

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – B

15TH FEBRUARY 2015

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Brian Connolly Ph. 46812157 Fax 4681 4107

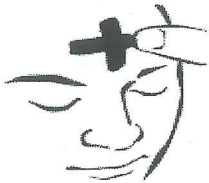
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The Season of Lent begins this Wednesday with the celebration of Mass and the traditional imposition of ashes on our foreheads, with the invitation to

“REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL”.

- **Lent, each year**, is a gift from our loving God.
- **Lent, each year**, encourages us to deepen our **Life of Prayer**. We can do this in many ways:
 - ◆ **Weekday Mass** ◆ **Visits to the Church** ◆ **Stations of The Cross**
 - ◆ **Family Prayer / Rosary** ◆ **Lenten Group**
 - ◆ **Reading Scripture** ◆ **Moments of prayer & reflection**
- **Lent each year** encourages us to experience the kindness and mercy of God in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.
This Sacrament helps us to be aware of our human weakness and our constant need of conversion.
- **Lent each year** reminds us of our need to do **Penance**.
Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of **Fast & Abstinence**.
The **law of fasting** (limiting our intake of food for discipline and to nourish our spirit) applies to those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year (18-59). The **law of abstinence** (abstaining from meat) applies to those who have completed their 14th year.
- **Lent each year** invites us to **Works of Charity**.
Today, at all Masses, someone from each family is invited to receive a packet of **Project Compassion** envelopes/or Box to use during Lent. The envelopes will be distributed before the conclusion of Mass. Your donations during Lent help Caritas Australia to alleviate poverty in more than thirty countries.

Let us start Lent well this Wednesday.

Decide to do something achievable by way of
Prayer, Penance, and Works of Charity,
during the six weeks of Lent in preparation
for the joy and new life of Easter.



ASH WEDNESDAY - THIS WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2015

Parishioners have a choice of **three Masses this Wednesday**, during which the **distribution of ashes** takes place.

MASSSES are **7AM, 9AM** (St. Joseph's School & Parishioners) and **7PM**.

THE MEANING OF ASHES: The Day of Ashes (*dies cinerum*), the first day of Lent, probably dates from at least the eighth century. The wearing of a cross of ashes placed on the forehead, is a sign of repentance and conversion. The ashes are made by burning the palm we took to our homes from the Passion (Palm) Sunday Mass last year. As the ashes are placed on our forehead, we invited to *"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel"*. The ashes are a reminder of our mortality.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Caritas Australia's annual Lenten Appeal.

Caritas is the Catholic Church's International Agency for Aid and Development with a network of Agencies around the world.

This year's appeal **theme** is **"Food For Life"**.

Food is essential to sustain life, and yet many of the world's poorest people do not have a reliable food source, or enough money to buy food every day.

As Pope Francis says:

"It is a well-known fact that current levels of production are sufficient, yet millions of people are still suffering and dying of starvation.

This is truly scandalous."

This year, Project Compassion is focusing on the ways in which Caritas Australia is working with partners around the world to empower vulnerable people to establish sustainable food sources and develop income streams for life.

By supporting Project Compassion during Lent, we are helping to ensure that all children, women and men, especially the poorest, share in the fruits of the earth and have **"Food For Life"**.

Make Project Compassion an important part of your Lenten Journey to Easter.

Take time to read the posters in the foyer.

Please come forward to receive your packet of envelopes/boxes before the Final Blessing at Mass today.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: **Ross Grebert** (Husband of Adele, Father of Marlene, Elizabeth & Tony - A Private Family Funeral will be held.), **Norm Power** (Toowoomba: Father & Father-In-Law of Mark & Olivia [nee Ostini])

TO REMEMBER: Salvatore Torrisi, Orazio Cannavo, Msgr John Bergin, Fr. Michael Hayes

FOR THE SICK: **Eleanor Irwin** (Warwick: Cousin of Fr. Brian), Lisa Hopgood, Greg Keen, Trish Hancock, Julia Johnstone, Sarah Leonardi, Grace Marini, Mario Costanzo, Marlene Holmes, Eugene Dezuanni, Joe Costanzo, Danny Mahoney, Marianne Gallagher, Ken McQualter, Cathy Sullivan, Linda Vinciguerra, Debra Micallef, Stella Bayley, Ev Hayes, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

ASHES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY – 18TH FEBRUARY

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Ideally, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday with which a cross is made on each person's forehead as we commence the Penitential Season of Lent, are made from the Palms we all took to our homes on Passion (Palm) Sunday last year. This has been a long tradition of the Church.

It was overlooked to advise parishioners last weekend to return your Palms by this weekend. **Nevertheless, even with such short notice it might be possible to return your Palms to either the Church or the Presbytery today (Sunday) or no later than midday on this Monday.** Only the fine palm (NOT THE OLIVE LEAVES) are suitable for burning to make the fine ash needed.

RETURN YOUR PALMS TODAY (Sunday) or by midday tomorrow (Monday) to the Church or the Presbytery. Thank you.

The **LITTLE BLACK AND LITTLE PURPLE BOOKS** have all been sold. There is a glass jar on the table in the foyer for payment for those who took their books last weekend and still need to pay.

THIS WEEK:

MASSSES: MON: 7AM; 9.30AM MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK AT VILLA CARRAMAR (Alice St.); **TUES:** 7AM; **ASH WED:** 7AM; 9AM; 7PM; **THURS:** 9.15AM; **FRI:** 5.30PM in St. Joseph's Church; **SAT:** 7AM; **SATURDAY VIGIL :** 6.30PM; **SUNDAY:** 8.30AM

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Mass at Villa Carramar** will be at 9.30AM Monday not Tuesday
- The **Masses on Ash Wednesday** (7AM; 9AM; 7PM)
- and the **5.30PM Mass Friday** and **Stations of The Cross** are in **St. Joseph's Church** (not the Chapel).

MEETING: MON: 5.30PM FINANCE COMMITTEE; 7PM LITURGY COMMITTEE

NEXT WEEKEND:

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Next weekend at the **8.30AM Mass** on the First Sunday of Lent we will have the **Rite of Election** for **Lorraine Ashcroft** who became a Catechumen last September preparing to be Baptised, Confirmed and receive the Eucharist (the three Sacraments of Initiation) at the Easter Vigil 2015. During her time of Catechesis over the last five months, Lorraine's catechist has been Bernice Steele, and her sponsor is Carmel Thun.

During Lent there will be special Rites (or prayers) for Lorraine on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent. These special Rites for the elect are held in all parishes throughout the world for those preparing for their Baptism at the Easter Vigil. Let us all hold Lorraine and all preparing for their Easter Initiation in our prayers.

I especially invite our regular parishioners to introduce yourself to Lorraine and personally assure her of your prayers, support and friendship.

NOTICE:

EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE OF THE PARISH CENTRE (THE FORMER CONVENT / SECONDARY ADMINISTRATION AND CLASSROOMS FOR ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL)

Work has commenced on a major maintenance project on the former Convent. Because of the deteriorated state of the windows and sills and the prohibitive cost of their restoration/replacement, it was decided last year to replace the windows with single-hung aluminium framed windows (and some sliding windows where appropriate) and to sheet the deteriorated window sills with aluminium. The cost of authentic restoration would have been beyond the financial capacity of the Parish. There will be very minimal maintenance needed in the years to come.

The casements and window frames being removed are constructed with silky oak timber (and some casements with cedar). There are also some old aluminium framed windows which have been replaced. These items are for sale should any parishioners be interested. A reasonable price can be negotiated. The timber is too valuable just to be dumped. Please contact Fr. Brian if you have an interest in any of these items. It will take some weeks for the window replacement project and sheeting of the sills and soffits to be completed as well as any necessary repairs. The project will be completed with the painting of fascias, downpipes, sewer and water pipes and any exposed soffits and timber surfaces. The cost of the project is \$86,350 and is being carried out by K & A Building.

Please contact Fr. Brian if you have an interest in some or all of the windows which could be suitable for farm buildings or shed or recycling the wooden frames.

COMING UP:

WORKSHOP on DIOCESAN POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

This workshop for the Southern Downs Deanery will be held in **Warwick** on **Thursday 5th March 10AM - 12NOON** for **Clergy, Parish Staff, Parishioners who work with Children, Catechists, Parish Council Members etc.**

The Bishop requests as many as possible to take part in the training in the Child Protection Policy for the Diocese.

If you are able or wish to attend could you please place your name on the sheet in the foyer. Thank you.

LITURGY WORKSHOP for MINISTERS OF THE WORD AT MASS

All current Readers at Mass and anyone who wishes to be trained for this ministry are invited to a Workshop at 7PM on Wednesday 11th March in St. Joseph's Church.

The Workshop will be conducted by John Briffa who is the new Liturgy Officer for the Diocese.

Please place your name on the list in the foyer indicating your intention to attend. Thank you.

Workshops for other ministries will be held later in the year.

John, in his new role, is very keen to assist us in quality training for our Liturgical Ministries and brings much enthusiasm and practical skills to his new role.