

# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 12  
11th February  
Year B

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



## VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

*Parish Priest*  
Fr Kieran Adams OP

**Assistant Priests**

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP  
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

**Holy Rosary Church**

Cnr Phillip Avenue &  
Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address  
PO Box 900, Dickson

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**Office Staff**

Jacquie Cortese  
Jim Smith

**Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
9.00am—12.30pm

**Parish Council**

Andrew Blakey

**Mass times**

Wed 5.30pm  
Tues & Thurs 6.45am  
Fri 5.30pm

**Saturday 5pm (Vigil)**  
**Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm**

9am Mass Saturday & Public  
Holidays  
excluding Mondays

**Pray the Rosary**

Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass  
Saturday after 9am Mass  
and First Saturday each month  
3.30pm

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm  
and 4pm—4.30pm

**If you are in Urgent need of  
a Priest Call - 6248 8253**

## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Filled with Compassion

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	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.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	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.
READINGS	Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1 Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 31:1-2, 5, 11

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

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.

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.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart.

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

### IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings (6mths) and Baptisms. **It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office.** If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday** of that week. For all other bookings, Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. a minimum two weeks notice is required.

### SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The Parish School of Religion will re-commence on Sunday 11th February. New students are always welcome. This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Please contact the Parish Office for more information. 6248 5925

Catechists are still needed to help with the classes please let us know by call the office 6249 5925.

### ASH WEDNESDAY



Join us to celebrate the beginning of Lent,  
a time for penance, prayer, and fasting.  
A day of abstinence from meat.

6.45am

10.00am - School Mass

6.00pm

(NO 5.30pm Mass)

### DAYS OF FASTING AND REPARATION

The forty days of Lent are upon us earlier this year! We have returned from our holidays of January. The return to work, school and the normal routine activities of our year are quickly occupying our time and energies. Yet, the annual Lenten penitential journey we now make towards Easter is here! In the midst of this sudden change of pace in our lives, let us try our best to enter into the grace Lent offers us all. Our ancient yet ever new Christian Tradition offers us during Lent the enduring disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These prepare us to celebrate worthily the central tenet of our faith – the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour. In the Risen Jesus darkness and despair have been forever defeated by light and hope. Last December 2017 the Australian Youth Festival in Sydney proved a stunning moment of light and hope of the Holy Spirit for the thousands of youth gathered. Our own diocese was well represented. It officially launched the YEAR OF YOUTH for 2018. Yet, incredibly at the same time, the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, was published. It has showcased moments of great darkness and despair not simply in courageous victims but also their family and friends and all of us. This tragedy of sexual abuse ought become a particular prayer focus of our Lenten discipline this year. The Bishops of Australia have requested that the four days from Ash Wednesday (14th Feb till 17th Feb) be dedicated in a special way to fasting and reparation in sorrow for child abuse and for the healing of victims. I am confident that parishes and communities will be able to respond appropriately to this request. Liturgical resources are readily available to assist. My prayer is that our spiritual journey of Lent to the Easter Mysteries assist us to shift our focus afresh onto Jesus, our hope and lasting peace.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse  
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

### DAYS OF FASTING & REPARATION FOR HEALING

This year the Bishops of Australia request that the first four days of Lent (Ash Wednesday - 14 to 17 February). Be offered as Days of Fasting and Reparation for the healing of child abuse victims and those affected.

## PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR A JUST FUTURE

Parishioners can take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia during Lent. The boxes/envelopes are on the exit tables.

This year the theme is "A Just Future" and celebrates the Year of Youth.

As Pope Francis said, "Cultivate with love the seeds of goodness, beauty and truth that God sows in every new generation."

Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.





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

Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine, Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi, Maureen Blood, Charles Ryan, Ken Rolls, Barbara Wilson, Anne Corver, Awny El-Ghitany, Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Alexia Harris, Mimma Giampietro, Joe Schimizzi, Zelma McManus, Lynn & Richard Bale

**Remember our deceased**

Rosemary Denmead, Dorothy Walsh, Patricia Cherry, Edgar Villalon, Noel Afable

**In Loving Memory**

O'Neill Family

## LENTEN STUDIES



Lent begins on the 14th February with Ash Wednesday. Each year the forty days of Lent are given to us for prayerful reflection on the figure of

Christ crucified and the journey He took through darkness to light. The theme of our reflection program this year is "Surrender". In recent times we have seen natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, terrorism, war, displaced persons seeking new homelands, floods, fires, and starvation shadowing the earth. Yet in these shadows we have seen people of faith, courage, prayer and action, perseverance and hope; and through these people we have caught a glimpse of the self-sacrificing love of Jesus himself.

As in former years, we are invited to journey together in faith and if possible to set some time aside to reflect on God's Word as nourishment on our pilgrimage. If you would like to be a part of a Parish Lenten Group, a group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre starting next the 13th February, please sign up in the foyer if you would like to attend.

## PREPARING FOR EASTER

**Enhance your spiritual journey** through Holy Week and Easter this year by singing. Join the choir for just seven one-hour practices, and sing your way through the liturgies of that crucial and climactic season of the Church year.

Practices Mondays, 7.30pm, in the church, starting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February. No cost. No fees. Music provided. More information, ring 61617100, or just turn up.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Vinnies Door Knock Appeal for 2018 will be held at the Canberra Show on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 23rd 24th & 25th February. Volunteers are needed at the show. If you can find 2 hours or so to help it would be gratefully appreciated. Please leave you name with Anne O'Neill on 6241 1016 or Ron Kirk 4447 4938 and we will roster you if we can for your preferred time.

## LEPROSY

The disease called leprosy is a disfiguring illness in which ulcers and gangrene develop on human bodies. It is occasionally found in tropic areas, but is only slightly contagious. In ancient times people feared it so much that they labeled anything as leprosy that even appeared to be infected. Thus conditions as widely ranging as mildew, rust and cancer were all grouped under its name. Anyone infected with apparent symptoms were quarantined. They could lose their homes, families and careers. Priests were called upon to give victims detailed examinations. Their verdict could condemn people to a living hell.

## THE CHURCH'S HEALING TOUCH

*Sixth Sunday of the Year.*

*fr David ask us to reflect on how we can bring Christ's healing presence to those most alone in the world.*

There is a story, it may be apocryphal, about an upper class lady in Oxford who attended mass soon after the new ruling about the kiss of peace was introduced after Vatican II. When someone turned to her to shake her hand she withdrew rather affronted and said 'I do not believe we have been introduced.' Crossing social barriers can be dangerous. We see this today in the Gospel when Jesus meets a leper. Leviticus laid down strict rules for dealing with contagious diseases like leprosy. They were harsh but necessary. The leper must be isolated from society and his loved ones until there was a cure. Jesus himself seems to have recognised that it was necessary to have official priestly procedures to monitor the state of the illness. Leprosy struck the healthy with terror just as Aids and Ebola have in recent times. Isolation wards are essential and the victim must not be touched by unprotected human contact.

The Gospel reveals the desperation of this leper and the huge risk he and Jesus were taking in crossing a profound social gulf. The reading from Mark emphasises this. Notice how the leper approaches, pleads, falls to his knees and begs to be healed. He is desperate. Jesus could have just spoken a healing word, he could have raised his hand to bless, without making any bodily human contact. But notice how Jesus's gesture of touch is stressed: he stretched out his hand and touched the leper. And immediately he is healed.

Why does Jesus insist on touching him and what is the significance of this miracle? The reason for touch is simple. Jesus touched him 'out of compassion'. He was able to sympathise with the suffering of the leper so that he willed to bring him out of his isolation. So many of Jesus' miracles involve touch because it expresses powerfully the way the loneliness which comes with illness and stigma is overcome.

Jesus has announced the presence of the Kingdom of God in his ministry. When he exorcises the unclean spirits he is pushing back Satan's kingdom in a very dramatic way. The leper symbolises the isolation and alienation which many who have been made outsiders experience in a hostile society.

The healing is certainly dramatic but it dwells less on the sensational than on the leper who is healed and who can now return to the normal. He is restored to himself and given back to his loved ones. It is a sign of God's kingdom which through Jesus defeats the forces of evil and so breaks through the rigid barriers which a society can set up to protect itself against the outsider.

St Paul speaks in the second reading of respecting both Jews and Greeks. He knew too well how they could hate and stigmatise each other. But the isolating barriers which kept them apart were finally overcome through the death of Christ. St Paul fought hard for the unity of the communities he founded because he saw in that amazing the new unity in the Church of Jew and Gentile a witness to the power of Christ's resurrection. Leprosy can still act as a powerful symbol for the isolation which many experience in a society which stigmatises people who suffer from frightening illnesses or who are in some way seen as marginal. Even in the church we can reflect the rigid barriers of colour, class and race which society imposes and we react with fear and prejudice.

A Jesus who makes God's rule present when he reaches out and touches lepers and restores them to health and to family is a powerful challenge to the contemporary church. In a society which is becoming increasingly lonely and isolated, despite the claims of the social media, the Church is called to be what it should, a community where Jew and Gentile coexist and where the lonely, the isolated and today's 'lepers' and untouchables can find a home and a helping hand that is stretched out to them in welcome.

David Sanders O.P. <http://english.op.org/torch>

# HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

## CATECHISTS FOR 2018

Our Parish is looking for Catechists for 2018 to assist our team currently teaching School of Religion classes on Sunday mornings. No prior experience is necessary, other than an interest in teaching Primary school-aged children about their Catholic faith. A commitment is required of approximately 2-hours each week during school term time. Classes begin 11 February 2018. Training and support is offered by the Archdiocese. Please contact Jacquie Cortese at the Parish Office if you'd like more information.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**CARDS** Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

**COFFEE GROUP** Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month.

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

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033

**CARE OF THE SICK** If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. If someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

**COELIACS** Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seats by using T-switch on your hearing aid.

**PARISH BULLETIN** - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

## CARITAS KITCHEN

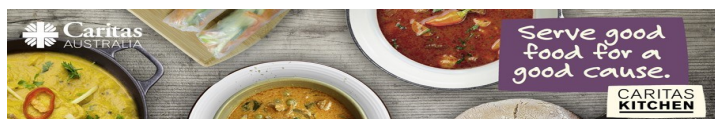
JOIN US to raise awareness and funds for Project Compassion With Special guest speaker: Michael Maguire, a former Australian professional rugby league football coach for the South Sydney, visited Caritas Programs in Zimbabwe in October 2017. Michael will share his experience with us.

**Shrove Tuesday 13 February** at 6pm

St. Christopher's Pastoral Centre 55 Franklin Street, Forrest

Register Online by 9 February

<http://my.caritasfundraising.org.au/LuluMitshabu2018>



# EVENTS

**17 - February - ST VALENTINE'S MASS** - St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah invites parishioners to celebrate the love, romance and joy of Christian Marriage with a **celebration Mass at 6pm**. Mass followed by informal meal. Please RSVP to if you would like to join us for dinner to Elizabeth (6231 9219) or Trish (6231 8468)

**17/18 - February "The Cry of the Earth, Care of our Common Home"** As part of the celebration for **St Clement's Centenary**, world renowned Redemptorist Theologian, Fr Anthony Kelly will join Jacqui Remond, the former Catholic Earth care Director, to explore key elements of Pope Francis' Laudato Si', focussing on aspects that touch the lives of the people in Australia. Conference begins at 9.15am. The cost of \$30 (concession available) includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Bookings are essential. Phone: St Clement's (02) **6380 5222** or [in-fo@stclement.com.au](mailto:fo@stclement.com.au). **Accommodation** is also available.

**17 & 24 - February - EVENINGS FOR THE ENGAGED** Evening for the Engaged, marriage preparation program, will be held over two consecutive Saturdays. Enquiries Mark & Kathy Haseler, 6166 7634

## 20 - February - ALPHA COURSE

The Disciples of Jesus Community are running an Alpha course commencing on the 20th of February. It will be offered each Tuesday evening over eight weeks with dinner included. Everyone is welcome! Please contact Fiona Smith on 0411 144 208 for more information.

## 27 - February - CHAMBER PHILHARMONIA COLOGNE

"Classical music the world over" is the motto of the Chamber Philharmonia Cologne - On the 27 February at 8.00pm they will be performing at St Christopher's Cathedral. The Chamber was founded in Cologne but is at home all over the world. [www.ticketmaster.com.au](http://www.ticketmaster.com.au)

**1-4 - March "YMI Equipping School"** The YMI Equipping School is an intensive formation school that equips & resources youth, young adults & ministry leaders for the mission of the Catholic Church. The Archdiocese invites all youth & young adults from parishes or ecclesial movements wanting to be formed for ministry and mission to attend. Contact Huw Warmenhoven ([huw.warmenhoven@cg.org.au](mailto:huw.warmenhoven@cg.org.au)). Register [ymiequippingschool.eventbrite.com.au](http://ymiequippingschool.eventbrite.com.au)

## 22 - March - CONCERNED CATHOLICS OF CANBERRA

You are invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> public forum of Concerned Catholics of Canberra-Goulburn. Francis Sullivan, CEO, Truth Justice and Healing Council, will provide an analysis of the Royal Commission's final report. **Contact: Rog Page** [concerned.catholics.cnagbn@gmail.com](mailto:concerned.catholics.cnagbn@gmail.com)

**2018 Lenten Video Resource: GOOD NEWS IN TOUGH TIMES** This resource is perfect for parish-based groups, families and individuals and presents a great opportunity for all to withdraw from the week-in, week-out busyness. To pre-order online: [www.faithresources.org.au](http://www.faithresources.org.au) or call the Bookshop 02 6239 9888

## ROSTERS 17 / 18 February 2018

### Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	M. Tran	
Readers	P. English	E. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	Tran Family	
EMOE	J. Maclean	

### Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	M. Falk	
Readers	N. Clarke	G. Thompson
Presentation of Gifts	Flynn Family	
EMOE	E. M. Falk	

### Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	J. Wade	
Readers	C. Barbaro	P. McDonald
Presentation of Gifts	Musolino Family	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy

### Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	E. Kralikas	
Readers	M. Brothosodo	K. Kralikas
Presentation of Gifts	J. Curnow	
EMOE	C. de Luca	T. de Luca
Counters	T. Ryan	R. Walpole