

# Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Issue 19  
31 March 2019  
Year C

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 &  
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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

**ACU Chapel Signadou**  
Wednesday at Midday

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

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

I will always love you



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

<b>ENTRANCE</b>	Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
<b>COMMUNION</b>	You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.
<b>READINGS</b>	Joshua 5:9-12 Corinthians 5:17-21 Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**CONNECTIONS**

Today's Gospel tells of how when an angry older brother confronted his father about welcoming the prodigal son back home with a lavish feast, the forgiving father replied: "My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

In this story, can we see ourselves in all the characters? How many times have we been the prodigal son? Or the angry and jealous older brother? And, how many times have we been the forgiving father? Consider how many times have we been grateful to our heavenly Father for his unending forgiveness of our transgressions.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 22**

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION**

It is important that you contact the office by email, phone or in writing if you would like to book a Mass Intention, Memorial Mass, Baptism, and use of the Parish Centre a minimum two weeks notice is required. For Wedding bookings six months notice is required.

**If you DO NOT book through the Office we cannot guarantee your request .**

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 9am** of that week.

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

The choir has begun preparations for the Easter season on Mondays at 7.30 pm in the church. Phone 61617100 if you would like to know more.

**LENTON REFLECTIONS**

Parishioners who wish to attend the Lenten Reflection evenings - the evening reflections Group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

John F. Kennedy

**GOSPEL SUMMARY**

Today's Gospel is the well-known story of the prodigal son who begged for his share of the family inheritance. He took his fortune to a faraway place and quickly spent all he had on his personal pleasures. He was completely broke when a serious famine struck the area and he was forced to tend pigs, an occupation prohibited to Jewish people. As he tended the pigs, he hungered for their scraps and realized that his father's slaves lived better than he did. It was then that he decided to return home, not as a son, but as a hired hand. So happy was the man's father when he saw his son return that he celebrated with all sorts of signs of honour. The father's older son, however, was very displeased with the way his father treated his brother, claiming that he had always been there working like a slave for his father. Never once had the father celebrated with this son. The father explained that the older son had always been with him and obedient. It was cause to rejoice, however, that his other son had been lost but now was found.

**Reflection for Families**

Parents try to divide the world into equal pieces for each of their children, but they know how very different each child can be. There are really no one-size-fits-all sets of expectations for families with more than one child. This Gospel helps us remember that we need to recognize the virtues of obedience and faithfulness, while we still love unconditionally and forgive the child who challenges us. Both brothers in this story considered themselves slaves, feelings we work hard to prevent in our children.

**Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family**

This parable about the prodigal son is a story about families and filled with emotion. Gather all your loose family photos and organize them into an album. (If you're lucky enough to be up to date, go through your photo albums.) As you arrange the photos, talk about your memory of that picture and the emotions that you associate with its circumstances. When you have finished, decide which emotion most characterizes your family. Are you pleased with this defining emotion or is this a good time to work on some changes?

**THE PRODIGAL,**

Today's Gospel passage is usually known as the parable of The Prodigal Son. A more fitting title might be the parable of the Prodigal and the Vindictive Sons. Prodigal means "wastefully extravagant". It aptly fits the young man who wants his father's legacy before the father dies. He acts foolishly and shows no regard for the survival of his family. His brother is no less blameless. While he has worked for his father, his words suggest that his motives were not exactly pure. His vindictiveness against his brother also indicates his base character.

The real hero of the story is the provident father. He loves both his sons, despite their flaws. In the boys, we see the extremes of human failure. In the father, we see God.



**CHRISM MASS**

Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 15th April 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 welcome.

<b>In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:</b>	Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine, Mary Martin Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi, Maureen Blood, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany, Joe Schimizzi, Elsie Laughton, Alexia Harris, Sharon O'Rourke, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Paul Neddrrie, Helen Miller, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Jamie Judd Mimma Giampietro, Zelma McManus, Frank Zobec, Catherine Feehan, Jacques Michel, Pamela Sandy, Mineka Tuckwell, Ryan Fawke, Fr Bernie Maxwell
<b>Our deceased</b>	Ken Rolls, Derrick Yee, Bruce McKinnon, Robert McCormack, Dolores O' Riordan, Aileen Coggan
<b>In Memory</b>	Phil Cummins

## TWO WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE PRODIGAL

*Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday).  
Fr Robert Ombres OP helps us to envision*

*how we can see our own lives in the mirror of today's Gospel.*  
Today's gospel, which we hear well into the season of Lent, is extremely familiar. To describe someone as a 'prodigal' or behaving just like the prodigal son has become almost proverbial, a way of speaking which does not depend on being a Christian. The familiar can of course lose its power, its capacity to startle us into repentance. Because the parable is so well-known, in listening to it we probably knew what was coming next and could even race ahead while it was being read out. So let's take step back, and then perhaps the parable will speak to us in a fresh way. When we read the Bible, with its histories and its stories, do we basically think we are spectators looking out of a window at something that this happening out there to others? Or do we think of reading the Bible as more like looking into a mirror, when we too are very much in the picture?

If we look at the Bible as we do when we look out of the window, then we are at some distance from what is going on, we need not get involved if we do not want to, we can remain at a safe distance. The people 'out there' do not include us, and what they say and do is not aimed at us. But if we look at the Bible as we look into a mirror, then we are in the middle of what is going on, we are part of the picture. In the mirror we see ourselves as well as others; we are caught up and involved in the story. In reading or hearing the parable of the prodigal son, as the story is usually even if not too accurately called, we should not remain spectators looking at the drama of someone else's family. If we are directly involved then we will not just ask questions about what is going on, but are ourselves called into question. In fact, we are made to question ourselves. We are meant to be 'at home' in God's house, without rivalry or estrangements. There are to be no alienating distances between the children and their Father or between the children. Looking into today's gospel as into a mirror, what should we look for? Clear-sighted honesty about how each of us stands, to begin with. We can distance ourselves in all kinds of ways. The prodigal son's distancing of himself is brought out geographically in that he travels to a distant land, but also in his life-style and how he has to 'return to himself' as well as to his father. At one level the older brother is near to his father, but more deeply he is not close to him and he cuts himself off from being related to his younger brother: 'this son of yours', as he describes his brother. Especially in Lent, we should look and see if there are features of the prodigal in us as well as features of the older brother.

The gospel, however, is Good News as well as a way of gaining self-knowledge. If it contained only judgment then this might well increase our sense of alienation from God, from ourselves and from others. In the mirror of today's parable, the generous and lavish welcome of the Father is the feature to concentrate on. Putting the focus on God will allow us to discover the truth about ourselves and at the same time not to think that is the whole picture, the end of the story. God makes change possible, more than we sometimes dare to hope for.

At this point, in a way the mirror scene turns out to be part of a film, a film in which each of us is one of the cast, and there is development and change. We have seen how the story unfolded so far, and in a dramatic manner the story finishes with the end of one estrangement and the risk of another. How will the older brother finally react? Will he accept and imitate the generosity of his father? Where does each one of us stand in all this?

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

### Daylight Savings finishes next weekend 7th April.

Instead of worrying about what you cannot control, shift your energy to what you can create.

### ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

There will be a special blessing during next week's 5pm Sunday Mass to celebrate Yvonne & Neville Finnegan's 60th Wedding Anniversary. All Parishioners are welcome to join in this special occasion with Yvonne & Neville.

## SOLAR PANELS

The Parish Finance Council (PFC) has been considering the case for the installation of solar panels and (either in the near term or later) storage batteries, having regard to factors such as cost/benefit. A first quote has been obtained. A subcommittee is the preferred way to take this investigation further and to make recommendations to the PFC, who may consult with others as appropriate. The PFC would appreciate the assistance of parishioners, or relatives or friends of parishioners, who are willing to join this subcommittee or otherwise provide building or technical knowledge for this project. The PFC asks that any volunteers, or prospective volunteers, contact the Parish Office on 6248 5925 or at [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au).

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis centre in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 to provide and help lift communities out of poverty and give them hope to protect our common home. **Project Compassion share packs and giving boxes can be picked up from all exit tables.**

## LAYERS FOR LENT

During Lent ACU Engagement and Campus Ministry are collecting winter clothing for those in need in our local communities. As a joint venture we are asking parishioners to donate their unused winter clothing and blankets. The venture runs between the 6 March to 18 April. Donations can be left in the box in the church foyer or the Veritas foyer. Donations will be received by St Vincent de Paul - Night Patrol. Primary clients of Night Patrol are the homeless, people at risk, both young and old, and those in need, who might not otherwise seek help from the St Vincent de Paul Society or other community or charitable groups.

## GOD CALLS US TO CHANGE

'The bad side of the bad son is that he does not see that the father's estate is not for profligate personal reward, but is a livelihood which covers good times and bad times such as famine. The good side of the bad son is that he is open to grace and open to see that his father represents love, grace, support and family gathering. This stirs him to see his sinfulness against his father and also the heavenly providence of God.

The bad side of the good son is that he has lost vision of his work for his father as using God's gifts and living on God's livelihood. The good side of the good son is that he has respected his father and done his commands, perhaps in an unseeing way. His father nevertheless says to him, 'all I have is yours' in an expansive way. All of our actions should have an implicit address to God. If done as a burden, then God calls us to change. If done in superiority to others, he calls us to change. Be reconciled!

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Jonathan Fleetwood OP

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS** - 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. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more information. New Year starts on 3rd March 2019.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 - [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 the **third Thursday** of each month Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our friends and newcomers 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** meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Contact the Office.

**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 information - Letty 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, if someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please let the office 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.

**PARISH BULLETIN** - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON**

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

**CATHOLIC VOICE WEBISTE** - The Archdiocese has launched a brand new **CATHOLIC VOICE WEBSITE** for current news in the archdiocese this link is <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/>

## THE JOURNEY

'Despite their different life journeys, the younger and older sons have the same image of the father. The younger son thinks that the way to return to the father's good graces is to be treated as a servant; the older one boasts that all these years he has been a faithful servant. Both define sonship in terms of servile obligations; each in his own way destroys the family. The story is really a story of the "Prodigal Father," lavish in love, who shatters the self-understanding of both sons and wants both to be free. St. Paul puts it succinctly, "You are no longer slaves but sons and daughters, and if a son or daughter, then an heir through God". (Gal. 4:7)

'Living this parable becomes a challenge for our Lenten journey of return to a loving Father who breaks through our self-image as servants bent on pleasing a demanding master. This pardoning and prodigal God invites us to a family party freed from aimless wandering and resentful dutifulness.'

Excerpt from a commentary by Fr John Donahue SJ

Life can only be understood backwards;  
but it must be lived forwards.

# EVENTS

**12 - 14 April - Taize Retreat:** "Finding life and joy in today's world: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, Sydney. Facilitated by Fr John Armstrong and Annemarie Nicol. All welcome Cost: \$300.00 Private facilities, fully catered Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. Bookings: Mount Carmel Retreat Centre (02 8795 3400) More information: Annemarie (0421 492 554). The retreat is organised by an ecumenical group and everyone is welcome. The group meets regularly for prayer using songs from Taizé every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting church at 5.30pm.

## 7-18 June - TEN DAY RENEWAL IN THE YEAR OF LUKE

Join Dr Elizabeth Dowling RSM, an Australian biblical scholar, as she leads participants in an exploration of mercy, compassion and release in the Gospel of Luke at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong. Bookings: 02 6380 5222 or [info@stclement.com.au](mailto:info@stclement.com.au)

## MERICI COLLEGE ENROLLING NOW CAMPAIGN

A wonderful opportunity for prospective families to see the College in action, meet our students and attend the Principal's address, Yr 7 and Yr 11 Information Evenings, Careers Expo and lots more. Please visit [www.merici.college](http://www.merici.college) for all dates and information.

## ST FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE

2020 Enrolment Information Evening - Tuesday 7 May - Guided Tours 5pm - 6pm, Information Session from 6.30pm - 7.15pm.  
More Information [jennifer.madgwick@sfx.act.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.madgwick@sfx.act.edu.au)

## EASTER LITURGIES

We would really like the Easter Liturgies to be a whole of community project and ask you all to consider being involved in some way. You may have noticed in the foyer of the church that the rosters for volunteers are now out, I would like to draw your attention to some of the jobs.

- The Altar of Repose needs to be prepared for Holy Thursday night
- The church needs to be prepared for Good Friday
- Then the church needs to be prepared for Holy Saturday night, a lot needs to be done;
- The ladies who provide such beautiful flowers for us on a regular basis need help with the huge job of preparing the church for this wonderful celebration.
- General cleaning
- Preparing the small candles for the congregation to use.
- And most important of all: keeping the workers watered and fed.

Please consider joining us, any age group we will find something for everyone to do.

## ROSTERS 6 / 7 April 2019

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary			
Acolyte / Server	R. Paul		
Readers	A. Blakey	M. Cox	
Presentation of Gifts	Tran Family		
EMOE	K. Murphy		
Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary			
Acolyte / Server	N. McGahey		
Readers	B. Bandle	C. Bandle	
Presentation of Gifts	Bandle Family		
EMOE	J. Smith		
Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary			
Acolyte / Server	R. Tanzer		
Readers	M. Fitzgerald	K. McCluskey	
Presentation of Gifts	Webb Family		
EMOE	H. Zobec	R. Marson	
Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary			
Acolyte / Server	L. Kim / P. Tran		
Readers	T. Malone	V. Van der Sanden	
Presentation of Gifts	Dobrowolska/Cheyne Family		
EMOE	C. de Luca	T. de Luca	
Counters	F. Higgins	N. Higgins	I. Buckley