



@HOME NEWSLETTER

Holy Family Parish Como-Kensington

Issue #13

MARCH 2016

Also available online at: www.holyfamily.com.au

AUSTRALIA DAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE



On Tuesday 26th January 2016 Holy Family Parish, in conjunction with the Australian Irish Heritage Association, hosted an Ecumenical Service to celebrate **Australia Day**. The service was concelebrated by Fr Ossie with Rev Alan Brodie of the Anglican Church and Rev Peter Johnstone of the Uniting Church.

Those attending the service were greeted by traditional Irish music being performed in the church foyer. Holy Family parishioner and talented musician Rosemary Jose, excelled in the provision of organ accompaniment for the service.

The Entrance Procession, included Holy Family parishioners and representatives from various Irish organisations. They brought forward Irish

artefacts representing the influence and impact Irish immigrants have had on Australia. Irish representatives and parishioners also led the congregation in the Prayers of the Faithful.

In his keynote address, Fr Ossie acknowledged the influence of the Irish De La Salle Brothers on his education in Burma and their commitment to Burma and it's culture by *not coming to live there but to die there*.

Many of the large multi-faith congregation of parishioners and visitors were very complimentary of the Service and the Australian morning tea that followed.

The Holy Family Parish Social Committee are to be congratulated for the work they did in collaboration with the AIHA.

CECILIA
BRAY

MINISTRY TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr Ossie Lewis
Resident Priest: Fr Greg Carroll
Parish Pastoral Assistants:
 Nola Smith & Tony Pires
Sacristan:
 Joseph Muttupulle
Office Staff:
 Cecilia Bray, Maggie Doyle &
 Arlene Rainford
Safeguarding Officers:
 Breda Pires & Jim Phillips

Liturgy Committee:
 Nola Smith
Adult Faith Formation:
 Tony Pires
Sacramental Preparation:
 Nola Smith & Mark Ferroa
Sacred Environment:
 Megan Phillips
Holy Family Care:
 Tony Pires
St Vincent de Paul Society:
 Tony Abbott

Parish Pastoral Council Chair:
 Tony Pires
Finance Committee:
 Mary-Jo Sieber
Maintenance Committee:
 Jim Phillips
Grounds Committee:
 Colin Howarth
Social Committee:
 Ian Sydney-Smith
Communications:
 Nola Smith

Contact details for the above parishioners are available from the Church Office Mon-Fri 9.30am-12.30pm

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING MINISTERS FOR THEIR SERVICE THIS WEEKEND

26th/27th March	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.30am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	Peter Quin	David Ho	Tony Bray
Altar Servers	MC David Ho TH Dimi Sidi B Bryan Chong S1 Carl Dias S2 Elishia Seow S3 Sam Fitzgerald	Emma Pearson Raphael Affinito Kate Pearson Alex Frangs Zara Pearson Sam LeFebvre	Aaron Richards Cameron Richards Rain Bianchini Ben Bianchini Georgette Morgan Kate Bourne
Commentators	Ian Sydney-Smith	Mark Haydock	Mark Martin
Readers	Lindy Fitzgerald Regina Crothers Joan Morcombe	Marianne Taylor Katy Fuderer	Cathy Martin Leon Hanrahan
Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Frank Giannini Christina Sidi Hasan Sidi Anne Quin Bill Woodruff Margaret Hennessy	Paddy Embry Jackie Embry Marcus Pearson Adelene Bird	Grace Toczykowski Izaak Francis Cecilia Bray Jill McGimpsey-Evans
Children's Sunday Liturgy		Bronwen Frangs	Marie Tiley
Sacred Environment	Megan Phillips and Sacred Environment Team		

BAPTISM

The sacrament of Baptism is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation of the Catholic Church; the other two Sacraments being the Eucharist and Confirmation. As it is an important commitment parents make to bring their child into the Catholic faith community, preparation to receive this Sacrament is important. Please contact the office for a Baptism Registration Form and to make an appointment with the Parish Priest.



Baptisms take place at 11.30am on 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.



MARRIAGE

If you are thinking about marriage please see your parish priest before you make other arrangements. A minimum of six months notice is required to help you prepare for this important step in your life.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES MARCH 2015

We congratulate the following parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries this month:

John & Kerry Hardwick,
 Phil & Linda Martinz,
 Cecilia & Hendry Tan,
 Tony & Sue Power,
 Romeo & Lyn Canon,
 Virginia & Peter Dickson,
 Ginny & Mark Wilson,
 Christopher & Victoria Gautier,
 Greg & Mireya Brown,
 Clare & Rob Santella,
 Bernie & Vicki Tan,
 Michael & Michelle.

God bless you on your special day

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week.

Tiley Family, Serafini Family,
 Chan Family, Lim Family
 Lewis Family,
 Adrianna Vinceguerra & Family,
 Clemente Manalac, Ivy Din,
 Val Fisher, Faye Della,
 Rhys, Jeremy, Andrew,
 Dan Passauer, Margaret Abbott,
 Louise Arbuckle,
 David Gamman,
 Caroloine & Liam Capes,
 Carmella Scurria,
 Ed Deveraux, Eileen Tuitama,

If you know someone who has asked for prayers please add their name to the list in the church foyer.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR PARISH WEBSITE?

Go to www.holyfamily.com.au to view this bulletin online.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is available every Saturday from 5.00pm-5.45pm or any other time by appointment



HOME COMMUNION

Do you know anyone who is house bound or new to a Nursing Home and would like to receive Holy Communion? Phone 9450 5921 or Email como@perthcatholic.org.au



Are you new to our Parish?

If you have recently moved into the area and would like information about our Parish, please introduce yourself to Fr Ossie and complete a New Parishioner Enrolment Form which is available at the Reception

GREETINGS FROM FR OSSIE

Alleluia! The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Dear parishioners and friends,

It is with great joy and full of hope that I convey to you this Easter Message. In no other time in the history of the church than now, do we need this Easter message of hope and joy.

Through His Resurrection, the Lord has triumphed over sin and death and has brought us new life and new hope.

Especially in the light of the sexual abuse scandals that are rocking the church and bringing it to its knees, we need to remind ourselves that no sin is greater than the mercy of God.

Even though we must acknowledge the inestimable damage and scandal our sins and failures have caused and get down on our knees to beg the forgiveness of God and that of the victims and do appropriate restitutions, we do so, not in shame and despair, but with full confidence in the infinite mercy and forgiveness of God won for us by the Passion, Death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

This is the Easter message of hope and joy that we sinners, even though having sinned mortally, we need not die in our sins but resurrect with the Lord Jesus to new and even stronger and fuller lives. At this point in history we are entrusted with the task of living this new life in the face of the scandals and failures. This is indeed a big task but with the kind of community spirit we have fostered in this parish, we can accomplish this task. So imbued with the blessings of Easter and hand in hand with our brothers and sisters and in the very words of the late President J F Kennedy, "Let us pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend and oppose any foe" to assure the survival and success of this momentous event that we call Easter. Asking his blessing and his help let us now go forth and live this Easter Life, knowing that here on this earth God's work must truly be our own. Alleluia!.

May God bless you and all your loved ones this Easter and every day of your life.

Fr Ossie Lewis PF



Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!

OUR CHURCH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

TONY
PIRES

What do we make of the spotlight now shining powerfully on our Catholic Church and its culture?

- Some Priests & Bishops – leaders and role models – being exposed for their weaknesses, sin and crimes:
- Church leadership and responsibility found dreadfully wanting in various dioceses across the world:
- Crimes hidden to safeguard the image and reputation of the Church - at the expense of individual lives:
- Suffering and pain met with indifference on too many occasions:

We know the culprits are a small minority – We know the majority of clergy and religious give generously in a dedicated life of service and care within our Church Communities – We hold on to the view that our Church continues to bring joy and support to millions throughout our world each year; especially those in need.

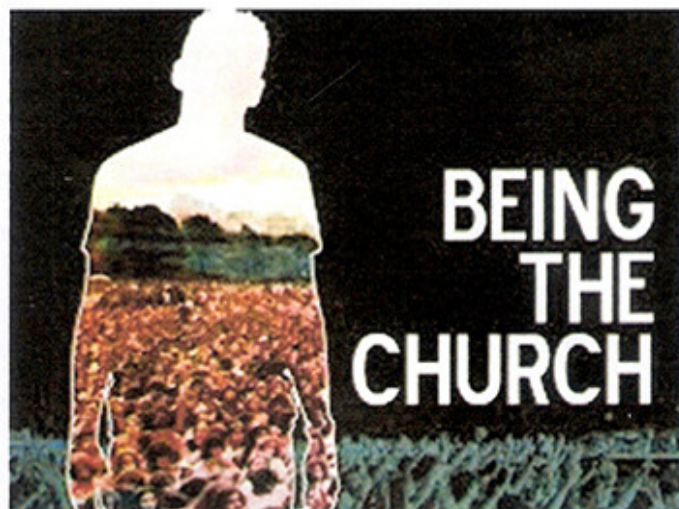
Yet, we still have to consider this burning spotlight – made even more piercing by the media.

We all experience sadness, disappointment and disillusionment: And it is vital we rise above these feelings of disappointment as, “we are ambassadors for Christ” (St Paul) and called by our God to continue building His Church.

So what are the lessons to learn from this situation to help us move forward?

Here are some of mine:-

- That the pedestals we build for our Priests and Religious are far too high. They, like us, struggle with weakness and temptation, and are sinners. They are no holier than us just because they follow these vocations. We need to be careful of the expectations we place on them.



- When we recognize injustice, we need to speak out strongly, until action is taken.
- We all need to take greater responsibility for our children when we leave them in vulnerable situations.

We all have responsibility for the image and growth of Our Church:

We all need to contribute; to be more involved; to accept greater responsibility.

As a Pastoral Parish Council, our most important task is to encourage and facilitate this involvement.

Sometimes, there is a sense that we all – including Priests and Religious – feel a real powerlessness to change or modify our structures and processes and culture.

Yet I am confident that, working together, we can help create a better culture in our Church Communities.

HOW?

- **FAITH:** We can create a deeper faith that will enable all of us to grow closer to our loving God and really LIVE the faith we profess.

REACH UP

REACH IN

REACH OUT



- **COMPASSION / ACCEPTANCE:** We can increase the degree of caring, affection and compassion we express towards each other; especially the sinner, minorities, the struggling, the hurt.
- **JOY:** What emotions do we observe being expressed on a regular basis? Joy is a key driver of overall satisfaction and commitment. We can make joy an explicit value in our Community.
- **CONFIDENCE:** Confidence empowers: We can build a greater confidence that will enable us to express our views and contribute to the life of the Parish.
- **APPRECIATION:** We can show greater appreciation to the many people (including, but not only, the leaders) who work in our Parish Community.

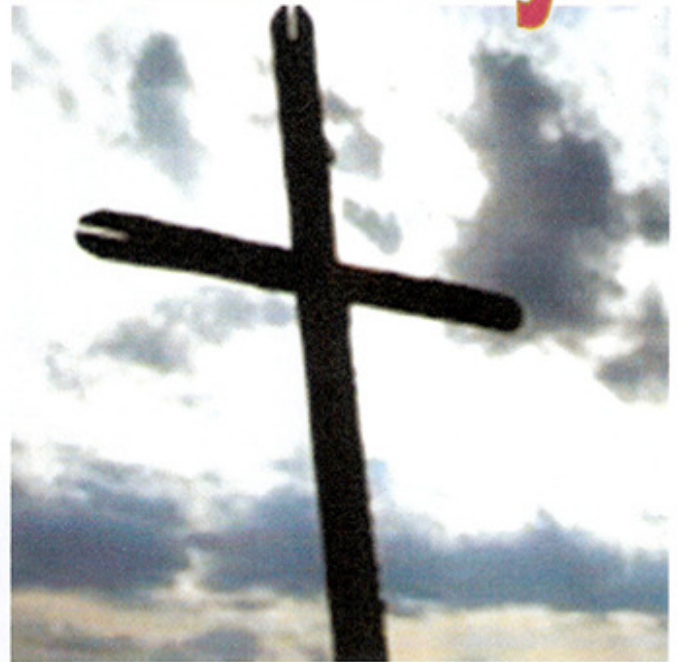
A CULTURE FOR ALL: A healthy community is one with a culture that is understood and supported at all levels; where there is a role for everyone – where all have an influence in creating and building it.

Please consider these actions;

- Pray for our new Parish Pastoral Council;
- Contribute your comments;
- Join us as we continue to build our community into one full of compassion, faith and hope.

Tony Pires
(Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council)

Easter Prayer




When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would
never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of
resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts
today.

We pray that the Easter light of life,
hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that
light
into the lives of others.
Amen.



JUBILEE
YEAR of Mercy
DECEMBER 8, 2015 - NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Holy Doors of Mercy

The Door of Mercy is a special Holy Door which Pope Francis has asked to be opened in every Diocese during the Extraordinary Holy Year in order to allow the faithful in every part of the world to experience the Mercy of the Father in its fullness.

The Holy Doors of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Perth are:

- St Mary's Cathedral, Perth
- St Patrick's Basilica, Fremantle
- Our Lady of the Mission Church, Whitford
- Carmelite Monastery, Nedlands
- Schoenstatt Shrine, Mt. Richon
- Church of Sts Peter & Paul,
(Redemptorist Monastery)

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Lent 2016

This year, the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we used Lenten Reflection materials prepared by the Centre for Liturgy in the Archdiocese of Perth.

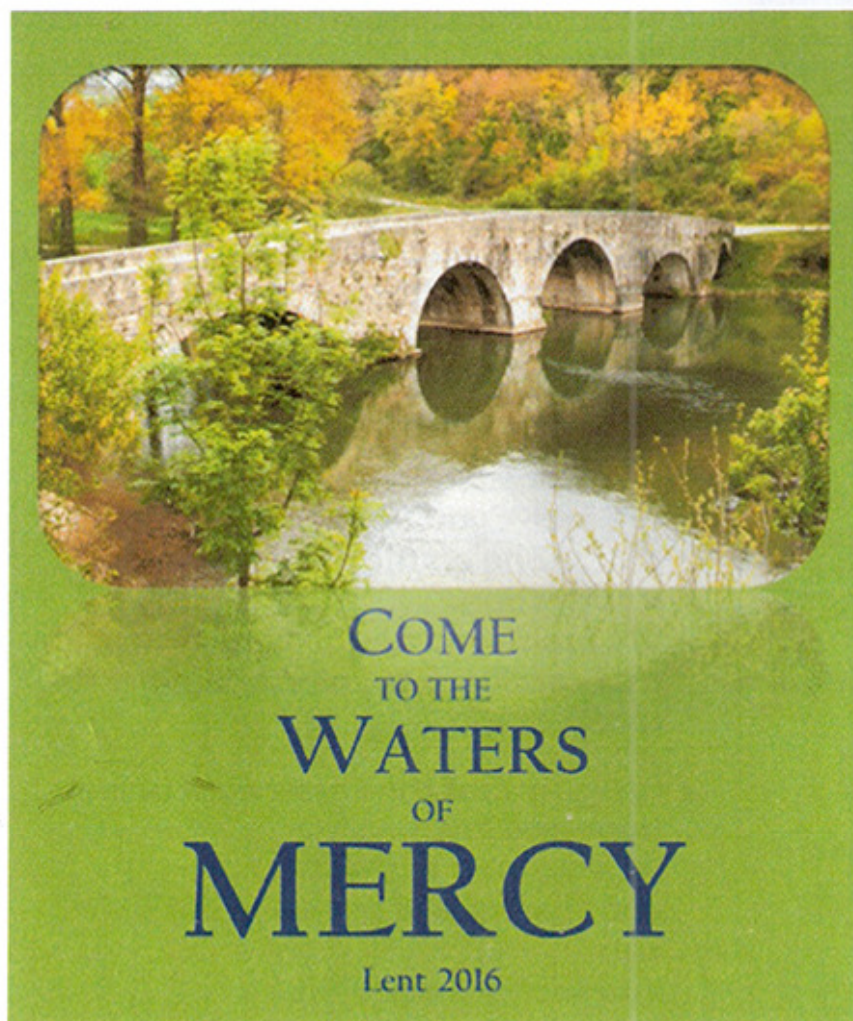
The theme for Lent 2016 was **Come to the Waters of Mercy**. Groups met on a weekly basis to reflect, pray and share insights on the message of the readings, psalm and Gospel for the next Sunday Mass. These groups will continue to meet on a regular, although less frequent basis for the rest of the Year of Mercy. Following are a few comments from some of the participants in these groups.

Led by Tony Pires and using the Gospel Readings, our Lenten Meetings concentrated on the big events in Our Lords' three years as a missionary for his Father. We reflected on:

- The miracles
- The clashes with authorities
- His sympathy and compassion for the 'underdog' which was clearly illustrated in his miracles and words of wisdom.

Bill Woodruff

It was really interesting to listen to the other participants' views on the readings and Gospels. The exchange of ideas and experiences relating to the reflections exposed us to a stimulating spiritual as well as practical experience of our religion. Ted Capp



Once again Kerry and John Hardwick hosted a 2016 Lenten Group at their residence where about ten people met mid-week to reflect on the readings for the following Sunday.

Able facilitated by Kerry, we were all invited into prayerful moments based on the readings, meaningful and often moving and practical sharing of our insights where we experienced both challenge and affirmation in the way we live our faith, and some lively social conversation over a light supper. Honesty, respect and humour was the characteristic spirit of the gatherings which were looked forward to by all.

Br Terry Casey

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

MARK
FERROA

The Holy Family 2016 Sacramental Program, which prepares children for the reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation, commenced in February. All children joining our Sacramental Program were required to participate in an Enrolment Ceremony which was held during all Masses over the weekend of 20 & 21 February. Families were invited to attend the 6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass, or the Sunday Masses at either 8.30am or 10.00am.

Sacramental programs are as follows:

First Reconciliation classes commenced on: Sunday 28 February (10am - 11am). The First Reconciliation Ceremony will be held on Saturday 25 June at 2.00pm.

First Eucharist classes commence on: Saturday 30 April (4.45pm - 5.45pm). The First Eucharist Ceremony will be held on Sunday 21 August at 10.00am.

Confirmation classes commence on: Saturday 18 June (4.45pm - 5.45pm). The Confirmation Ceremony will be held on Saturday 29 October at 6.00pm.

First Reconciliation

In the Rite of Commitment ceremony held during the 10am Mass on Sunday 13 March, ten children from our parish pledged to prepare themselves for their First Reconciliation by participating in their class activities and striving to grow closer to Jesus by using the gifts and talents God has given them.

The children also participated actively in the Mass by proclaiming the readings, leading the congregation in the Responsorial Psalm and the Prayer of the Faithful. Our First Reconciliation catechists, Trish Candeias and Clare Burke, conduct classes on Sunday mornings during the 10am Mass. The children will receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Sat 25 June 2016.

Sacramental Ceremony Dates 2016



First Reconciliation
Saturday 25 June 2016 at
2.00pm

First Eucharist
Sunday 21 August 2016
at 10.00am

Confirmation
Saturday 29 October 2016
at 6.00pm



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Pray for those in need at Easter time:

For our brothers and sisters around the world experiencing extreme poverty and injustice:
That on this day of hope and joy all peoples throughout the world may know the freedom that comes with enough clean water, suitable food, appropriate shelter and access to universal education.

We pray to the Lord.

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia

Thank you for supporting us this year as we celebrate 50 years of Project Compassion. You are helping to empower the world's poorest children, women and men with vital learning and renewed hope.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2016 Lenten Appeal.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion 1800 024 413

For our community:

That as we bask in the glory of the resurrection we may remember those who need our support to live in freedom and with dignity.

We pray to the Lord.

LEARNING MORE
CREATING CHANGE



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

★ Movies ★ Under the Stars

Our Movies Under the Stars nights are something everyone should try to experience. This year we enjoyed two epic stories - the classic Ryan's Daughter on 5th March and the relatively unknown story of The Good Pope, John XXIII on 12th March. This is the second year of a Parish Social Committee initiative which raises funds towards parish projects. The real fun is people gathering to share an experience together. Tea/coffee and cakes are included in the entry donation of \$10 and there are ample opportunities for socialising before the movie, during the intermission and at the end. Some people brought wine and most enjoyed ice creams to complete the ambience of the evening. A number of people have asked to borrow The Good Pope - a compelling story of the life of one of the most significant figures in the history of the modern church. Enquiries on this to Nola Smith at como@perthcatholic.org.au There is a lot of potential for these Movies Under the Stars. Parishioners might like to suggest ideas for movie genres and even themes for dressing up on the night.

TONY
BRAY



Morning Tea

First & Third Sunday
of the month
after 8.30am & 10am Mass



Come along and join your fellow parishioners for a cuppa & snack after the 8.30am or 10am Masses on the first & third Sunday of the month.

Not only will you meet people and put names to faces but sometimes you will be entertained by our very own Holy Family Ukelele Group.

The Holy Family Ukelele Group meet in the Parish Hall on Saturday from 2pm-4pm.

Everyone is welcome

Holy Family Feast Day

The Feast of the Holy Family, our parish patrons, was celebrated in style on 27 December after the 10am Mass. Over 200 parishioners of all ages attended a luncheon in and outside our parish community centre. Apart from the delicious roast beef, supplied by Marco's Fussy Meats, and the soft drinks and bottled water donated by Pierre from IGA Como, parishioners provided an excellent array of salads and desserts. This was a shining example of the Parish coming together in a spirit of cooperation and community involvement.

Planning started 6 weeks prior to the event and on the day, the social committee began preparations at 8am, erecting the marquee in the outdoor area in front of the entrance to the church. This exercise in itself was a great example of community support as we struggled to put all the pieces together. If it was not for the engineering skills of Adeana Khoo, the marquee may not have been erected. Once the marquee was secure the team set about arranging

tables and chairs for our guests.

We began the luncheon with pre-lunch drinks then Fr Ossie said grace and food was served. It was wonderful to mingle with the guests and see and hear their conversations and laughter. It was clear that parishioners were really enjoying themselves.

After about 3 hours the luncheon came to an end. I was impressed with the number of parishioners who approached me asking what they could do to help with the clean-up operations. Again, a further example of the strong community support at Holy Family Parish.

Special thanks to all parishioners who provided the delicious salads and desserts, Pierre at IGA Como and to all members of the Social Committee who worked tirelessly on the day to help make our Holy Family Feast Day such a wonderful success.

**IAN
SYDNEY-SMITH**



UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Dinner for 8: 29 and 30 April

A great opportunity to meet with fellow parishioners over a shared meal. Each guest contributes to the meal. Registration Forms for guests and hosts will be available in the next couple of weeks.

Mothers' Day Morning Tea: 8 May

In addition to morning tea, a BIG raffle will be running and delicious, home baked cakes, slices, jams and honey will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the raffle and cake sales will be donated to a nominated charity.

Quiz Night: 17 June

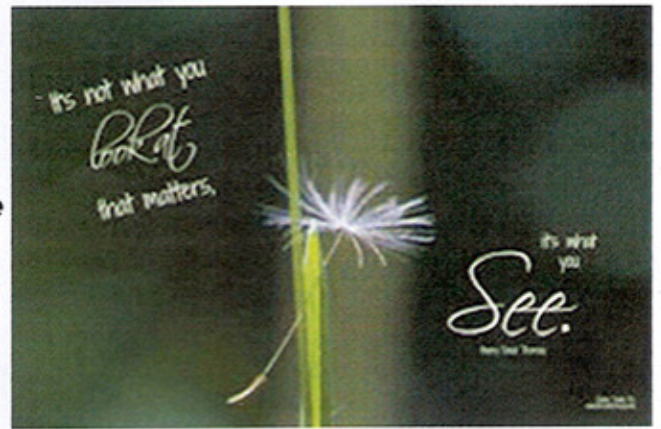
Be tested by our quizmaster with a variety of questions from many fields of knowledge. Many great prizes to be won. Make up a team of 8 friends and pit your skills against the other teams.

Entrance fee is \$10 per contestant. Coffee and tea will be available BYO snacks and drinks.

OUR SACRED HOMES... WORK

Sacred places are the places we encounter everyday.

" You don't have to especially go to sacred places to pray... or wait for holy days for good things to happen. You can pray always, and everything that happens is potentially sacred if you allow it to be. Once we can accept that God is in all situations, and that God can and will use even bad situations for good, then everything becomes an occasion for good and an occasion for God."
Richard Rohr



"This is the day Yahweh has made memorable let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118

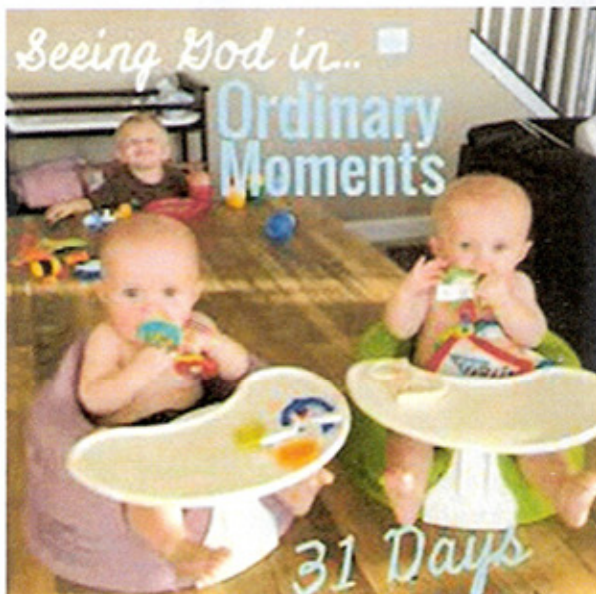
Members of our Small Faith Communities seek to grow by reflecting on the 'sacred' that happens as we go about our everyday lives. We reflect on the God who is with us in the simplicity and busyness of life; and how he reaches out with great love.

We share these sacred moments that often come in the pain and worries we face. Our conversations cover many aspects of life and faith; from what we gleaned from Fr Ossie's homily last weekend to the latest issues dominating the media or the difficulty we face in coping with suffering.

Groups meet each fortnight or month in local homes; share meals occasionally; organise and enjoy various events together; and support each other when contributing to Parish Life.

These small communities are not exclusive; every parishioner is welcome to join one. Come as often as you wish - even for a month or two: or stay for years.

If you would like to form a small faith community with people you know in the parish, we have an eight session program and a leader to help you begin your journey.



*We try to live with the view expressed by Fr Richard Rohr above; and reiterated here by one of the great minds of our Church:
"Christ is the one whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere"*

St Bonaventure

For more information contact:

Rose Hart (9450 1803)

Cecilia Bray (0417 249 245)

Colin Howarth (0412 645 902)

Tony Pires (0418 900 046)

PASTORAL INITIATIVES

For Families...

Pilgrimage to Schoenstatt Shrine

Schoenstatt Shrine is one of the Holy Doors of God's Mercy for this Jubilee Year of Mercy as declared by the Archbishop.

We have organised a special visit to the shrine that caters for children...

- ◆ Religious based hands-on fun activities for children
- ◆ Reflective time for parents led by Sr Lisette
- ◆ Prayer time in the Shrine
- ◆ BYO picnic lunch

Sunday 29th May

Register your interest by emailing:

como@perthcatholic.org.au



For Married Couples...

An Enrichment for your Relationship

The Five Love Languages

(Based on the book by Gary Chapman)

Join this enrichment seminar and embark on a journey of discovery about:

- Words of Affirmation
- Physical Touch
- Acts of Service
- Quality Time
- Receiving of Gifts



Saturday 24th September

9am - 1.30pm

Newman Siena Centre

\$45 per couple (incl lunch)

Register your interest by emailing:

como@perthcatholic.org.au

For Youth...

IGNITE LIVE- CATHOLIC YOUTH EVENT

Are you looking for something modern and massive? Ignite Live is a unique Catholic youth event which looks much like the large concerts and festivals. Together with Catholic Youth Ministry, Ignite Live attracts hundreds of teenagers and young adults from across Perth. The next event will be held on **1st April at Servite College**. The main event is 7-9pm with additional entertainment before and afterwards. Attend as a group or attend on your own, all are welcome. To get an idea of what to expect at this free event visit the website igniteyouth.com/Perth



Children & Youth Ministries

For Everyone...

THE MASS...

EXPLAINED-EXPOSED-DISCUSSED



Want to know a little more about this great prayer we are part of each weekend?

We celebrate together this mystery of God's redeeming love that is constantly blessing our lives.

Here we are forgiven, enriched, challenged, united, blessed, encouraged, taught.

And we respond - sometimes brilliantly sometimes halfheartedly.

It is the greatest prayer we can ever pray.

So how well do we appreciate it or understand its basic truths?

What are questions we would like to ask, the areas we would like explained?

What more can we do so as to value it a little more highly?

We have an excellent opportunity coming our way as Sr Kerry Willison presents a **FREE** short course on

EXPLORING THE MASS

Wednesday 8th, 15th & 22nd June from 7pm-9pm

Expressions of interest forms available soon



2016 EASTER MESSAGE

By The Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth

26 and 27 March 2016

As we celebrate the great Easter mystery in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, I am reminded more forcefully than ever that Easter Sunday only makes sense in the light of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. We will begin to understand the beauty and mystery of the resurrection, only when we see it as part of the greater mystery of the Lord's life, death, resurrection and ascension to his Father in heaven.

Holy Saturday must have been a day of profound suffering and even despair for the disciples of Jesus. They had seen their beloved Master, the one in whom they had placed all their hopes, cruelly tortured and murdered before their eyes. For the repentant thief, however, Holy Saturday was the "first day" of his joy in the fulfilment of Jesus' promise: *Today you will be with me in paradise* (Luke 23:43). That promise was Jesus' response to the thief's own prayer: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom* (Luke 23:42). It was a response born of Jesus' merciful heart.

There is another prayer in St Luke's account of the death of Jesus. This time, it comes from Jesus Himself: *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing* (Luke 23:34). This prayer, too, comes from the merciful heart of Jesus. In the midst of unimaginable suffering, we see Jesus with His mind and heart turned towards those who are seeking to destroy Him. He does so not in anger, or in a search for vengeance, but with merciful compassion and a burning desire that His murderers be forgiven.

In our tradition, it is we, all of us, who must number ourselves among those who bring Jesus to His death. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* expresses it this way: The Church has never forgotten that sinners were the authors and ministers of all the sufferings that the divine Redeemer endured... the Church does not hesitate to impute to Christians the gravest responsibility for the torments inflicted upon Jesus (CCC598).

The deadly power of our sins is met with divine mercy. Indeed, it is precisely our sinfulness, our self-centredness and our cruelty, which draws God's merciful gaze to us. He looks upon us, not with the eyes of an angry judge, but with those of a loving Father. This was the constant message of Jesus throughout His life.

During Jesus' lifetime, his message began to free his disciples from fear. The experience of Good Friday must have changed all that. Thrown into despair after His death, they must have thought, on that Holy Saturday, that it was "just too good to be true". It was the unbelievable event of the resurrection on Easter Sunday which convinced them that the extraordinary teaching of Jesus about the compassionate mercy of God was indeed true, beyond their wildest dreams.

This is what we celebrate at Easter. The resurrection assures us, in the most emphatic way imaginable, that God truly is as Jesus proclaims Him to be. He is a merciful, compassionate and forgiving God. He invites us, in the words of Jesus, to *come to me if you labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest* (Matthew 11:28).

May this invitation find an echo in your hearts as you celebrate Easter this year. And may the Lord's Easter gift of peace bring joy to you, your families and all those you love.

+ Timothy Costelloe SDB

+Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth

For our children...

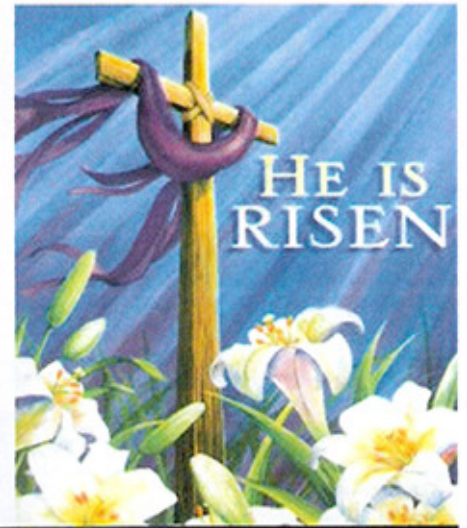
JESUS IS ALIVE

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive! As you walk into the church, you realise that something wonderful has happened. A large bright candle shines out for all to see and the church is decorated with beautiful flowers, a sign of new life. Today we sing out joyfully "Alleluia, alleluia" as we thank God for Easter morning.

LET US PRAY...

Jesus, we thank you for the joy of the resurrection, when you rose from the dead and were filled with new life.

Help us to remember that you suffered and died on the cross for us, so that one day we too, will share with you the joy of everlasting life.



EASTER WORD SEARCH

Find the words of Easter in the word search and have lots of fun!

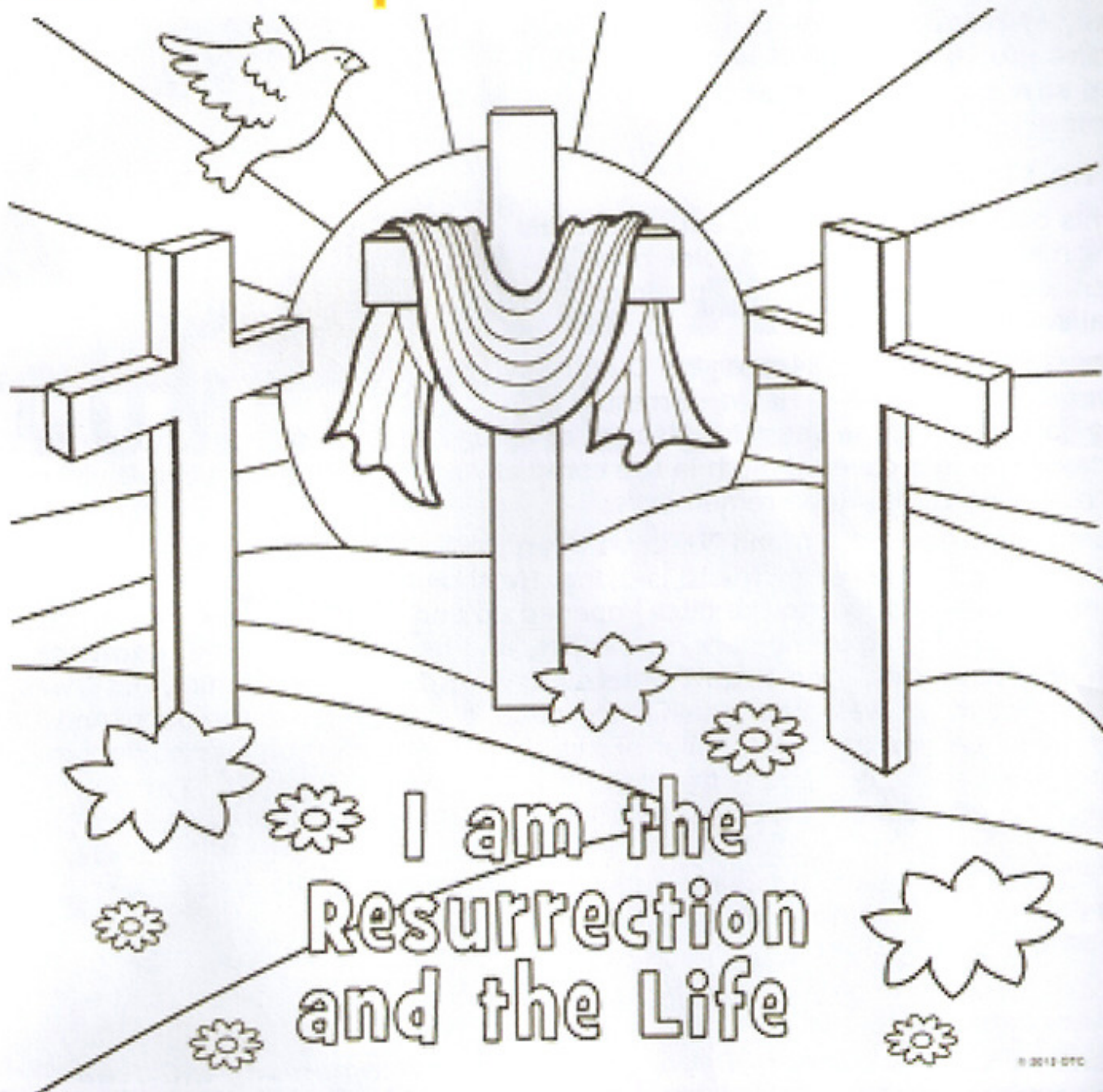
K	E	X	K	S	F	O	J	C	G	T	F	O	S	W	T	E	Y	O	C
D	A	A	H	L	H	B	E	P	N	Y	O	A	N	K	Z	X	K	X	O
E	Q	Y	H	Q	R	F	S	F	J	K	T	T	O	Z	F	N	E	T	W
N	M	L	P	N	E	W	U	J	K	F	N	M	I	W	Y	W	A	M	L
B	O	W	C	X	V	G	S	B	R	N	Z	L	T	Z	O	N	G	V	A
G	V	C	O	H	S	R	Q	T	S	V	W	O	C	X	F	D	S	Z	T
M	X	E	I	I	W	B	Z	U	G	W	M	F	E	C	E	I	I	I	A
Q	D	L	Z	I	U	G	I	O	A	Y	Y	D	R	R	W	W	U	G	O
R	P	E	F	T	C	D	C	K	N	Z	C	S	R	O	I	Z	V	A	L
I	H	B	G	F	O	L	T	Q	C	I	L	U	U	S	I	P	R	A	I
J	Q	R	Z	F	W	M	B	H	R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P	O	P	T
U	K	A	B	V	S	D	H	T	A	E	D	X	E	B	C	V	Y	M	D
R	E	T	S	A	E	I	O	X	Y	M	V	F	R	I	M	A	R	Y	D
A	I	E	H	B	F	J	K	K	K	O	W	Y	Z	Z	E	C	D	Z	D
S	T	B	A	O	E	H	D	V	C	E	K	A	E	R	D	W	W	O	L
O	T	M	F	V	T	J	H	U	R	I	S	E	N	Y	H	C	M	X	E
M	J	D	Y	D	R	Q	P	E	Q	S	N	V	K	S	F	A	U	I	N
Q	M	J	R	T	S	A	F	Q	K	G	B	W	N	J	B	P	N	H	T
N	Y	Y	K	J	D	P	F	O	M	G	M	Q	M	Z	L	X	P	K	E
Q	F	A	B	N	N	D	Q	G	D	E	U	B	D	H	S	A	F	B	P

EASTER
CROSS
RISEN
PASSEOVER
MARY

DEATH
ASH
LENT
EGGS

RESURRECTION
CELEBRATE
FAST
JESUS

Colour in this picture of the Resurrection



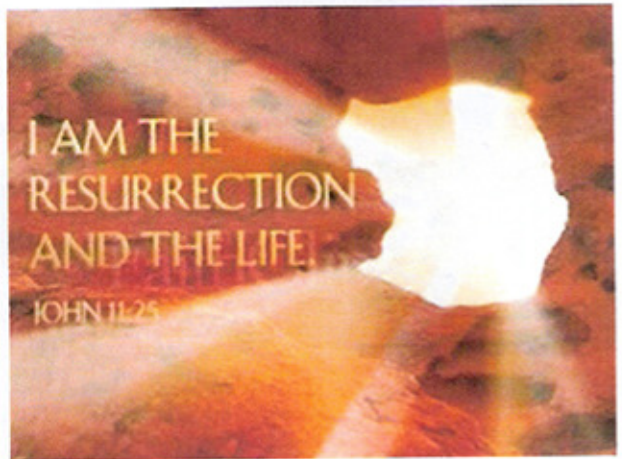
Lenten Activity Cupcakes for Caritas

On Sunday 21st February Amy, Georgia and Jessika held a cake stall to raise funds for Caritas. The girls were inspired by their school to find a way to raise money for Caritas during the Lenten period. They came up with a plan, asked Father Ossie's permission then cooked all their own cupcakes, brownies and cookies – with no help from their mums! They made an awesome poster and thanks to the generosity of Holy Family parishioners, raised an amazing \$268. Thank you!!! ☺

Easter: *The Resurrection*

Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

(John 20: 1-9)



"The Liberators"

In his book **The Liberators**, author Michael Hirsch details the stories, of soldiers who liberated the Nazi concentration camps in the final days of World War 11.

Coenraad Rood was a 24-year-old Dutch Jew who worked as a tailor. He was arrested in 1942 and spent three years imprisoned at a number of camps. In January 1945, he lay dying in a covered ditch in the camp at Ampfing when an Allied Division liberated the camp. Rood remembers:

"Suddenly, I heard my friend Maupy. I heard him speaking English, saying [to someone] 'go in there. My friend is dying. He should know that he is free before he dies.' [The trapdoor to the ditch] opened up and there was an Allied soldier there... I was laying in the dark, in the dirt, and he told me, '**come, comrade, you are free now.**' **And then I started crying.** I try to get to him, but I was, like paralyzed... I was crawling on the ground, trying to get to the door. And then he picked me up by the collar of my little jacket [and] he was holding me. I remember I thought, 'Man, is the man strong!'... And he told me, '**You're free now. You understand? It's over.**'"

"As dirty and sick as I was, that soldier kissed me. And I kissed him back, and he was holding me and took me [outside the ditch, into the light] and said, '**See? You are free now.**' And he cried to."

After the liberation, Coenraad Rood was reunited with his wife Bep, who survived the war in hiding. And they made a new life for themselves in the United States.

You are free; it's over! "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" the angels ask of the women who come to the tomb on Easter morning. Easter is God's never-ending invitation to freedom, his raising us up from "tombs" of selfishness and fear and anger and hatred. In the many manifestations of his compassion and mercy around us, God picks us up and carries us out of our prisons and ditches. And in turn, we become "liberators" ourselves, picking up others from among the "dead" and restoring them to life and hope. In raising his son from the dead, God vindicates the Gospel of his Christ. In the light of Easter's empty tomb, every moment of forgiveness, every triumph of justice over persecution, every insistence of goodness in the face of horrendous evil, every act of compassion (no matter how simple or small) proclaims the good news that Christ is risen.

