

Welcome to the Season of Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES: Ashes will be distributed at the **9:15am and 5pm Masses on Wednesday, 14 February**. Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Other celebrations in Lent (eg, marriage) must take into account the spirit of penance: musical instruments are only used to sustain singing and floral decorations are very simple.

- **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are days of fast and abstinence.
- **Ash Wednesday** is a Holy day of Obligation; and
- The Law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year (CCL 97, 1251-52).

LENTEN PROGRAM: Commencing **Friday, 16 February**, 5pm at SHC, then throughout Lent every **Tuesday after 5pm Mass**. Lenten Program Booklets will be available for purchase.

TUROSS LENTEN PROGRAM: Starting on **Monday, 19 February at 2:30pm**, 249 Hector McWilliam Drive. All welcome. Please give your name to Leslie Willmouth.

“Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return”
“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”

PARISH FINANCE STATUS ENDING 2023

There's both bad news and not so bad news relating to Moruya Parish finances for the year 2023.

We budgeted for a deficit of \$17,370 after shaving off every bit of possible fat from our static expenses and came home with a total deficit of \$19,508 just \$2,138 over budget.

This compared to budget over-runs of up to \$30,000 over recent years. Included in the not so bad news is an income increase of \$1,012 over the projected budget. Most appropriations were within single dollars of their estimates with the major blowout being our insurances which went up from the previous year by \$7,072. This was due to the disbandment of the Catholic Insurance Company following a large number of major payouts.

The bad news is that once again we've been forced into covering the \$19,508 deficit out of our dwindling cash reserve which should be conserved for emergency maintenance, and which has now become quite vulnerable due to deficit over-runs of recent years. The bottom line is, that for our Parish to survive, we must find a way to generate more income. We can't keep asking our limited and already extended congregation to keep digging deeper into their shrinking pockets although increased contributions would greatly alleviate the shortage.

So if anyone can come up with any ideas please let Fr. George or myself know. I have an adage, “There's no such thing as a bad idea, some are just better than others.”

John Gillett
Chairperson
Parish Finance Committee



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am

Reconciliation: Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass

1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am

Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- YEAR B -

10 & 11 February 2024

Jesus heals a leper

Jesus “stretched out his hand and touched him”

The liturgy of the word this Sunday contains the Christian teaching on the need for social acceptance even when people are different from us. The **readings** today tell us that it is purity or holiness of a soul coming from God that cleanses our lives. The **first reading** teaches the theme of freedom from bodily and ritual impurity as a sign of internal holiness. This freedom is symbolised by the precautions against contracting leprosy given in the first reading and the healing of the leper described in the **gospel**.

The **first reading** shows the ancient Jewish attitude towards leprosy and the rules for quarantining lepers. This provides a background for Jesus' healing of a leper.

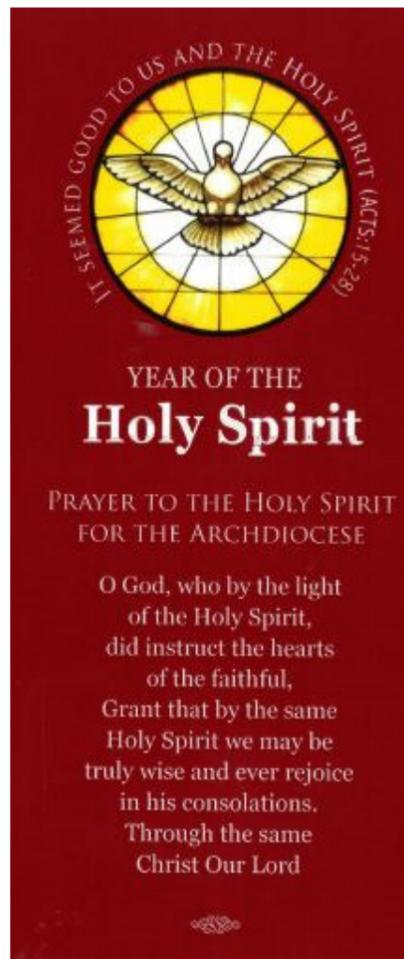
In today's **Responsorial Psalm**, the psalmist exhorts us to rejoice in the Lord because He purifies us from our sins “*I confessed my faults to the Lord, and you took away guilt*”. The **psalm** serves as a mini-treatise on reconciliation, covering the meaning of the spiritual leprosy of sin and showing how we are forgiven by a sacramental encounter with God. “*I turn to you, Lord, in times of trouble and you fill me with the joy of salvation*”. In today's **epistle**, St Paul strongly encourages us to testify to our healing from the leprosy of sin by living changed lives, expressed in our doing “everything for the glory of God” and for the salvation of others. Today's **gospel** describes how Jesus heals a leper liberating him both from the disease of leprosy and from the unjust and inhuman social isolation and ostracism to which the lepers were subjected.

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Communion Antiphon: God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46 Gospel Acclamation Luke 7:16

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:40-45

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

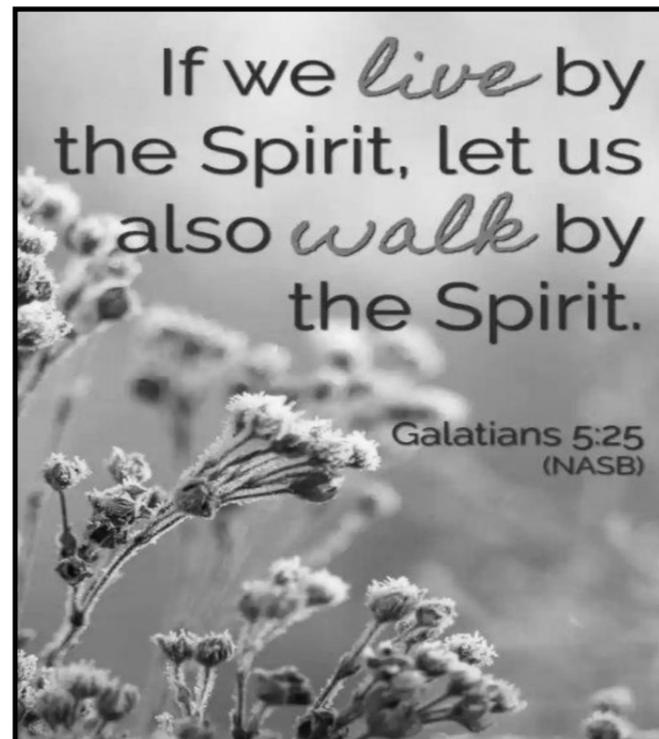
P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All: Glory to you O Lord

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Are you walking by the Spirit in your daily life?

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) **We need to trust in the mercy of a forgiving God who assures us that our sins are forgiven and that we are clean.** We are forgiven and made spiritually clean from the spiritual leprosy of sins when we repent of our sins, because God is a God of love who waits patiently for us. The only condition required of us is that we ask for forgiveness with a repentant heart. We are sure to hear His words of absolution "*Very well—your sins are forgiven and you are clean*" echoed in the sacrament of reconciliation.

2) **We need to take down the walls that separate us from others and build bridges of loving relationships.** Jesus calls everyone of us to demolish the walls that separate us from each other and to welcome the outcasts and the untouchables of society. These include homosexuals, alcoholics, drug addicts and other marginalised groups including single mothers, migrant workers and the mentally ill. God's loving hand must reach out to them through us. Jesus wants us to touch their lives. Let us re-examine the barriers we have created and approach God with a heart that is ready to welcome the outcasts in our society.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

We continue to extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Barry Morris, Christopher Morris, John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave and David McWilliams.

MASS TIME CHANGE: There will be **no** Mass this Tuesday, 13 February at 5pm.

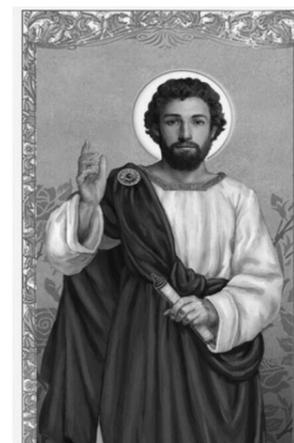
HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGY MEETING: An email will be sent shortly advising a meeting date in order to plan the music and readings for Holy Easter Liturgies.

PANCAKE TUESDAY AT TUROSS: On Tuesday, 13 February at 2:30pm, 249 Hector McWilliam Drive. All welcome. Names to Leslie Willmouth.

ST MARY'S: Thursday, 15 February Year 3 First Reconciliation Enrolment Meeting, 5:30pm St Mary's.

Saturday, 17 February Staff Commissioning Mass. Sacred Heart Church 5pm.

Saturday, 24 February, Year 3 First Reconciliation Commitment Mass 5pm Sacred Heart Church.



St Valentine, officially known as St Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman Saint widely celebrated on 4 February and commonly associated with "courtly love". Although not much of St Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name, is also not official, it is highly agreed that St Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome. In 1969 the Roman Catholic Church removed St Valentine from the General Roman Calendar because so little is known about him. However, the Church still recognises him as a Saint, listing him in the 14 February spot of Roman Martyrology. St Valentine is the Patron Saint of lovers, epileptics and beekeepers.