions of women, and promoting their rights to education, food security, safety and economic opportunity. Below are some of the ways in which Caritas is working to uphold the dignity of women of all ages and backgrounds.

Laxmi's story

Laxmi lives with her mother and siblings in Jajarkot, one of the least developed districts in the re-

mote Karnali province, with almost half of the population living below the poverty line.

Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old. Her father, who worked hard to pay for his children's education, passed away. Laxmi was devastated. She used to love to go to school, but for the first time she stopped attending her classes.

Before her father's passing, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school that was run with the support of Caritas Nepal, through the Nepal Livelihoods and Resilience Program. Child's clubs support students to develop their speaking, writing and leadership skills through extracurricular activities.

Since 2018, Caritas Nepal has supported more than 5,000 children through the child's clubs.

Laxmi has excelled at school since joining the child's club. But her proudest achievement is something that will have a lasting impact for future generations.

Now I know where to speak, what to speak. However big the gathering might be, I'm not afraid to speak.

Since clean water has long been an issue at Laxmi's school, she and her child club members discussed the need to build multiple water taps so that all students can access clean drinking water. They lobbied the school administration, the ward office and the municipality office until they eventually agreed to construct a series of water taps on the school grounds.

Laxmi is now working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer, but continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an adviser and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.

'Even though I don't study in this school now, I have to show them what I did with my talent, how I changed, teach them what they can do. I want them to learn from the things I did,' she says.

(extracted from Melbourne Catholic Magazine.)

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
10am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtube.com/live/cXINr--um9w?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
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 Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP
Dcn Tuan Paul Anh-Do 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

Readings for Next Week
Fifth Sunday of EASTER Year B

First Reading

Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers

Psalm

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall
hall worship before him.
To him, indeed, shall all
who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first Letter of St. John

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Abide in me as I abide in you, says the Lord
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to His disciples:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Questions for reflection

Q. Within the analogy of the vineyard, where would you place yourself?

Q. Where do you find ‘fruitful connections’ with Jesus the vine?

Q. What aspects of your life need a little ‘pruning’ so that you might bear more fruit?

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

YOUNG ADULTS (age 18 to 25 years old)

For those who are wondering what this group is all about, you can contact the Parish Office and we will provide more information. Also keep an eye on the news as we will keep you up-dated with information regarding the next gathering

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

4:12 YOUTH (our Parish Youth)

This group is to accommodate our Youth who are in grade 5 up to year 9. All activities in this gathering cater for this age group. The next gathering is on **FRIDAY, 10 MAY** at 7pm in the Tim O'Toole Annexe. Please contact Trish Brown on 0412 357 350, if you wish to attend

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM

is a program for all children who are in grade 4 or above (must have been baptised Catholic and have received their sacrament of Reconciliation). If you wish to register your child for this program, please contact us on 9700 3781 or email us office@stpaulapostle.com.au. We have extended the deadline for registration to Wednesday, 24 April, 2024. Please check our website (or click [here](#)) for more information regarding this program. Before you submit the registration form, please ensure that you can meet all of the necessary criteria (your child's attendance in every class/ family night)

for registration form please click on this [link](#)

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Thank you to all who have returned their Project Compassion boxes. If you still have one at home, please bring it either to the Church or the Parish office (during office hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm)

THANK YOU

"We would like to thank SPA Community for your prayers and support for Annette during her recent illness. Annette is recovering well from her treatment. We appreciate your thoughts.

Ray Evans and Family"

PARISH BINGO

Our next parish Bingo will be on **FRIDAY, 17 May** at 7.30pm in the Annexe. You can come on your own or as a group.

For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441. Please note that this activity is strictly adults only (18 years or over). Unfortunately, we are bound

to a strict policy which states that anyone under this age is not permitted inside the hall during Bingo

CHILDREN'S LITURGY (Reminder)

Just a reminder that this group does not run during school holiday, they will resume on 21 April at 11am Sunday Mass. This group welcome all primary school children and younger to our Children's Liturgy program at 11am Mass each week.

Please note that the 11am Mass is being LIVE-STREAMED every week. We ask that children under 4 or with special needs be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. Our leaders will be easily identifiable, if your child has any allergies, a serious medical condition or special needs, please alert the leader on the day. Due to possible allergic responses we ask that you refrain from bringing any food into the Children's Liturgy space. When the children are returning to their seats after the session please ensure they are aware of where you are seated. We have provided labels for you to write your child's name if you wish. If you have any questions or feedback please feel free to chat to one of our Children's Liturgy volunteers or someone on the parish team

FAREWELL

Michael D'Silva, one of our longtime parishioners passed away early morning on Thursday 11th April 2024. Michael, together with his wife Vilma faithfully attended Mass at St Paul Apostle Church until he was no longer able to do so.

During Easter services this year, Michael attended one Mass together with his family.

Michael's funeral will be on **MONDAY, 22nd April** at 11am Mass (Rosary at 10.45am) at our Church



This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Roger Gray, Stephanie Kinson, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Ronella Tyrell, Meti Pereira-VanEijk, Danny Sugunasekera, Agnes Fernandez, Shirley C. Esteban, Joaquina Braz, Norah Ekanayake, Grace Sprigg, Lara Moyle, Jamie Cabrera **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Dexter Walker, Michael D'Silva, Sharne Labrooy, Nicole Balmano, Christine Ann Kelly, Anne Silva, Margaret Avlonitis, Naureen Norico, Alice Money, Eda Noyan, Renea Jolicoeur, Luke Dhondhee, Guy Dhondhee, Maria Antonietta Damelio, Antonino Bartuccelli **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

Readings:

Fourth Sunday of EASTER Year B

Acts 4:8-12;
1 John 3: 1-2
John 10: 11-18

Fifth Sunday of EASTER Year B

Acts 9: 26-31;
1 John 3: 18-24
John 15: 1-8

www.universalis.com

ANZAC DAY Mass is

At 10am

(there will be NO 9am Mass on this day)

Mass will be followed by morning tea



St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Alvita Dias	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Lakni Weerasekera Diane Heaton
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Diane Allegany Anne Astin	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Alvita Dias Grace Sudjono Virendra Jayetileke	Jennifer Tanti Diane Allegany	Melissa Krajacic Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Florence Madeira	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Aloma Pereira	Sharon Normington Jean Jansz Naomi Falo	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Peter Miller Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell	Florence Madeira Sai Dilingier Binitha Mathew	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Mary Moore Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Stephen Herbert Lauren Rafferty	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Riona Alveyn Carmeline Don Paul Peter Miller	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Nila Fernando	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Ayomi Fernandez Peng Chee Jenny Catania