SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST (A)

22ND JUNE 2014

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE

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THE BREAD OF LIFE

The Eucharist is the Bread that sustains us on our journey through life. We forget sometimes that the faith we received at Baptism needs to be constantly nourished, just as our bodies need to be regularly fed.

Our faith tells us that Jesus in the Eucharist fulfils our deepest hunger and leads us to life's true meaning.

St. Augustine said, "Christ is the food looking for hunger".

We all know how difficult life can be. The very nature of the Eucharist speaks of suffering. It is the living memorial of Christ's passion and death, the love that loved to the very end. The elements of the bread and wine used for the Eucharist are made up of ground wheat and crushed grapes. Each Eucharist invites us to join our sufferings to those of Christ. And each Eucharist compels us to go out to those who are suffering.



The Eucharist offers strength to all who shoulder life's burdens. It is the strength of the weak, support to the sick, the balm that heals wounds, and the viaticum (literally: "food for the journey") for those leaving this world. It is the strength of those who witness to Jesus in environments hostile to the gospel message.

The Eucharist is indeed "food for the journey", but it is not like a roadside



restaurant where one stops to "fill up" before heading down the highway. Such an image is far too passive and individualistic to suit the Eucharistic celebration. The Eucharist is more like a beautiful family meal. It nourishes in the context of loving relationships. Each Eucharist is a call to love as Jesus loved, caring for one another and reaching out to touch the hungers of those beyond our community. In feeding one another we are fed.

(From "Bread for New Life" Reflections on the Eucharist.
Publication of Diocese of Wollongong for the Year of the Great Jubilee.)

HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE CUP



Today's feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is a good opportunity to remember that receiving Communion from the Chalice (the Blood of Christ) is not seen by the Church as an "optional extra" but as doing what Jesus asked us to do. Sharing in the Eucharistic banquet is more fully expressed when communion is offered and received under both species of bread and wine.

During the winter months people who are ill or feel they are becoming so should refrain from receiving Communion from the Chalice. Ministers of Communion should refrain from the distribution of communion (in the Church or to homes and institutions) if you are not well or ill.

Please note, communion from the Chalice by intinction (dipping the host in the Chalice) is not permitted. The only way it can be received in that way is if the communicant gives the host to the minister who then dips it in the consecrated wine and places it on the tongue of the communicant.

COMMUNION TO THE ELDERLY AND SICK

The Parish has a number of Ministers of Communion who each week take Holy Communion to the sick and elderly in their homes. We depend on the family to request that we arrange for this to happen at a suitable time.

PLEASE INFORM THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE – a family member, a friend or neighbor who may wish to receive Holy Communion at home.

It is very sad if someone who has come regularly to Mass for many years, but is the unable to come because of frailty or health conditions, is overlooked in this important matter. The Parish depends on family members and parishioners passing on such information.

NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Could you please collect your new Thanksgiving (Planned Giving) Envelopes for the next twelve months in the foyer this weekend. It is always a big task distributing the Envelopes at this time each year. *Please assist by collecting your envelopes before or after Mass.* Dorothy is available to assist you.

The new envelopes commence in two weeks on the weekend of 5/6 July. Please do not use your new envelopes until 5/6 July. Thank you for your assistance. Please destroy all old envelopes when you begin using the new ones in two weeks time.

DECEASED: Pietro Boccari (Husband of Catherine, Father of Francesca, Salvatore & Giuseppe - FUNERAL MASS Tuesday 10.30AM), Ursula Neil (Nee Ezzy - Gold Coast: Husband of Keith [Dec], Mother of Diane, Carolyn, Sharon & Fiona; Sister of Doug, Barry [Dec], Deidre, Maree, John [Dec], & Michael), Merv Turner (Toowoomba: Father of Glenn & Cameron), Fr Thomas Joseph Mullins (Cairns), Raymond (Dagwood) Allen, Antonio (Tony) Bassa, Patty Costanzo

TO REMEMBER: Ugo, Elide & Mario Brisotto, Gelindo Canzian, Luigi & Mario Stecca, Mario & Giovanna Zanella, Kathleen Shepherdson, Gaetano & Caterina Fogliani, Raymond & Lena Giuffre, Ted Reeves, Gloria Vedelago, Fr. Thomas McCormack

FOR THE SICK: Lorraine McQualter, Lorna Murphy, Linda Vinciguerra, Stella Bayley, Alyssa Coxen, Ev Thompson, George Brac, Debra Micallef, Margaret Ballinger, Dennis Manahan, Cathy Sullivan, Rita Girgenti, Ev Hayes, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Mavis Plant, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION FOR FR. LINO

PLEASE NOTE WELL: There is NO 8.30AM MASS NEXT SUNDAY.

MASS WILL BE AT 10AM.

All parishioners are invited to at 10AM Mass in St. Joseph's Church next Sunday to celebrate with Fr. Lino his 60 years of Priesthood.

Fr. Lino was Ordained in St. Mary's Church, Warwick on 29th June 1954 by Bishop William Brennan.

We are delighted that some of Fr. Lino's family will be joining us next Sunday for the Mass and the Jubilee Luncheon to follow.

Tickets for the Luncheon have been presold and there will be around 180 attending.

Fr. Lino has requested there be NO GIFTS and said the best gift would be to come to Mass and pray for him.

PHOTOS: Do you have any photos with Fr. Lino included in them that could be used for a powerpoint presentation. If so, could you please leave them, in an envelope with your name and phone number on it, at the Parish Office or email them to santina.seonardi@twb.catholic.edu.au by Tuesday night.

OUTDOOR HEATERS – CAN YOU HELP: In case we get a blast of cold weather on 29th June and need some heating in the Bathersby Centre for the luncheon, would some parishioners who have a Patio Outdoor Gas Heater be willing to loan it for the occasion. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist. Many thanks.

WORKING BEE: Can you help at the working bee on **next Saturday morning** from **9AM** to set up and prepare for the Jubilee Luncheon in the Bathersby Centre following the Mass? If you can assist, could you please put your name on the sheet in the foyer today.

THIS WEEK:

MASSES: MON: 7AM: TUES: 10.30AM FUNERAL MASS FOR PIETRO BOCCARI:

WED: 11.45AM; THURS: 9.15AM; FRI: 5.30PM; SAT: 7AM;

SAT VIGIL: 6.30PM; SUN: 8.30AM

FEAST DAYS: TUES: THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST; FRI: SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS; SAT: THE IMMACULATE HEAR OF MARY & ST. IRENAERES, Bishop and Martyr

THANK YOU from *Fr. Hilary Flynn* to those who made his short stay in Stanthorpe celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Ordination such a lovely occasion.

REFUGEE WEEK SUNDAY 15TH - SAT 21ST JUNE 2014



Last week has been observed and celebrated as Refugee Week with the same **theme** as for the past two years – "Restoring Hope".

The theme reminds us that, while a refugee's journey begins with danger, it also begins with hope. Refugees flee their homelands not only because they fear persecution, but also because they have hope: they

hope to find freedom from persecution, and safety and security for themselves and their families; they hope to be given a chance to start a new life and recover from past trauma.

The theme also calls attention to the role of countries which, through offering protection to refugees and providing them an opportunity to rebuild their lives, restore hope for a future free from fear, persecution, violence and insecurity.

Finally, the theme aims to highlight the situation of refugees whose hopes have not been fulfilled – those who remain in seriously protracted situations, facing ongoing discrimination, violence and uncertainty, with little hope for a resolution in the near future. The theme calls on us to consider how we can provide solutions for these refugees and restore their hopes for a brighter future.

Even though the week has now concluded, refugees and their plight is always a focus on our prayers and concern. How could it not be when we know that as of December 2012, there were 45.2 million people and families displaced because of persecution and conflict – 28.8 million internally, 15.4 million refugees and 937,000 asylum seekers.

- The five top refugee hosting countries were Pakistan (1,638,456), Iran (868,242), Germany (589,737), Kenya (564,933) and Syria (476,506).
- Australia was ranked 49th for total number of refugees hosted (30,083), 62nd in terms of refugees per capita, and 87th for number of refugees hosted relative to GDP.
- At December 31, 2013, there were 6,122 individuals being held in immigration detention facilities in Australia. All but 462 of these were asylum seekers who had arrived by boat. There were 1,028 children in closed detention facilities. There were also 2,017 asylum seekers detained in Australia funded Offshore Processing Centres on Manus Island and Nauru. 1,822 refugees were living under community detention arrangements, and 22,708 living in the community on bridging visas.

While Australia has made a significant contribution to the resettlement of refugees and asylum seekers, the treatment of asylum seekers ad especially the detention of children continues to be a matter of grave concern which has been expressed to the Federal Government by the Australian Catholic Bishops. Let us keep refugees, and asylum seekers and their families in our prayers individually and as a Parish.