

Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 16
11th March 2018
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

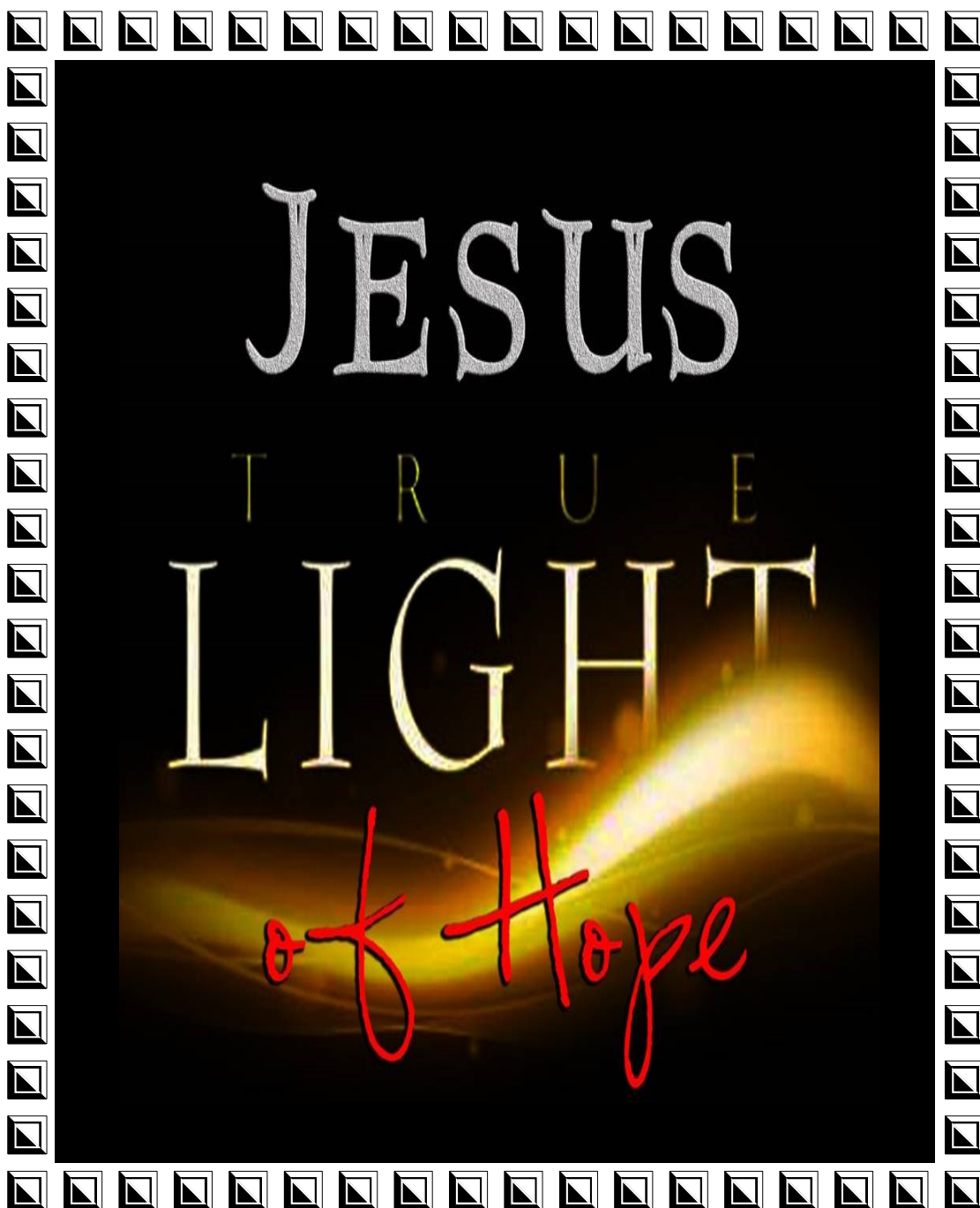
Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass
Saturday after 9am Mass
and First Saturday each month
3.30pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 4pm—4.30pm

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent



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

ENTRANCE	Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
COMMUNION	Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.
READINGS	2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: John 3:14-21

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 22

Let my tongue be silenced,
if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue
cleave my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

Let my tongue be silenced,
if I ever forget you!

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. No cost. No fees. Music provided. More information, ring 61617100, or just turn up. **NO PRACTICE on Monday 12th Canberra Day Holiday.**

HOLY WEEK / EASTER ROSTER

The Rosters are now in the foyer for parishioners who would like to volunteer for the Holy Week / Easter Liturgies. Special help is needed after Holy Thursday and on Holy Saturday morning.

CHRISM MASS

Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 26th March at 7.30pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, 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.



The Timetable with Holy Week and Easter Celebration times is now available on the exit tables please pick up a copy to take home.

PROJECT COMPASSION

***** **EVANGELINE, AUSTRALIA** *****



PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR A JUST FUTURE

Evangeline is strengthening Aboriginal culture while making a living and creating opportunities for her community. Featured in Project Compassion during 2016, Evangeline went from seeking employment to being a Senior Artsworker and an inspirational leader for youth. Her work at the non-profit Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation has supported the organisation's growth and it is now a major employer for young people in the remote Northern Territory community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive, essential for a just future. A Just Future starts with your support!

CARITAS REFLECTION

The symbolisms in today's readings remind us of the richness of God's mercy and grace. The first reading recalls the struggles of the people of God to remain faithful to God and to remember God's promises to them through the prophets. The role of the prophet in biblical times was to preserve in the people the reality that they were precious in God's eyes and that God was always present with them.

In the Gospel today we see Jesus speaking with Nicodemus. The same Nicodemus we are told a few verses earlier, who came to Jesus by night [John 3:10-12]. In the scriptures night is often associated with secrecy and darkness. In contrast, later in John's Gospel, Jesus tells us he is the "light of the world."

As the Church continuously revisits the long history of God's relationship with God's people, Caritas Australia takes this opportunity to revisit and explore the impact of its relationships. We first heard about Evangeline, a young First Australian woman a couple of years ago. She lives in the remote community of Beswick in the Northern Territory. Evangeline's work is, of itself, life-giving for her and her community. She helps to preserve and bring into the light her own precious gifts and talents and the art and culture of her people. We are blessed by their willingness to share their gifts with the broader Australian community. In doing this, like St Paul reminds us, we are "God's work of art". Just as Evangeline is shining a light on her culture and lore for future generations, we can ask ourselves: how are we living in Christ's light?

BAPTISM

Corey Overhall will be baptised this weekend. May his life be filled with God's peace, and his heart with God's love....on this Baptism day and always.



FAMILY MASS ~ PALM SUNDAY 25th March~ 10am Mass will be a Family Mass followed by a Sausage Sizzle. All welcome for a chance to meet, greet and catch up with Parish Families.

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, Awany El-Ghitany, Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Mimma Giampietro, Alexia Harris, Joe Schimizzi, Glenice Entwistle, Zelma McManus, Lynn & Richard Bale, Greg O'Neill
Remember our deceased	Hermann Ficken, Bill (Alberico) Gallo, Pino Parisi
In Loving Memory	Noel Dawes, Domenica Cortese Margaret Nenke

LAETARE SUNDAY

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, following an old tradition, albeit it in a new guise, we celebrate "Laughter Sunday" or "Holy Humour Sunday". We lighten up, we relax, and recall the joy of the Lord in the midst of the Lenten pilgrimage. We celebrate God's presence and goodness in the midst of life. We tell jokes. We share inspirational stories with humorous twists. And we still hear the gospel of the day. Well at least sometimes. Other times we find other texts and proclaim them.

"Laetare Sunday" - from the first word of the traditional collect for the day (Rejoice). It is also known as "Refreshment Sunday". It was a day when the austerity of Lent was relaxed a little, and the violet vestments of Lent could be replaced with rose coloured ones. A special kind of fruit cake was often served on this Sunday modestly breaking the Lenten Fast (as Sundays in Lent allow for). And it reminds us that God is a God of laughter as well as of sorrow - much as God is Lord of the valleys as well as the mountain tops.

THUS SAYS CYRUS

In the 6th century BC Israel was conquered by invaders from the Babylonian Empire (now Iraq). Most of the people were taken to Babylon as slaves. They maintained hope that God would send a savior to rescue them. That salvation came from an unlikely source, Cyrus II, the king of Persia (now Iran). He is known as Cyrus the Great because of his military victories. In 539 BC he captured Babylon. Cyrus was a shrewd politician. He realized that he needed allies to control his vast domain. He sent most of the Babylonian slaves home and even paid them to rebuild their nations. Of course, he used captured money to finance the project. The Jews interpreted this as an act of God and call Cyrus their "messiah". The first reading is part of the decree issued by Cyrus commanding the reconstruction of the Temple.

Fr R. Lonsdale <http://www.4catholiceducators.com/lonsdale>

MOSES AND THE SERPENT

Jesus makes a strange analogy to explain the crucifixion. He refers to a metal statue that had been "crucified" by Moses. The incident is described in Numbers 21:4-9. The Hebrews were traveling through a region in the southern part of Jordan. It was infested with lizards that carried venom. This led to high fever and death.

Moses had been a desert dweller for many years and knew that the bites were not always fatal. Panic caused the poison to spread. If the people would relax the fever and its cause would pass. So Moses had to find a way to calm his people. God inspired him to create a statue of the serpent as a sign that the almighty could control real lizards. Jesus may be using this illustration to show the psychological power of the crucifixion. His death on the cross was a reminder of God's ultimate power over sin and evil.

Fr R. Lonsdale <http://www.4catholiceducators.com/lonsdale>

LIFETIMES OF PENITENCE

*Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday).
fr Benjamin Earl OP helps us to see
how the Christian life is a life of penance,
which through the gift
of Christ's sacrifice anticipates eternal life.*

With the mitigated penance signified by the rose of the fourth Sunday of Lent we signal the conclusion of the first part of this season. In these four weeks our focus has been on penitence and conversion, on turning back to God who calls us to himself. Next Sunday the focus will shift. Next Sunday we will begin to turn our attention to Christ's passion as our liturgy ascends closer to the summit of Easter. Having sought conversion in our lives we will focus more particularly on Christ pouring out his life for us. Perhaps our period of penitence so far seems like a lifetime. Had it been Advent we started three and a half weeks ago, then it would probably be Christmas already. But in the lifetime of Lent, Easter is still a long way off.

We should be grateful that our liturgical period of penance, our exile from the promised land of Easter, is not literally a lifetime. The liturgical exile of the Jewish people in the sixth century before Christ was indeed literally for a lifetime: seventy years according to the Prophet Jeremiah from the deportation to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar to the proclamation of Cyrus king of Persia recounted in today's first reading from the end of the Book of Chronicles. Those deported would not have returned; those returning in 538 BC would have been born already in exile.

The Old Testament texts see the exile as a consequence of the "shameful practices" and sins of the kings and the people of Judah. Captivity in Babylon is presented as a well-deserved chastisement of God's people: it is a lifetime of penitence and a lifetime of preparing to return to the Lord. Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus are simply instruments of divine justice and mercy. This lifetime of penitence is sandwiched between two historical events: the defilement and destruction of the Temple of Solomon and the construction of the Second Temple. It is a liturgical exile, not just a geographical one. The sacrificial rites were suspended; but after a lifetime of penitence following the temple's defilement, sacrifice is once again offered in Jerusalem.

This link between penitence and sacrifice is present too in the Christian dispensation. Penitence and exile are brought to an end with sacrifice. The penitence of the Christian life reaches its consummation with the gift of the Son of God, given "so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life." Christ's one sacrifice in Jerusalem makes it possible for those who turn to him in penitence of life to enter the new Jerusalem, the kingdom of heaven.

Thankfully even in this penitential season we Christians can still celebrate in the Eucharist the sacrifice of the New Covenant. Only on Good Friday and Holy Saturday does the liturgy pause. And formal days of penance are normally restricted to this Lenten season and Fridays through the year.

But these days of penance should have an impact on the whole of our lives. The practice of penance should lead us to the virtue of penitence: that is, the rejection of sin and the resolve to live virtuous lives. In that sense we Christians are called not just to observe a penitential season, but like the Jewish exiles before us to have a whole lifetime of penitence. Not a lifetime awaiting sacrifice; but a lifetime profiting from the one sacrifice which truly takes away our sins, in anticipation of the new eternal life which is promised us.

Today, then, this joy flowing from God's love for the world is placed before us. The light of Easter even now brightens our Lenten purple. We, called to be the new Jerusalem, rejoice with her, bound together in our common purpose. May the Lord fill us with new resolve in the middle of this Lent: as the liturgical penance of these forty days will give way to the joy of the resurrection, may each of us rejoice in a lifetime of penitence before entering into the eternal life promised by the Saviour.

<http://english.op.org/torch>

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS - Parish School of Religion has recommenced. New students are always welcome. This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Catechists are still needed to help with the classes. Our Parish is looking for Catechists 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 have now started. Training and support is offered by the Archdiocese. Please contact 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

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 the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, 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 Jacque in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

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.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Please note that if you wish to have a copy of the Catholic Weekly the cost is \$2.00. **It is not a FREE publication.**

EVENTS

25 - March - REFUGEE RALLY

Palm Sunday Rally For Justice For Refugees
1pm Sunday 25 March - Garema Place, City.

14 March - SOCIAL JUSTICE TALK

The social justice and environment group of Holy Cross and St Margaret's is hosting a talk by Ros Harper to speak about 'Ecumenical Accompaniers in Palestine'. Ahmed Avadla, a PhD student from Gaza, will also be there to answer questions. It will take place at Holy Cross church on Wednesday 14th March at 7pm. Light refreshments will follow. No need to RSVP. The talk is open to all interested people.

16-18th March "ARISE: Sisterhood Catholic Women's Conference"

Do you want to go deeper in your relationship with Jesus, to grow as a Catholic woman and develop friendships with other women of faith? Join women of all ages for a weekend of prayer. Where: The Tops Conference Centre Stanwell Tops Sydney . Keynote speakers include; Darlene Zschech, Laura Roland, Sr Mary Rachel OP, Jonathan and Karen Doyle, Jo Hayes, Justine Cumbo, Francine Pirola and more. *To find out more* <https://www.sisterhood.org.au/>

22 - March - CONCERNED CATHOLICS OF CANBERRA

You are invited to the 3rd 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

24 - March - LORETO ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Ex students from all Loreto Convents are warmly welcomed to the Alumni's annual regional lunch at Muse, Kingston preceded by Mass. Enquiries to Jenny Dobbin, 0439 619181

27 - March - DARAMALAN COLLEGE OPENING EVENING

Tuesday 27 March. Tours from 5.00-6.30pm. Optional information sessions for Year 7, 2019 at 4.45pm & 7.00pm. Year 11, 2019 Information Session at 6.00pm. Contact 62456348 for further information.

MERICI COLLEGE

Wednesday 9 May - 2.00pm-4.00pm and 5.30pm-7.30pm (includes Year 7 2019 Information Session)

Year 11 Information Night - Thursday 17 May - 5.00pm-6.30pm
Careers Expo from 2.30pm

Be a Merici Girl for a Day - Experience a typical day at Merici College
Wednesday 2 May - Friday 4 May

School Tour and Principal's Address Saturday 5 May 9.30am

Visit www.merici.college for all enrolment enquiries and online registrations for Be a Merici Girl

Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.

ROSTERS 18 / 19 March 2018

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	R. Paul	
Readers	A. Blakey	M. Cox
Presentation of Gifts	Blakey Family	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	N. Clark	G. Thompson
Presentation of Gifts	Flynn Family	
EMOE	E. Smith	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	Q. Vu	R. Tanzer
Readers	C. Rheinberger	H. Pham
Presentation of Gifts	Vu Family	
EMOE	R. Marson	H. Zobec

Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	E. Kralikas	
Readers	K. Kralikas	V. Van der Sanden
Presentation of Gifts	Hall-Obrien Family	
EMOE	J. Curnow	C. Mackay