



# St Peter's Catholic Parish

14 March, 2021 – **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*Our mission as the Christian community of St Peter's Parish, enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that other may experience the love of Christ.*

We sincerely acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Yuin people.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### God's Works of Art

How does God picture us? St Paul reveals one of God's favourite ways of regarding us. 'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life as from the beginning He had intended us to live it.'

Just as an artist respects the medium he or she is working in, whether it be oils or crayon, so too God respects us as human beings with free will. Which is why His works of art don't always look the way He intended!

Now, if one has a work of art in the house, a picture or print that means a lot to you, or perhaps the first sketch by a child, do you put it in the darkest corner of the room? Or do you allow just enough light to fall on it so as to reveal how terrific it is, why it gives you pleasure? Of course, the latter.

Now, if you and I are God's work of art, God wants exactly the same. He wants us to be revealed in the light. What sort of light? Christ our Light.

Of course, it might be necessary for the Light to dispel some darkness, some shadow dimension of our lives. In this regard, Christ is a healing Light, but this is so that he might illuminate us in a way which more clearly reveals the love which the Divine Artist has for His creation.

We might take a moment to pray for the courage to expose ourselves to Christ's healing light this Lent to be more beautifully illuminated at Easter.

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## Churches, Mass Celebrations and Prayer ....

### Churches

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden  
St Joseph's, Merimbula  
St Peter's, Pambula  
St Joseph's, Wyndham

### Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 9:30am-10am, Merimbula  
Saturday, before Vigil Mass, Eden

### Adoration

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at 8:30am, Merimbula  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 3pm, Eden

### Weddings

By appointment only – at least 6 months' notice in advance.

### Mass Times

Saturday, 6:00pm, Eden  
Sunday, 8:00am, Merimbula  
Sunday, 10:00am, Merimbula  
Tuesday 5:00pm, Merimbula  
Wednesday, 9:30am, Merimbula  
Thursday, 9:30am Eden  
Friday, 9:30am Merimbula

### Sacrament of Baptism

Welcoming Mass – 4<sup>th</sup> Sat/Sun of the month prior to Baptism. During Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday/Sunday of the month. Please ring office for all Baptism preparation enquiries

### Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

Tuesdays at 4:30pm, St Joseph's Merimbula

## Contact Details

### Parish Priest

Fr Paletasala (Pale) Leota

### Parish Secretary

### Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood

### Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffernan

### Finance Chair

Mr Neil Ffrench

### Lumen Christi Catholic College

Mr Shane Giles (02)6495 8888

### Marriage Preparations

Damien & Celi Kennedy

### Parish Office

Hours - 10am to 1pm  
Wednesday to Thursday,  
Phone – 0435 036 236  
Email - pambula@cg.org.au  
Web -  
www.cg.org.au/pambula  
Address - 79 Main Street,  
PO Box 249, Merimbula, NSW,  
2548



*'God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him'*

*"Enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit"*

In the liturgy and liturgical catechesis of LENT the reminder of *baptism* already received or the preparation for its' reception, as well as the theme of *repentance*, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery, in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation. For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for celebration of the paschal mystery. *RCIA 125*  
The Sacrament of Penance is better celebrated *before* rather than during the Easter Triduum.



**FRIDAY PENANCE.** Friday is a traditional day of penance and should be marked by prayer, self-denial and helping others.

During Lent **penance** should be not only inward and individual, but also outward and social. *SC 110*

What Is the Meaning of Lent? - Biblical Meaning and Purpose  
Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. These 40 days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord; to read the Bible more, and to pray more often. Christians who observe Lent correctly anticipate deeper intimacy with the Lord.

**Parish News and Events ... Please ring 0435 036 236 for any parish enquiries.**

**SOLEMN FEAST** of ST PATRICK: Wednesday

**SOLEMN FEAST** of ST JOSEPH: Friday

**EXPOSITION & ADORATION** on Friday St Joseph's Feast Solemn Day at 8.30am All are welcome

**THE SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 24/3 at Merimbula.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** On all Fridays of Lent after 9.30am Mass at Merimbula

**LENTEN REFLECTION PRAYER GROUP** Commenced: Eden - Thursday 5:45pm, Merimbula - Monday 1:00pm in the Church. All are welcome. Contact Anne for more information ON 0408 241 230

#### **PARISH CENTRE CLOSURE, Merimbula**

Due to some OH&S issues with the Merimbula Parish Centre it will be closed until further notice. A review will be completed and decisions taken as to the remedial action and /or future of the existing Centre. Whilst this Centre is unavailable, Parish Committee meetings will be held in Mary Mackillop Hall in Eden. Apologies for any inconvenience caused by this closure.

**BOOK IN FOR MASS** Please remember that as per restrictions, we are still expected **to book and check in for Mass**, maintain a special-distance of 2 square metres, receive Holy Communion in the hand only, refrain from physical contact when offering the Sign of Peace, and to sanitise when entering and exiting the premises. Please email or ring the Parish office between 10:0am – 1:00pm Wed - Fri. Ph: 0435 036 236 –

[https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/201008\\_UpdatedArchProtocols\\_PercyA.pdf](https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/201008_UpdatedArchProtocols_PercyA.pdf)

**REMINDER:** The maximum number of people at a religious service (*not including weddings and funerals*) must not exceed 300 (120) people in or outside (30) subject to the 2 square meter rule.

#### **PLEASE KEEP FOLLOWING ALL OF THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN THE CHURCH**

When you are checking in for Mass, it would be appreciated if you use the online booking links on the parish website. <http://cg.org.au/pambula/Home.aspx> They are clearly visible under the heading BOOK IN FOR MASS.

Please click on the relevant link and register your details. This system is being regularly monitored and is much easier than using the email or voice message at the parish office.

Please also note that bookings for Eden Vigil Mass and 8:00 am Merimbula Mass close at 3:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 Merimbula Mass closes at 8:00 pm on Saturday. Please pass this to your friends and family. Thank you.

**The Catholic Daily Voice** is available for you to subscribe to and receive via email by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/> and follow instructions online to subscribe.

#### **LAUDATO SI' LENT: Lent 2021: A Journey of Hope**

The Global Catholic Climate Movement invites you to embark upon a journey of ecological conversion through reflection, repentance, and renewal. By committing to concrete changes through fasting and lifestyle changes, we will live more in solidarity with our Earth and each other and inspire our sisters and brothers to join this conversion process.

**Planned Giving Collections;** First: \$671.65; Second: Envelopes \$635.50; Loose \$333.35

*Thank you for your generosity and God bless you all*

*"Enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit"*

## Let Us Pray for and support those who are sick:

Geoff Heffernan, Jennifer Wasley, Maree Linfoot, Mary O'Donnell, Judy O'Donnell, John Reynolds, Bill Petrie, Ysmael Valencia, Danielle Sou, Max Andrew, David Went, Ros Beveridge, Roy Bugden, Eric Mangion, Marie Hart, Anselmo Guiffre and Beata Denkiewicz.

## For the Faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including,

Howard Collins, Patricia Friend, Sandra E. Wood, Monsignor Kevin Barry-Cotter, "Bill" Raymond William Thornton, Tupakalo Nana, Peter Grubestic, Mary Fenech, Bernard Risi Creamer, Bernard Lamers, Rex Healy, Giuseppe Condemi, Brian Wyndham, Albina Dal Piva, Ruza Novinc, Maureen Partridge, Ken Clear, Millicent Clear, Anotnio Ziino, Maureen Frances DuBock, Peter Hamer, John Hulme, Catherine Randazzo, Jeanette Robert, Olga Novinc, Kieth Balantyne, Kim Geraghty, Dawn Lucas, James Barry, Greg Morrison, Glyneth Middlemiss, Brian Middlemiss, Errol Cole, Mary D'Arcy, Janine Capell and Winifred Stephenson.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of our Lord, Rest in Peace. Amen.

Please advise the Office if you would like to be added to or taken off the list for prayers.



### The Divine Mercy of Jesus - 3 O'clock Prayer "The Hour of Great Mercy"

*Jesus said: Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give that person the grace of conversion. This is the prayer; "O Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in you."*

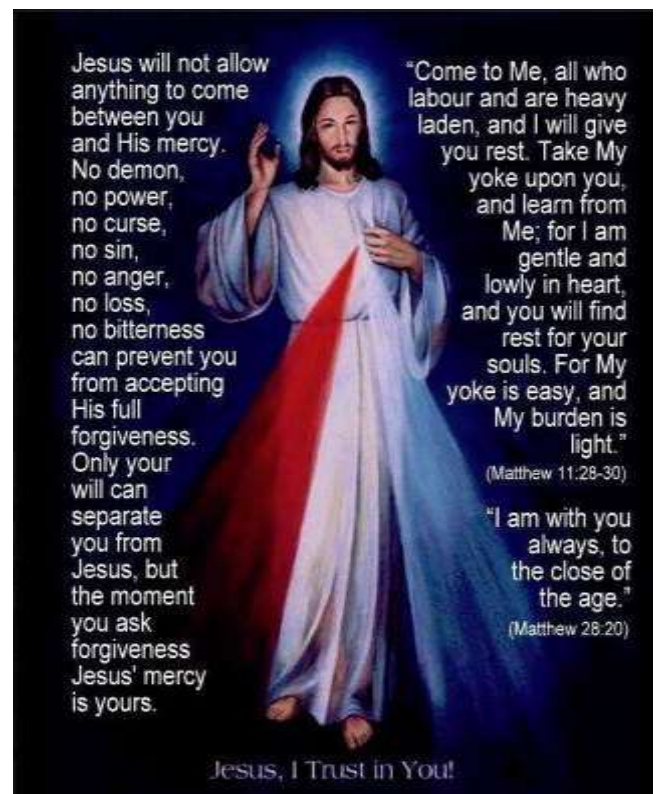
*The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed before Mass on Sunday and Adoration and Benediction on every First Friday at 8.30am Merimbula Church; First Sunday 3:00pm at Eden*

**VACANCY: Parish Secretary:** Interested parties are invited to apply for the position of Parish Secretary for St Peter's Parish, Pambula (Merimbula). This is a part-time permanent position from 9:30am to 1:30pm each day from Wednesday to Friday each week.

**Essential Requirements:**

- Experience with financial & database packages.
- Strong communication and liaison skills
- Strong organisational skills
- Ability to work in a team environment and take direction.
- Understanding and respect for the Catholic Church and its' teachings
- Experience in an office environment

Salary will be subject to Clerk Award Level 4/5 rates. Please email [pambula@cg.org.au](mailto:pambula@cg.org.au) or phone 0435 036 236 for a copy of the selection criteria and duty statement. Applications and resume may be addressed to the Parish Priest of St Peter's Parish, PO Box 249, Merimbula and must be received by Friday June 4.



## LENTEN LIVE STREAM – CANBERRA - GOULBURN ARCHDIOCESE.

'Walk in the Spirit' Walk in the Spirit will be live-streamed for six consecutive Thursdays during Lent from 7.30pm – 9.00pm, 18 February to 25 March, 2021. Each session will include talks, sharing, prayer, and discussion opportunities. The sessions will be available for viewing via the Catholic Voice YouTube site and loaded up on the Walk in the Spirit website.

The sessions can be viewed live or after the event has been recorded. Participants will also be provided with a series of formation materials to support them on their Lenten journey. The sessions' recording will enable parishes with established Lenten groups to view at their convenience. For more details and to register go to <https://cgcatholic.org.au/walk-in-the-spirit>.

### THE FEAST DAY OF ST JOSEPH - Friday 19 March @ 9:30am

The importance of attending mass on this feast day is underscored by Pope Francis' proclamation of 2021 being the year of St Joseph. In addition, one of our mass centres is named in his honour and we, as a parish community, are also blessed with the presence of two dedicated Josephite sisters (the order founded by St Mary McKillop). So if you are able to come to celebrate with your fellow parishioners on this very important feast day, please do. You will be blessed.

Thanks to an anonymous donation, the Parish is able to provide a morning tea afterwards. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, it is not possible to hold the event on church grounds. Therefore, it has been decided to hold the morning tea at the RSL club. It will be an informal gathering with social distancing and Club rules in force. The donation will cover the cost of coffee and cake ☺, or tea if you prefer. When ordering, please advise that you are a member of the St Joseph's Catholic Church party. Hope to see you there.

### Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn 9:11,38

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Do you want newly engaged couples to be able to make a go of their marriage? Do you wonder what can be done to help them in this? Here's a marriage preparation program that works. Fr Rob Ruhnke, a Redemptorist priest in the USA, has spent years developing a program for marriage preparation, "For Better & For Ever", which doesn't rely on couples devoting enormous amounts of time to marriage prep involvement, but works instead with the relationship between a couple approaching marriage, and a couple who have lived their marriage for some years – with both learning from each other. Rob's program doesn't stop at the wedding, but invites the relationship to continue for about 2 years. It's in that time that couples begin to find challenges to their relationship – and are often afraid to talk with anyone about it, because it might show that their marriage is 'on the rocks'. It's a time when couples can learn that these challenges are a normal part of marriage, of our rough edges being rubbed off so together we can move from our individual 'families of origin' to the new 'family of origin' that the couple is developing together. It provides newly married couples a trusted relationship wherein they can talk about their reality, learn that it is normal, and find, from someone who has lived it, ways to use those challenging times to develop a new and stronger relationship. Rob has learned, during covid-19, that the training for mentor couples can now be done entirely by Zoom, so couples the world over can become involved, be mentors. You are invited to go online to <http://marriagepreparation.com>, where you can read about the program, watch several videos, etc.

## Project Compassion Sunday 14 February 2021

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Be More". Through your generosity and by aspiring to be more, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**Oliva, 22**, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 41

**First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23**

A reading from the book of Chronicles:

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136. R. v.6

**(R.)** Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon

there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung our harps. **(R.)**

2. 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.' **(R.)**

3. O how could we sing

the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither! **(R.)**

4. O let my tongue

cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! **(R.)**

**Second Reading Eph 2:4-10**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Ephesians:

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life. God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**Gospel Acclamation: Jn 3:16**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

**Gospel Jn 3: 14-21**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

## The astonishing life of St Joseph – Spouse of Mary and Father of Jesus

*Inspired by scripture, Robert Falzon provides three key insights for living as a man of God.*

Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world?

Joseph, son of Jacob, was born in Bethlehem and was a descendant of King David (Matt 1). He lived in Nazareth in Galilee, where he worked as a craftsman/tradesman, often referred to as a carpenter. He was married to Mary, daughter of Joachim; he had been to the father of Mary and paid the “dower” with the promise of marriage, but had not taken her into his home yet, as was the custom.

Mary, a few months into her betrothal, rushed off to the high country in Judea just outside Jerusalem to visit her relative Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John. It was the first of several astonishing events.

The rumors started. Why had she gone during her time of waiting for Joseph to come for her? What had happened? Was something wrong? Mary returned about three months later and the life-changing news was brought to Joseph. His betrothed spouse was pregnant!

Can you imagine what he was going through and thinking?

“How could she do this? What could have happened? Why? Who? What will I do?”

He decided to divorce her quietly because he was unwilling to expose her to public disgrace and possible stoning (Matt 1:19).

Then, in the midst of this drama, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him that the child was the Son of God! Conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Remarkably, he obeys God's messenger and takes Mary as his spouse, into his home. Doing this, Joseph completes the marriage, gives Mary his name and becomes the father of the child in her womb.

Before the birth of their child, Caesar Augustus called a census for the whole land. Joseph was obliged to take the very pregnant Mary with him and travel to Bethlehem in Judea to fulfil the requirements. A son was born and Joseph, his father, gave him the name Jesus, in accordance with the angel's instructions.

So, this son was born in a manger in Bethlehem because there was no room in the town, to Joseph and Mary in the line of David, in accordance with the ancient prophecies. If the actions of Joseph and the birth of Jesus weren't astonishing enough, after the birth there were some amazing events. The shepherds came to visit, proclaiming the vision and the words of the angels. Then three rulers (Magi) visited this newborn “King” of the Jews.

Can you imagine what was going on in Joseph's mind and heart?

Having walked for 10 days, with no sleep that night and all the strange happenings, he must have been confused, awestruck, amazed and, in his quiet moments, wondering what he had got himself into.

“I don't understand. Who is this woman? What about the mysterious son who is supposed to be the Savior of the world?! What were the shepherds going on about? Why did these rulers visit, prostrate themselves before my baby son and give us such incredible gifts?”

Soon after, Joseph took the child and mother to the temple in Jerusalem and presented their first-born son, in accordance with the law. They encountered Simeon and Anna, who again disturbed Joseph and Mary. “What a strange prophecy! Who is this son and what will he be?”

It is already evident that this family is not destined for a settled life and, as if this is not enough, an angel wakes Joseph up again and tells him to take his wife and baby and escape to Egypt because the most powerful man in the land wants to kill Jesus!

Anyone would be forgiven for thinking: “Come on! Give me a break here. I did not sign up for this!” This good man gets up, wakes his wife Mary, and explains the drama and the necessary urgency. He loads up the family and heads off on a flight into Egypt – except it was a long walk of hundreds of kilometres and would have taken weeks.

As he walks, he wonders: “How will I provide and protect my precious family? How will I know which way to go? Did I really hear an angel, or was this just my lack of sleep? But it was the same angel that came earlier and told me to take Mary as my wife.”

So many questions.

As they walk in silence, he prays. He repeats the psalms in rhythm with the steps. Possibly he remembers Isaiah 7:14: “The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Emmanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).”

This was no holiday journey and no ordinary life.

The terrain was difficult and the danger imminent from bandits, brigands and wild animals. Joseph listens, discerns and makes decisions with the objective of guarding, protecting and providing for this precious family. He listens to the voice for guidance.

Some years later, the angel appears again and tells him to pack up and go home to Nazareth. All is well; Herod is dead. He obeys like many times before.

Another long journey is embarked on. They settle in Nazareth and then all is mostly quiet for nearly 30 years, except for one story about Jesus getting lost on a visit to Jerusalem. These are the “hidden” years. We know almost nothing of Joseph, Mary and Jesus during this time.

There is so much to be learned from St Joseph – so much we need right now in this present age! It is prophetic that Pope Francis calls us back to St Joseph with his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart).

Being a husband and father is possibly the hardest and greatest task I have been given. St Joseph teaches me, and us, much about these noble roles. Below are some of my reflections:

1. Listening – God speaks often and has much guidance for me. I/we need to find silence and stillness everyday so I/we can hear from the sacred that resides in our soul. We call this prayer. I need this time with Jesus every day.

2. Obedience/Action – The need to understand/know is often an obstacle to faith. Doing what is right leads to righteousness. Do what you are told and take the appropriate action. Reject the pervading passivity of our culture and accept responsibility. Then do something. Say “yes, because you say so, I will”.

3. Selflessness – Live for the other (wife/mother/child). Give your life away for the benefit of your spouse and family. Your life is for them. This is heroic love. This will change the world. Grow up.

4. Courage – Manage yourself; find ways to be calm in the chaos and stress of life. Avoid the strong pressure to reactivity, anger, uncharitable responses and immaturity. I can have faith in my fears, frailty and weakness. God is with me/us.