

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER- YEAR C

17TH APRIL 2016

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Brian Connolly Ph. 46812157

RETIRED PRIEST: Fr. Lino Valente Ph. 4681365

RETIRED SISTER OF MERCY: Sr. Esther Dowling Ph. 46812137

PARISH EMAIL: stjosephsparish@halenet.com.au

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Dr. Michael McCarthy

TELEPHONE & FAX NUMBERS: Ph 46815900 Fax 46815909



REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE

THE SISTERS OF MERCY - ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, STANTHORPE 1875-2016

When Sr. Esther Dowling leaves the Parish in the near future, this will be the last link with the Sisters of Mercy who arrived on 9th February 1875 to begin St. Joseph's School.

Today we say FAREWELL and THANK YOU.

There have been many celebrations over the years involving the Sisters of Mercy and St. Joseph's School, notably the Centenary in 1975, the celebration of 125 years in 2000, and in 2011 the Parish celebration for the Sesquicentenary, the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Queensland in 1861.

Today, with joy, we celebrate and give thanks for all the Sisters of Mercy who, over the last 141 years have been such an important part of the life of St. Joseph's Parish Stanthorpe and St. Joseph's School. We remember today with gratitude those Sisters have now departed this life – may they know the fullness of life with God and be rewarded for their lives of dedication and service, especially during their years here in Stanthorpe. To all the Sisters who taught and lived here but are not able because of age or ill health to be with us today, we thank you and gratefully remember you and pray for you in today's celebration of the Eucharist. To the Sisters who have travelled to be with us today we say WELCOME, and to Sr. Esther who is the last link with the Sisters of Mercy reaching back to 1875 we, as a Parish, say FARWELL and THANK YOU.

At the end of Mass there will be two short speeches from Fr. Brian and Steve Kay, the Chair of the Parish Council, the presentation of a Papal Blessing to the All Hallows Sisters of Mercy Congregation and a presentation to Sr. Esther in gratitude for all she has contributed to the life of the Parish over the last nineteen years in her role as a Pastoral Associate and in retirement in more recent years.

Please accept the souvenir memento which briefly describes the long and rich history of the Sisters of Mercy in the Stanthorpe Parish, as a reminder of today's celebration.

After Mass you are invited to join our visiting Sisters and Sr. Esther and fellow parishioners for morning tea in the Parish Hospitality Centre. Thank you to the Care and Concern Ladies for their generosity and hospitality in providing today's morning tea. There you will be delighted to find on the brick walls a wonderful DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS of the years gone by, longingly selected and arranged by Judy Lee and Dorothy O'Reilly. There are on the walls copies of the NAMES OF THE SISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN IN STANTHORPE, some with dates beside them, also dates with no names. *Can you help fill in the blanks?* You will also see under the glass table top copies of the original concept plans of the Convent from the early 1930's.

Our special thanks to the Sisters of Mercy archivist, Sr. Kay Lane for her helpful assistance in obtaining copies of the plans, names of Sisters and dates and some of the photographs on display today. Our thanks also to the St. Joseph's Alumni Association for photographs from their collection and for preserving the wealth of history of St. Joseph's School.

To the Sisters who have travelled to be with us today, to former students or parishioners who have also travelled to be here today, we thank you and pray for your safe return home.

53RD WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Ordained Ministry (Priesthood) and Religious Life (Priests, Sisters and Brothers in Religious Congregations) is held on the Fourth Sunday of Easter each year – Good Shepherd Sunday.

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations was initiated by Pope Paul VI in 1963 during the Second Vatican Council.

This day offers us an opportunity to remember and pray for those who have already responded to God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life, and to encourage and pray in a particular way for those men and women God may be calling to service as Priests or Religious.

- In a message called ***"The Church, Mother of Vocations"***, Pope Francis expresses his hope that *"during the course of this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, all the baptised may experience the joy of belonging to the Church and rediscover that the Christian vocation, just like every particular vocation, is born from within the People of God, and is a gift of divine mercy. The Church is the house of mercy, and it is the 'soul' where vocations take root, mature and bear fruit."*

Pope Francis concludes his message with this prayer

Father of mercy, who gave your Son for our salvation and who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit, grant us Christian communities which are alive, fervent and joyous, which are fonts of fraternal life, and which nurture in the young the desire to consecrate themselves to you and to the work of evangelisation. Sustain these communities in their commitment to offer appropriate vocational catechesis and ways of proceeding towards each one's particular consecration. Grant the wisdom needed for vocational discernment, so that in all things the greatness of your merciful love may shine forth. May Mary, Mother and guide of Jesus, intercede for each Christian community, so that, made fruitful by the Holy Spirit, it may be a source of true vocations for the service of the holy People of God.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Ivan Dumic (Husband of Marija [Dec], Father & Father-In-Law of Tomaslav & Mirela, Ivan & Rita, Maja & Alan, Katerina & David Zamprogno, Elizabeth & Ross, Robert – FUNERAL LITURGY: Wednesday 27th April – 10AM), Lina Rigby, Maria Pilla, Zac Sweetman, Raymond Duff

TO REMEMBER: Fonse Hannigan, Maria Caruso. Giuseppina Vigorelli, Lorenzo Zambelli, Enrico & Pierina Santarossa, Terry & Pat Shannon,

FOR THE SICK: Lloyd Finlay, Laurel Barker, Laura Sullivan, Anthony Camilleri, Barry Clarke, Cathy Sullivan, Jan Zorzi, Sam Sipala, Ken Jasmine, John Boucher, Elsie Leake, Nancy Kimlin, Doris Gray, Gloria Keats, Lisa Hopgood, Greg Keen, Linda Vinciguerra, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the January - March quarter are available again this weekend in the foyer. If you did not collect your Statement at Mass last weekend, please remember to collect it before or after Mass this weekend.

Parishioners or new parishioners who are not part of the Planned Giving Programme are invited to join by speaking with Dorothy, the Parish Secretary who can arrange for you to receive envelopes or contact the Parish Office during the week.

As the distribution of the Quarterly Statements is a big task, and to avoid the unnecessary expense of posting them, please remember to collect your Quarterly Statement in the foyer before or after Mass. Thank you.

A PARENT NIGHT FOR CONFIRMATION is being held **TONIGHT, SUNDAY 17TH APRIL AT 6PM** in the LIBRARY/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, St. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY CAMPUS, High Street for the parents of children who soon begin preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **(This is a Parent Night, and the children are NOT required to attend.)**

THIS WEEK:

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

To families and new-comers to our Parish we say a warm welcome, and to those who from time to time leave our Parish to reside and work elsewhere we say farewell. In a Parish the size of Stanthorpe there is always this "coming" and "going", happening quietly and often unnoticed. So to all who have come into and joined our Parish Family over the last year, we say welcome and we invite you to contribute to the life of the Parish by your presence and involvement. To those leaving we say *"thank you"* for being an important part of our Parish community and God's blessings to you as you move to another Parish. ***This week we farewell Dianne Dawes***, who with her husband Bob is moving to coastal N.S.W. after twelve years living at Pozieres. Every parishioner who leaves, leaves behind with us their "fingerprint". *Thank you Dianne for your quiet and prayerful presence among us and God's blessings to you and Bob and your family for the future.*

MASSSES: MON: 7AM; 10.30AM MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK AT CARRAMAR, College Road; TUES: 7AM; 9.30AM MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK AT VILLA CARRAMAR, Alice Street; WED: 11.45AM; THURS: 9.15 AM; FRI: 5.30PM; SAT: 7AM SAT: VIGIL 6.30PM; SUN: 8.30AM

MEETINGS: MON: 5.30PM FINANCE COMMITTEE; TUES: 7PM PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

NEXT SUNDAY:

BAPTISM: There will be three Infants Baptised during the 8.30AM Mass next Sunday (24th April). Baptisms will also be celebrated on 15th May and 12th June. Parents wishing to have a child Baptised need to contact the Parish Office or Fr. Brian well in advance to allow time for preparation. Baptisms are celebrated usually once a month during the 8.30AM Sunday Mass.

"AMORIS LAETITIA" (JOY OF LOVE). Following the Extraordinary Synod in 2014 and the Ordinary Synod in 2015 dedicated to the theme of family, Pope Francis' much anticipated Apostolic Exhortation entitled *"The Joy Of Love"* (*Amoris Laetitia*) has recently been released. It is a long document, two hundred and sixty-three pages made up of nine chapters, and it gives Pope Francis' conclusions following the two Synods.

At its official release at the Vatican a week ago, Cardinal Schonborn, the Archbishop of Vienna, said *"I read it with joy, gratitude and always with strong emotion."* He commented it was very readable, encouraged people not to be dissuaded by its length, and that within the document you will find joy in its correctness and realism. *"Pope Francis speaks about families with a clarity that is not easy to find in the magisterial document of the Church."* he said.

Cardinal Schonborn said there are marriages and families that are "regular", that correspond to the rules, "where everything is fine" and "in order"; and then there are "irregular" situations "that represent a problem".

He said *"Pope Francis has succeed in speaking about all situations without cataloguing them,with..... benevolence ... with the eyes of Jesus that excludes no one (AL 297), that welcome all and grant the 'joy of the Gospel' to all."*

The Cardinal said *"No one must feel condemned, no one is scorned. In this climate of welcome, the discourse ... becomes an invitation, an encouragement, to the joy of love in which we can believe and which excludes no-one, truly and sincerely no-one."*

We will be hearing a lot more about *"The Joy Of Love"* which will greatly guide the pastoral care and encouragement given by the Church to families and married people and also the full ideal of God's plan for marriage that the Church wants always to propose to young people.

COMING UP:

THREE SAINTS CELEBRATIONS will be held on **Sunday 1st May 2016.**

Bar-B-Que & Stalls open from 10.30AM-12.30PM

Rosary in the Church at 12.30PM

Concelebrated Mass at 1PM concelebrated at 1PM by Fr. James Spence (visiting from the Archdiocese of Brisbane), Fr. Brian and Fr. Lino.

Fr. James Spence completed his studies for the Priesthood in Italy and is fluent in Italian. He is a classmate of Fr. Brian.

Following the Mass there is the **Procession** with the Three Saints Statues & **Acoustic fireworks.**

Veneration of the Relic of St. Filadelfo

Social celebrations from 3.30PM into the night

Fireworks spectacular at 6.30PM

Fr. Brian especially invites ALL **PARISHIONERS** of **ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH** to join in the **Mass, Procession, and festivities** to follow.

PET OWNERS ARE ADVISED TO KEEP THEIR PETS SECURE AND SAFE during the **acoustic fireworks** at approximately 2.30PM and the **fireworks** at around 6.30PM.