

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C
14TH FEBRUARY 2016
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Brian Connolly Ph. 46812157
RETIRED PRIEST: Fr. Lino Valente Ph. 4681 365
RETIRED SISTER OF MERCY: Sr. Esther Dowling Ph. 4681 2137
PARISH EMAIL: stjosephsparish@halenet.com.au
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Dr. Michael McCarthy
TELEPHONE & FAX NUMBERS: Ph 46815900 Fax 46815909



LENTEN MESSAGE 2016 FROM BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN

Ash Wednesday ushers in the Season of Lent, a special time when we are called to grow in our response to the Lord's call to love one another. It is a time of prayer, of fasting and of alms giving.

His Holiness Pope Francis has declared this year a special Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. He has asked that the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. He calls us to have an attentive listening to God's word and he is encouraging the initiative "24 Hours for the Lord" on 4-5 March.

In addition to the special *24 hours for the Lord* on the above dates, I ask parishes, where possible, to each week have an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, a special time of prayer. May we pray for our needs and the needs of our world. Please also pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life.

As Pope Francis says, God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion. God's mercy transforms human hearts, it enables ours, through the experience of faithful love, to become merciful in return.

In Lent then by stepping aside for time in prayer we will grow in the love of God in our friendship with Jesus and be more finely attuned to the Spirit of the Lord, opening ourselves to the power of Grace. May we be alert to opportunities of need and be so prompted to act in a spirit of mercy and compassion.

Project Compassion gives us an immediate means to assist our sisters and brothers mostly in need of vital commodities, that each day we simply take for granted. The call for us to fast can be a very positive thing for ourselves and then by our contributions to *Project Compassion* we assist others.

I am indeed heartened by the young people in our schools who are ambassadors for *Project Compassion*.

I commend the Lenten programs that are being offered in our parishes. By participating in such programs there is the realisation that Lent is not a journey we undertake alone

The call on Ash Wednesday was that we turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. If Pope Francis can call himself a sinner then we too should see our need for forgiveness and be ready to receive the mercy that God continually offers us. The Diocesan Liturgy Office has sent to Parishes the ritual for the Sacrament of Penance during Lent. Parishes will offer this Sacrament during Lent and we should all take that opportunity to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Pope Francis has expressed his hope that "the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; that this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy".

May Lent be for all of us, a favourable time by listening to God's word and by practising the works of mercy.

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

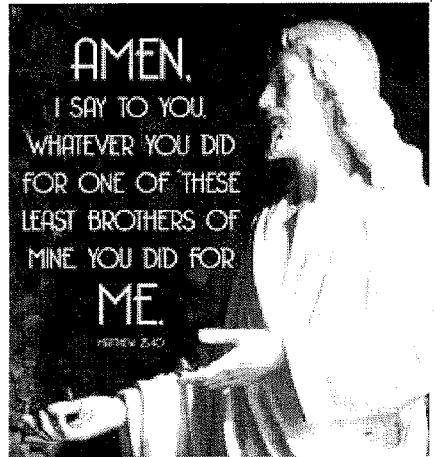
Recently, Pope Francis discovered during an Audience attended by 7000 that only about 20 raised their hands when he asked if they remembered or could recite The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. He said *"we must teach this to the faithful again, which is so important"*. He reminds us we will be tested on them on judgement day. Let us reclaim some of the treasures of our faith by "learning" and understanding the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Teach them to your children and in our Schools.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are to

*feed the hungry
give drink to the thirsty
clothe the naked
welcome the stranger
visit the sick
visit the imprisoned
bury the dead.*

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are

*counsel the doubtful (instructing)
instruct the ignorant (advising)
admonish sinners (consoling)
comfort the afflicted (comforting)
forgive offences (forgiving)
bear patiently those who do us ill (bearing wrongs patiently)
pray for the living and the dead (praying)*



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy and during the season of Lent, rediscover and appreciate anew the beauty and importance of the Sacrament of Penance. The First Rite of Reconciliation is available in St. Joseph's Church (in the Reconciliation Room) prior to the weekend Masses – Saturday 5.50-6.20PM and Sunday 7.50-8.20AM or any other suitable time by contacting Fr. Brian or Fr. Lino. Two weeks before Easter we will also have the usual Second Rite of Penance – date to be finalised.

WHAT IS EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT?

Just as you can sit or kneel in the Church and feel and experience the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in the Tabernacle (and can pray some prayers of petition or thanks), for Exposition the host is placed in the sacred vessel called a monstrance (meaning 'to show forth') so you are able to see the consecrated host which we refer to as the Blessed Sacrament. During Exposition, we are in the presence of the Risen Jesus in the Eucharist.

Why not make a special effort during Lent to come for some time of prayer and adoration from 4.30PM-5.25PM prior to the 5.30PM Mass in St. Joseph's Church on Friday.

As the Psalmist says *"taste and see that the Lord is good"*.

PROJECT COMASSION

The theme of Project Compassion 2016 is ***"Learning More, Creating Change"***.

As Pope Francis says ***"Education is an act of hope"***, so this year's Project Compassion focuses on the power of learning and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with its Caritas partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

In this week's story on the envelope we meet Dooney in Malawi in East Africa. This is her story:



Malawi in East Africa is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most people rely on farming small plots of land to produce food to feed their families. But many, like Doney and her family, have often gone months without enough food to eat.

Yet, when Caritas Australia and the local Caritas, CADECOM (the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi), began working in Doney's remote village, they saw beyond the community's challenges. Together they identified the community's strengths, and each family created their vision for a healthier, more sustainable future.

CADECOM worked with Doney's community to harness their natural resources. Families were trained in new farming techniques, and already they're producing more plentiful crops. *"The problem of malnutrition in my household is an old song now,"* says Doney. CADECOM also worked with the community to install a borehole so Doney and her family now have access to clean water, dramatically improving their health.

Doney's passion for education was recognised as a strength of the community, so she received training as an Adult Literacy Facilitator through the CADECOM program, and is now teaching adults in her village.

These days, the people of Doney's village have access to clean drinking water, flourishing crops and are building their knowledge to create a better future. *"My life has been transformed,"* smiles Doney.

"The village is developing... I would like to thank the people of Australia. The support you provide to us is going to the right people, and is helping us."

Doney

PROJECT COMASSION

- Project Compassion is the annual fundraiser for Caritas Australia. Caritas is the Catholic Church's International Agency for Aid and Development with a network of Agencies around the world.
- This year is the 50th Anniversary of Project Compassion in Australia.
- ***Please collect your Project Compassion Envelopes/Box in the foyer.*** They were distributed at the Masses last weekend.
- Please promote Project Compassion among family members and friends and make it a family effort.
 - ◆ Read and discuss the story on each week's envelope.
 - ◆ Decide on how you might support Project Compassion this week.

Donations are Tax Deductible, but you need to provide your personal details or recording purposes so that a receipt can be issued at the end of Lent. Envelopes can be returned each week on the Parish Collection plate.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Giovanni (John) Baseggio (Husband of Maria, Father & Father-In-Law of Gloria & Geoff Beddow, Delfina & Peter Mason – FUNERAL MASS: Tuesday 16th 10AM),

John Ward (Warwick – Formerly of Stanthorpe: Father of Daniel, David & Warren – FUNERAL MASS: Monday 22nd 10AM),

Ned Wark (Husband of Veronica “Ron” [nee Hilton], Brother-In-Law of Pauline, Rita, Robert & Michael),

Vivien O'Reilly (Toowoomba),

Jamie McKenzie (Former Southern Downs Councillor),

Colleen Llewellyn, Mario Costanzo, Maria Sponza, Gino Pian

TO REMEMBER: Msg. John Bergin, Fr. Michael Hayes

FOR THE SICK: Jan Zorzi, Sam Sipala, Ken Jasmine, John Boucher, Elsie Leake, Nancy Kimlin, Cathy Sullivan, Doris Gray, Julia Johnstone, Gloria Keats, Lisa Hopgood, Greg Keen, Linda Vinciguerra, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

THIS WEEK:

MASSSES: MON: 7AM; 9.30AM MASS ANOINTING OF THE SICK – Villa Carramar, Alice Street; 10.30AM MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK at Blue Care;

TUES: NO 7AM MASS - 10AM FUNERAL MASS for Giovanni Baseggio);

WED: 11.45AM; **THURS: 8AM;** **FRI:** 5.30PM in St. Joseph's Church; **SAT:** 7AM;

VIGIL: 6.30PM; **SUN:** 8.30AM

PLEASE NOTE: MONDAY 9.30AM: MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK – Villa Carramar instead of Tuesday

TUESDAY 10AM FUNERAL MASS for Giovanni Baseggio –NO 7AM Mass

The **THURSDAY Mass** this week is at the **earlier time of 8AM (Not 9.15AM);**

DURING LENT the **5.30PM MASS ON FRIDAYS** is celebrated in **St. Joseph's Church**, followed by **The Stations of The Cross**. *The other weekday Masses are in the Chapel.*

MEETINGS: MON: 7PM LITURGY COMMITTEE

The monthly **FINANCE COMMITTEE** has been postponed until 5.30PM on **Tues 23rd Feb.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday during Lent following the 5.30PM Mass in St. Joseph's Church. Try to include this prayerful reflection on Jesus' journey to His death on Mt. Calvary in your Lenten prayer.

COMING UP:

GREGORIAN CHANT WORKSHOP: On Friday 26th February 2016, 9AM-5.30PM there will be a in **St. Joseph's Church** conducted by **Fr. Nikolaus Nonn OSB**. See the full program on the Notice Board in the foyer.

The program also includes a **one hour workshop (1–2PM)** on **Voice Projection** by **Tenzin Choegyal** (Tibetan style of vocal projection).

Further information and bookings contact Barbara Balkwill - bbtalngai@gmail.com or Travis DeVries - travisdevries@gmail.com or 04 4706 3256. Tickets available at MickyMae, Maryland Street. Cost of the Workshop \$40. See Notice Board for details.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The annual ecumenical World Day of Prayer will be held on **Friday 4th March 2016** at **9AM** in the **Presbyterian Church, 14 Leslie Parade, Stanthorpe**. The Service has been prepared by Cuban women.