

# Catholic Parish of Blackiriars



Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



Issue 18  
26th March 2023  
Year A

## VERITAS



# Fifth Sunday of Lent

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

### Parish Priest

Fr Mannes Tellis OP  
(To contact Please Text)  
0414 396 532

Dominican in residence  
Br Francis McKinnon OP

Holy Rosary Church  
Cnr Phillip Avenue &  
Antill Street, Watson ACT

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### Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass

Tuesday & Thursday  
8.00am

Wednesday & Friday  
5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am  
Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,  
5:00pm

### Reconciliation

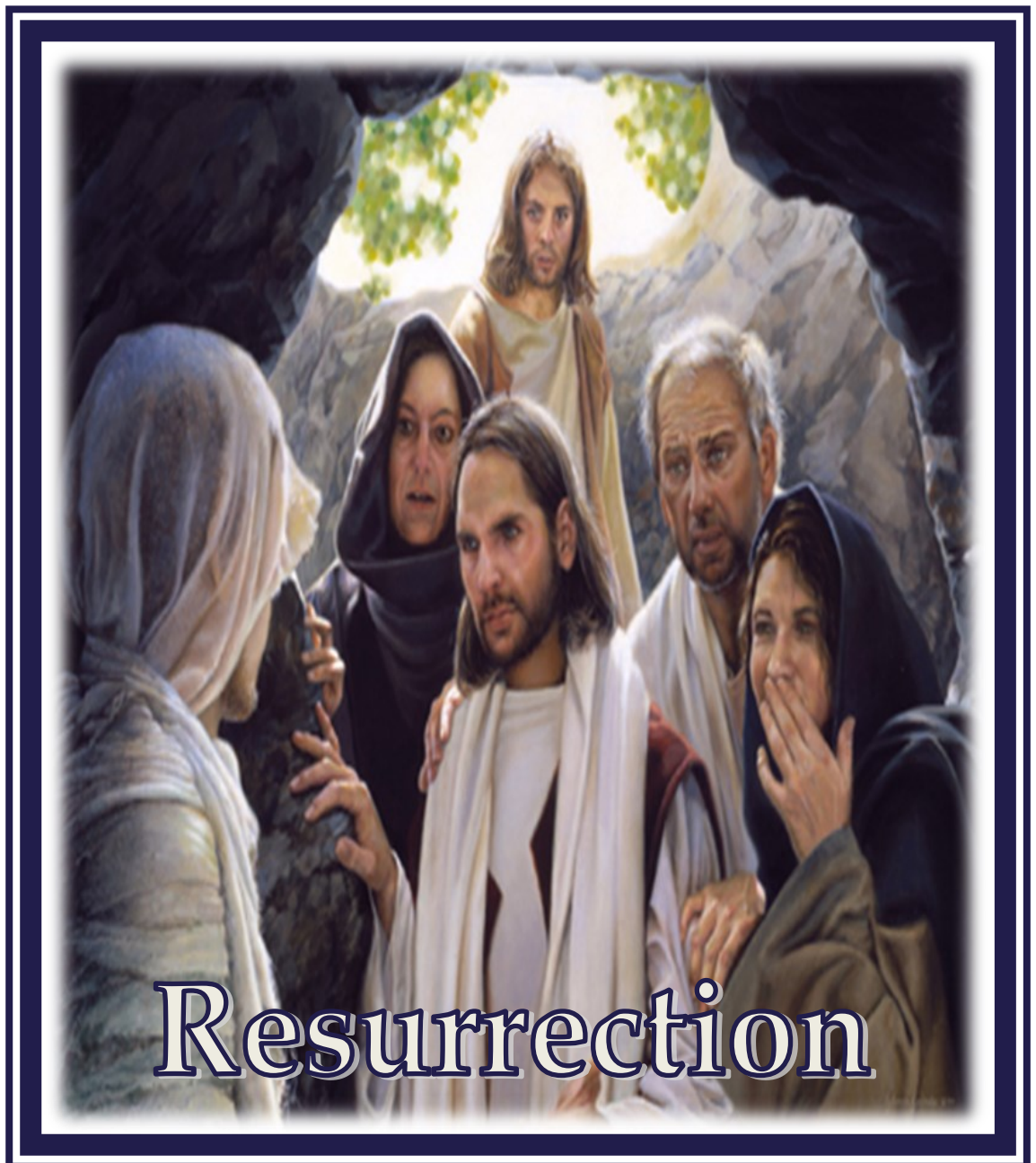
Saturday  
4pm - 4.45pm

### Adoration - Holy Hour

Friday's 6pm - 7pm

### Pray the Rosary

Before 10am Mass on Sundays



# Resurrection

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is

**NOON TUESDAY**

Please contact the office Ph. 6248 5925  
or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

### Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

## FIRST READING

### First reading - Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 129(130)

*With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.  
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

*With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.*

## SECOND READING

### Second reading - Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Gospel Acclamation - John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## GOSPEL

### Gospel - John 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

*'Are there not twelve hours in the day?  
A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling  
because he has the light of this world to see by;  
but if he walks at night he stumbles,  
because there is no light to guide him.'*

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

*'I am the resurrection and the life.  
If anyone believes in me, even though  
he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die.  
Do you believe this?'  
'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you  
are the Christ, the Son of God,  
the one who was to come into this world.'*

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get

Cont....up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Communion Antiphon is NOT recited when hymns are sung.**

### Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

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## LAZARUS



The Lazarus story which we read in this week's gospel is a narrative outlining a very real experience in all of our lives namely the death of a loved one. When a loved one dies it is surreal, you expect them to come back, or you treat their absence as temporary. Days pass, then the months, but they never return. You look at the chair they sat in in the living room, never to be properly filled ever again; it begins to feel permanent. You wonder where are they now?

Our gospel reflects this type of loss quite graphically. St John tries to sketch the bond that Jesus had with this family -Martha, Mary and Lazarus. John has the sisters of Lazarus send this message:

"Lord, the man you love is ill."

The Greek word used here for love is φιλέῖς which means "to show warm affection in intimate friendship, characterised by tender, heartfelt consideration and kinship". Lazarus wasn't just some acquaintance, he was a close personal friend. We also know from our gospel text how close these two men were when we see Jesus later at Lazarus' tomb, and it is here we encounter one of the most poignant

Cont....phrases in the scriptures "Jesus wept". The death of Lazarus had a profound effect on Jesus. Jesus wasn't some kind of cold emotionless automaton programmed to do the Father's will but in the fullest expression of his true human nature the Word made flesh sheds a tear for a friend, one of the most human experiences one can ever have.

Lazarus' death, however, is not the final word in his story, it is just the beginning. Jesus allows Lazarus to pass away so that "you may believe", just as last week the blind man's blindness was to demonstrate God's glory. Lazarus' passing was permitted in order for Jesus to reveal his divine nature and his union with the Father.

Jesus exclaims to Martha, who is so busy about the practicalities of Lazarus entombment, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God? This phrase backs up his earlier statement to this incredulous sister "I am the resurrection and the life". For Martha the resurrection of the dead was something in the far flung future, something she would hope to see....one day. Jesus' 'I am' statement (the third one we've heard this Lent) brings the resurrection into focus as something that is happening NOW. The resurrection will happen not to Lazarus but to Jesus, not in some distant future. Lazarus' situation, one might say, is the dress rehearsal.

'Lazarus, here! Come out!', Jesus manifests his true nature as the one and only mediator with the Father as he prays 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

Jesus' raising of Lazarus is a demonstration that he is the Christ the one who is coming into the world, that he is indeed the resurrection and the life, that is a resurrection to a new kind of life. Lazarus' return from the dead however is not a resurrection in the same vein as that of Jesus himself. For Lazarus it was a return to the mundane. For Lazarus he would have to go back to work Monday morning. For Lazarus it was a return to what he had always known, his death merely held off for another time. Nevertheless, Lazarus' raising is granted to show Jesus' power and also to foreshadow Jesus' own resurrection which is something of a very different calibre to Lazarus' resuscitation.

In this time of Lent let us be buoyed by the story of Lazarus because it shows us that there is the hope of bringing life from certain death. *I am the resurrection and the life* says Jesus, may we be the recipients of these gifts when our Lazarus moment comes.

God love you all. You're all in my prayers.  
Fr Mannes OP

## SUFFERING

We turn on the TV to watch the news and then immediately want to turn it off again. War, famine, natural disasters, refugees and other crises all take their toll. We have international days such as the Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) which reminds us, that each person is uniquely precious. Despite these reminders we stumble in our regard for our brothers and sisters, reverting to nurturing our hurts and angers.

We mourn for our friends and family but find it difficult to enter into the grief of others. We acknowledge their suffering but are not truly affected. Jesus, however, suffers and mourns with all of us. The raising of Lazarus: 'The emotion Jesus displays (mentioned four times and including an



Cont....element of anger as well as grief) shows a divine sharing in the complex emotions that make up human response to death. Though he has come to give eternal life, Jesus weeps over our death and the deaths of those we love and mourn.'

## ARISE AND BE FREE

*Fifth Sunday of Lent.*

*Fr Lawrence Lew OP parallels the raising of Lazarus with the sacrament of confession.*

Lent, which is an old English word for spring, is our spring-time too. For this liturgical time calls us out of the winter of our sins to receive again the water and light of God's grace that we need so that we can flourish and grow and become more fully alive in God. Just as those who are not yet baptised will come to new life in God through baptism at Easter, so, at this time, we who are already baptised are also being recalled to a new life in Christ. Often our sins, our weaknesses, frailties, anxieties and addictions entomb us – we become like Lazarus.

Christ who is the 'resurrection and the life' calls us forth from the tomb. Hence we're encouraged in this time to go to confession. For Lent is this graced time in which we are urged to examine our consciences, to do some personal spring cleaning as we consider what needs changing and repenting in our lives so that charity and kindness and gentleness can put forth new living shoots; dry bones and dry hearts can be watered and revived; deeds hidden in the darkness of shame and guilt can be brought into the light of God's forgiveness and mercy.

I often think of our enclosed wooden confessional boxes as something like a coffin in which, through the Sacrament of Confession, we encounter the risen Christ. In that Sacrament, he speaks the words that restore us to life, and sends his Spirit to revivify our souls in grace. St Paul put it this way in the second reading: 'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you' (Rom 8:11). Thus the great 20th-century spiritual theologian Fr Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange OP said: 'Even the raising of the dead to life, the miracle by which a corpse is reanimated with its natural life, is almost nothing in comparison with the resurrection of a soul, which has been lying spiritually dead in sin and has now been raised to the essentially supernatural life of grace.' Seen in this light, the Sacrament of Confession anticipates and is a promise of our final Resurrection in body and soul at the end of time.

As the sign of the raising of Lazarus also anticipates God's greatest sign, which is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, so today's Gospel is given us not only as an image of baptismal life for our catechumens, but also as an image of the sacrament of Confession for the baptised. It reminds us that just as the catechumens will rise to new life with Christ when they're baptised at Easter, so we shall also rise to new life with Christ whenever we go to Confession for it is in that Sacrament that we encounter the One who is the Resurrection and the life, 'the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' We're invited today, therefore, to share in St Martha's faith.

For with faith in Christ and in his divine activity in and through the Church's Sacraments, then, we believe that Christ himself comes into the world and acts through the Sacraments. In the Sacrament of Confession we believe, then, that even if we die spiritually because of our sins, yet no matter how grave or deadly our sins may be we can be brought to life again through Confession. Thus 'If

Cont....anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live'. And the Lord then promises that 'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die', which is to say that if, after baptism and confession, we remain in a state of grace, fully alive in God, then we shall not suffer eternal death but rather live for ever in friendship with the Blessed Trinity.

Jesus is deeply moved by our predicament, by the tragic situation of sinful Man who, like Lazarus, is bound tightly by his sins and addictions, and entombed in the darkness of shame, fear, and embarrassment. Christ weeps for us, his friends, and he provides a solution: Through his Word which created the universe, Jesus' word again calls out, and this Word is all powerful to heal with grace, and create anew the saint out of the sinner. Firstly, he commands that we be unbound, which is what the sacramental words of absolution do for us, and then he calls us forth to life: 'Come out!'

With this summons, which is also a call and an invitation, Jesus invites all of us to come out of the tombs of our sins and go to him in Confession. But Christ doesn't pull Lazarus out or touch him at all. Rather, Lazarus goes on his own volition: 'the dead man came out', we're told. So, too, we who are dead or even just wounded by sin, must choose to go to the sacrament on our own volition. If we do, we will hear Christ's words of absolution, 'I absolve you', that is to say: 'Unbind him, and let him go'. Thus God shall raise us from our graves and bring us home, home to himself, as Ezekiel promised.

## LISTENING

"I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God."

*Ezekiel 37: 12-14, Ps 130, John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 31-45*

Do you sometimes stop to think about what you believe? When you pray, do you believe that God will answer your prayer? Sometimes, God answers our prayers in a different way to what we were expecting. That can be difficult for us.

However, God is always there, loving us and listening to us.

## PROJECT COMPASSION



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

Project Compassion is a demonstration of the faith, empathy and generosity of our supporters. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia – without it, we could not do the vital work we do. Thank you for helping transform lives.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow

**For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish.

## SR VERONICA DUNPHY CENTURIAN



Veronica was born in Te Kuiti, New Zealand on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1923, one of a large family.

She lived and grew up on the family farm in Mokauiti a small community where people had to organise their own fun and recreation.

She attended the local school, having to ride a horse some considerable distance as this was the only mode of transport in those days.

She played tennis netball and enjoyed all the social activities in Mokauiti and surrounding areas. Family members were all required to assist on the farm, particularly during the war years when brother Bryan was overseas.

In later life she enjoyed other sporting activities such as golf, has always been a keen gardener, loves the outdoors.

Veronica left home in 1946 to commence her general nursing career in Whangarei.

After a time there she left to join the Little Company of Mary, in Lewisham Sydney.

Returned to N.Z. in 1949 and resumed her nursing career at Waikato Hospital, where she completed her training as a general and maternity nurse in 1952.

On the 21 June, 1952 Veronica entered the Sacred Heart Order in Remuera, Auckland, then to Island Bay, Wellington in 1954.

In 1969 she moved to Melbourne, in the same Order and returned for a period to Loretta Hall a training college in Auckland then to the Samaritan Teacher's College, Australia, from 1972/75. Sister taught primary school in Sadlier 1976/79. She travelled to Wales for 3 months renewal in October 1979.

Veronica was in Canada from February 1980 to May 1983 and became a member of the L'Arche Community in Daybreak, Toronto.

Returning to Australia in May 1983 she continued her work with L'Arche, working in Sydney, Milton and Canberra until 1993.

She went to England for a L'Arche renewal for 3 months, then back to Canberra until February 1994. From Canberra and there to Kerever Park.

Veronica has been involved in carrying out many and varied activities since 1996, including a massage and reflexology course in Australia a country she has become attached too, without forgetting her New Zealand roots.

She has led a very busy and interesting life, a person who meets the challenges of life head on and has more to offer I'm sure.

Well done Veronica.



*Sr Veronica with Bishop Pat Power  
An acknowledgement of her service with photo of the Pope*



Thank you to Father Mannes, Brother Francis and parishioners who made it to our special morning tea on Thursday 16/3 for Sr Veronica's pre 100th birthday celebration.

We also welcomed Andrea, Veronica's friend from Germany and two regular former parishioners. GangGang catered exceptionally well with Jasmine their chef baking an extra cake for the increase in numbers. Thank you to the parish for paying for the main cake. Thank you also to those who donated towards the cost of the flowers. It was a fitting pre birthday celebration for Veronica's 100th birthday on Tuesday 21/3.

**Gang Gang** We will gather again on Thursday at 10-30 am on 20/4.

## FOCUS

Two of my favourite sayings are, "You're not dead till you're dead," and, "Think outside the box; you'll have eternity to be inside the box."

This Sunday's readings focus on graves, the depths and death, but they really are about life. We all know people who are old before their time, people whose get-up-and-go got up and went, and people who act like the living dead. Many reasons exist for dispiritedness. And then we know people who are full of energy, who have a passion and zest for life, and who in the winter years of life remain ever green, ever hopeful, always enchanted with the gift of the moment. They have never lost the wonder and playfulness of the inner child who beckons them onward to new adventures and new relationships.

*Carol J. Dempsey is a Dominican Sister of Caldwell, New Jersey*

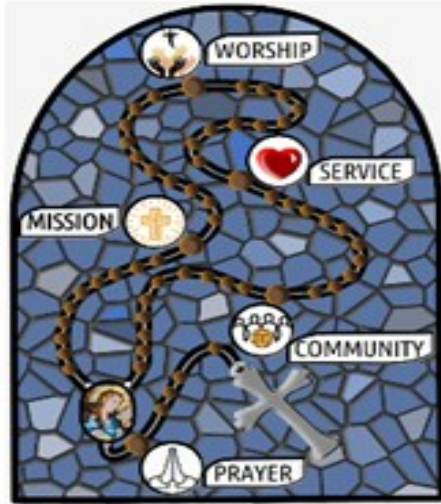
## THE VALUE OF RECONCILIATION

'The examination of conscience ... teaches us to look sincerely at our own lives, to compare them with the truth of the Gospel and to evaluate them with parameters that are not only human but drawn from divine Revelation. Comparison with the Commandments, with the Beatitudes, and above all with the Precept to love, represents the first great "school of penance".'

'To be welcomed and heard is a human sign of God's welcome and goodness towards his children. Integral confession of sin also helps penitents to be humble, to recognise their own fragility and, at the same time, to achieve an awareness of the need for God's forgiveness and the belief that divine Grace can transform life.'



## PARISH MEETING



### Future of the Parish: Meeting with Vicar-General and Chancellor of the Archdiocese

Future of the Parish: meeting with Vicar-General and Chancellor of the Archdiocese

Following the announcement last December of the departure of the Dominicans from the parish at the end of November this year, Fr Mannes and the parish renewal team have been in contact with Fr Richard Thompson, Vicar-General, and Dr Patrick McArdle, Chancellor of the Archdiocese (correspondence available on the parish website). On 9 March, a meeting was held in the parish centre to begin discussion on the future of the parish. Archbishop Christopher was able to attend briefly at the start to encourage a focus on Jesus, prayer, spirituality and mission.

The Archdiocese's planning is a work in progress, but Fr Richard and Patrick emphasised that there was no intention that Holy Rosary church be closed or left without the services of a priest. The strong intention is that Sunday Masses would continue to be celebrated at the church.

The Archdiocese is in discussion with a congregation of priests about new arrangements for Holy Rosary church and Blackfriars Parish as part of a broader consideration of the nature of ministry in, and the shape of, a number of parishes in Canberra's inner north. This will be done in consultation with these parishes (Watson, Dickson, Braddon, Campbell, O'Connor). The process of discerning new arrangements will take time and might occur in stages, with an interim arrangement at the end of 2023 and more permanent arrangements developed in the longer term, including possible parish mergers. The process would emphasise opportunities to share and grow together in faith.

Fr Richard and Patrick hope to have further information for the parish meeting on 30 March following meetings of the diocesan Council of Priests and College of Consultants.

As Fr Mannes has indicated (see his notice in recent bulletins), the 30 March meeting will also address current Mass times. It will be an opportunity to hear about, and ask questions and provide your views on, parish renewal (some information on renewal initiatives to date is set out separately in this bulletin) and the future of the parish. Please consider attending.



Parish renewal team

Members of the parish renewal team: Sabina Coles, Melanie Cox, Emily Hall, Keith Linard, Peter McDonald, Roger Paul, Siobhan and Richard Tanzer, Fr Mannes Tellis, Kate Watson, Nicole Webb and Helena Zobec.

### Parish meeting regarding Renewal and Consolidation of Mass Times

Dear Friends,

Pursuant to my recent letter regarding consolidation of Mass Times I am convoking a meeting for **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Centre**. The evening will include the following:

1. An address by the Chancellor of the Diocese regarding arrangements for 2024 (this is contingent on their availability)
2. A brief presentation on parish renewal and our vision for the future of the parish
3. A presentation on Mass Times elaborating on the letter from Fr Mannes

I do hope that you would make time for this gathering so that we can discuss as a parish our concerns and our hopes for the future.

God bless.  
Fr Mannes OP

### PARISH RENEWAL: 2019 TO NOW

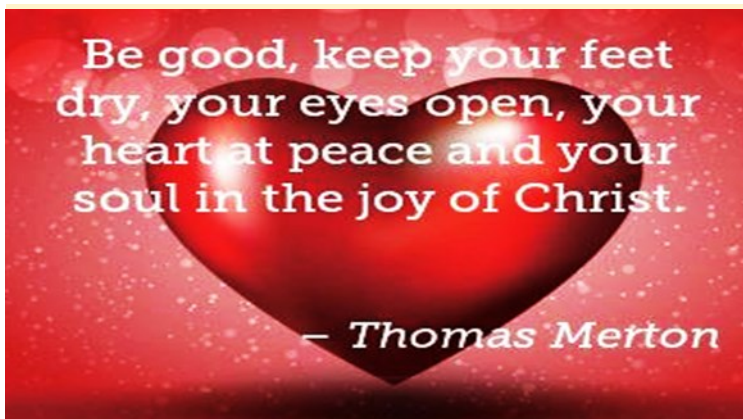
In 2018 and early 2019 there were a number of Archdiocesan and Parish meetings inviting Catholics to express their priorities for synod of the Australian Church. About fifty Holy Rosary parishioners in total took part in this process and a submission was made as part of the Plenary Council process. The last such meeting at Holy Rosary suggested that our parish needn't wait for the Plenary Council to meet and make decisions, but that we should commit ourselves immediately to renewal. So, at all Masses on the weekend of 24 March 2019, parishioners were invited to attend a meeting to discuss the next steps in our parish renewal. The Parish Notice concluded: "Every parishioner is welcome to attend the meeting and to become involved in the parish renewal now and as it unfolds, Your views are vital. The success of the renewal depends on your input and participation."

The suggestions at the well-attended meeting of 27 March 2019 were forthright and wide-ranging, filling two whiteboards. A group of six parishioners were delegated by the meeting to pull together the threads from

Cont....these deliberations to suggest a way forward. This led to inviting parishioners to participate in a series of six sessions to deliberate prayerfully on the acclaimed parish renewal book *Divine Renovation – From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish* by Fr James Mallon. Between seventeen and twenty-five parishioners participated in these sessions over October and November 2019. At the final session it was proposed that the next step in parish renewal should be to run the ALPHA program. Over the three and a half years since then, despite the COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions (and with the help of ZOOM), the renewal program has continued and broadened including: four adult and one youth ALPHAs, weekly Eucharistic Adoration, *Laudato Si'* dialogue (based on Pope Francis's Encyclical letter, *Laudato Si' – On Care for Our Common Home*), Women's Faith Circle, Walk in the Spirit and subsequent Lenten Programs, Advent Program (developed by members of the renewal team in collaboration with the Archdiocese) and a variety of ecumenical initiatives with the local Anglican, Uniting, Baptist and Church of Christ communities including the joint North Canberra Nativity Festival each year, a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, six weeks of parish prayer for parish renewal, and now joint planning for the Rosary 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Holy Cross 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Following each activity, new people have volunteered to be part of the renewal team, whilst some have dropped off.

Not counting those involved in traditional parish activities (monthly luncheons, Dominican laity, St Vincent de Paul, Parish School of Religion, weekly Reader Formation, Bible Study, Meditation Group, Craft Group, Pray the Rosary etc), the total number of people who have participated in the activities sponsored or supported by the parish renewal team is roughly 215. Taking into account multiple attendances, some 100 individuals (or 25% of Sunday Mass goers) have participated in these activities. If we add in the number of individual parishioners (including children at Rosary School) who attended the North Canberra Nativity Festival these past 3 years, the number goes up to 200+ individuals ... more than 50% of Sunday Mass goers.

The renewal team is not a Parish Pastoral Council, but a (flexible) group of parishioners who have volunteered to work with Fr Mannes and with existing parish groups and Ecclesial Movements to promote Gospel based renewal. In the absence of a Parish Pastoral Council, the renewal team has taken the initiative in seeking wider parish involvement in input to the proposed Diocesan Pastoral Council and in discussions following the decision that the Dominican Fathers will cease their apostolate in Canberra in November 2023.



## MIRACLE

Reflection: Of the amazing miracles that Jesus performed during his ministry, this is surely the greatest. It is the one which cemented the enmity of the Jewish leaders against him. It is ironic that by demonstrating that he is the source of life he seals his death sentence. Much of what Jesus reveals of the Kingdom of God is in opposition to worldly values. Often for ourselves also, it is the challenges of life that offer us the most potent growing experiences. Can you think of any 'death' experiences that have led to some sort of transformation or 'new life' for you? Just as strips of burial cloth bound Lazarus, often our experiences of life leave us tied and knotted up.

What areas in your life need to be unbound?  
 What aspects of your true self have you buried in the course of your life?  
 How might Jesus help resurrect there?  
 Who are the 'life-giving' people or occasions in your life?

Try to be 'life-giving' to others this week with positive affirmation. <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz>

**Rejoice in the LORD - phil 4:4**  
**INSTAGRACE**  
 Teens residential camp (Year 8 till Year 12)  
**April 14-16**  
 Rego-\$200

Register

**Camp cattermouth**  
 1435 Cotter Rd, Stromlo ACT 2611  
 Leeba: 0403893115 George: 0426050065

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ICc6RbJP9pdj1BTENoi3rj\\_nJcF-4BfTsly4M9pcc3Q/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ICc6RbJP9pdj1BTENoi3rj_nJcF-4BfTsly4M9pcc3Q/edit)



## CHRISM MASS

**CHRISM MASS** – Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 3 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is at this Mass that the **Holy Oils** used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.

## PALM SUNDAY MASSES

Mass changes for Palm Sunday.

This year there will only be two Palm Sunday Masses:

**Saturday Vigil at 5.00pm**

**Sunday at 10.00am**

## ST DOMINIC'S GARDEN

Thank you to Joe Cortese, Richard Tanzer, Alex Tanzer, Chris Webb, Roger Paul, Rod Lestone, Hugh and Chris Ryan who worked on the garden last Saturday spreading and preparing the soil for planting.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the helpers for the Morning Tea after the 10am Mass last Sunday.

A special thank you to the ladies who supplied the eats.

## VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT

Next **Vocations Discernment night** for priestly and religious vocations will be held on Thursday 6th April at St. Brigid's Presbytery 5:30pm, a paschal lamb dinner, followed by the Holy Thursday 7pm Mass, with quiet time with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Rsvp essential contact Fr Emil on [emil.milat@cg.org.au](mailto:emil.milat@cg.org.au)

## HOLY LAND COLLECTION

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 7th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

Whilst life in the Holy Land is returning to some new sense of normality (as is the rest of the world) the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world.

Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you.

## DONATIONS TO PARISH & PRIESTS

**Parish details** to contribute to the Planned Giving.  
Bank details – Account Name: Blackfriars Parish Watson  
BSB: 062786 – A/C : 000013341 – Reference: Name

**Priests details** to contribute to the First Collection.  
Details – Account Name: Dominican Fathers Watson  
BSB: 083 347 Account number: 97 310 5044  
Reference: Your Name - Donation

**DONATIONS TO ST DOMINICS GARDEN  
CAN BE MADE USING THE  
PARISH BANKING DETAILS  
BANK DETAILS - REFERENCE GARDEN**

## PROJECT COMPASSION

PLEASE RETURN Project Compassion Boxes and Share Packs to the Office or Sacristy by Palm Sunday.

## PRAYERS

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

Mary Martin, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Mimma Gia, Philip Bailey, Veronica Cornelly, Rosa Maria Santos, Peter Catlin, Beth Delos Santos, Ursula Ramsay, Sue King, Fr Ellis Clifford, Joe Schimizzi, June Pollard, Awny El-Ghitany, Pamela Sandy, Elizabeth Webster, Una Ford, Terry Stephens, Maureen Blood, Una Bell, Lily Copeland, Neville Caulfield, Maggie McKeon, Michelle Brotohusodo, Carmel Slammon, Katey Tuite, Nola Nolan, Brian & Suzanne Brown, Maria Bankovsky, Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.  
Giuseppe Caruso, Urbanus Lingga

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Bernard Slammon, Norbertus Purba,  
Bregitta Theresia Avila Bangun

**PRAY THE ROSARY** Sunday Mornings prior to 10.00am Mass the Rosary will be recited. Please join in.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on Wednesdays. Contact the office for details.

**DOMINICAN LIBRARY** will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on Thursday evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** - Formation sessions are on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday.

All parishioners are invited. – Meet in the church Office.

**HOLY ROSARY WOMEN'S FAITH CIRCLE** The Holy Rosary Women's Faith Circle returns on Thursdays. Please join us as we share life, break open the word, pray for and with each other. Contact Emily at [emilykathrynhall@gmail.com](mailto:emilykathrynhall@gmail.com) for further information.

**VERBUM BIBLE STUDY FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35**

We are starting up a new series of bible studies on

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**. Topics will include:

- St Matthew's Gospel
- The Eucharist in Scripture

Please join us at 7pm in the Parish Centre. We hope to run the bible studies throughout the year.

## ROSTER 1 / 2 April

**Saturday 5.00pm** - Acolyte - M. Tran  
Reader - P. Farrelly  
Reader - K. Markcrow  
**Computer - Volunteer required**

**Sunday 10.00am** - Acolyte - R. Tanzer  
Reader - C. Rheinberger  
Reader - M. Fitzgerald  
Computer - J. Cortese

A black wallet was left in the Church after the 8.00am Mass last Sunday. If you have seen it please contact the office.