# 29th February & 1st March 2020

# **First Sunday of Lent**

# The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

# Quick & Light

When I walk with you, my Lord, I'm steady and strong. My eyes clear and my heart light. And everything sings of your glory.

Oh, how the enemy hates to see me at peace. So he sets tricks and traps all over the place. He waits in the dark, hiding, planning.

I must be careful. If I go alone, my soul gets trapped. I get tangled up in myself, my fears, my pride... The Spirit alone gives me clear vision.

And even if a million traps sit open, waiting, inviting... I will fall into none. I'll skip right by. As the Lord makes me nimble and quick. I see you Satan from far away. God reveals you to me. In the name of Jesus Christ begone!

Still, I'll get trapped once in a while. I'll fall in. The traps teeth will sink deep. Cut to the bone I bleed. I've fallen. I've failed. I stepped in it again. But I don't lose hope and even God can't destroy this hope, as my hope is Christ. Have mercy in this wretched soul!

> Jesus comes again. He pulls open the jaws of my failure, and sets me free.

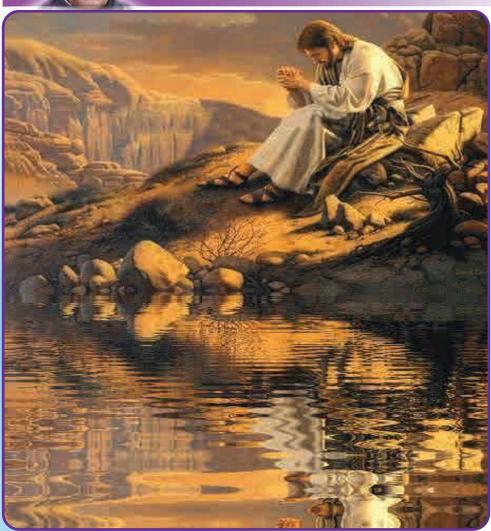
And all creation sings out in praise and glory to God.





# **Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan**

Storm heaven with prayer! Do not let yourself be hindered by anything!



# Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for March 2020

# **Catholics in China**

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

1 Keenan Street Mona Vale NSW 2103 • Tel:9157 0999 • Fax 9012 0509 • email: office@pittwaterparish.org • website: www.pittwaterparish.org

A warm welcome to our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the

Eucharist with us at Pittwater Parish -

Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale and Maria Regina Church,

Avalon

# 29th February & 1st March 2020

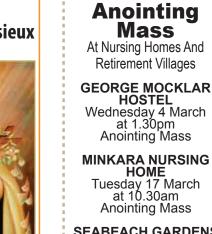


# **Relics of St Therese of Lisieux** tour For the first time in 18 years, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most popular saints of modern times, will visit Australia in 2020 on a four-month pilgrimage with her parents, Saints Louis and Zelie Martin. On 6 March the Relics will be at The Lakes Parish. **PILGRIMAGE OF ST THERESE AND** HER PARENTS 10am arrive Church of St Rose School Children attend 11am Quiet Prayer 11.30 Mass 12.45 Depart 1pm RSL Life Chapel pass by 1.30pm Arrive Church of St Joseph 2pm School Children attend 2.45pm Quiet Prayer 5.30pm Evening Prayer 6pm Quiet Prayer 7pm Stations of the Cross followed by Sacrament of Penance 7.30pm All Night Vigil Begins 9pm Night Prayer Midnight Mass Church open for prayer 7.30am Morning Prayer 8.15am Relics depart for OLOR Cathedral **St Ives Parish** PROGRAM Thursday 5 March 9am Welcome liturgy Mass at 9:30am with young people and others Veneration during the day; more details later Evening prayer with Friars at 5pm Veneration of Relics Rosary Mass at 7:30pm with Bishop Anthony Randazzo Veneration of Relics Night prayer at 10pm Friday 5 March Mass at 6.30am Veneration of Relics

Veneration of Relics Departure Lituygy at 7.45am Relics leave at 8am

# LENTEN PROGRAM

You are invited to join our Lenten program led by Penny Kerr commencing on 4 March 2020, 10am at the hall in Maria Regina Church, Avalon.



SEABEACH GARDENS NURSING HOME Tuesday 17 March at 11.30am Anointing & Communion

BAYVIEW GARDEN NURSING HOME Tuesday 17 March at 1.30pm Anointing Mass

ARCARE NURSING HOME Tuesday 17 March at 2.30pm Anointing & Communion

AVALON HOUSE NURSING HOME Wednesday 25 March at 10.45am Anointing & Communion

MARCUS LOANE NURSING HOME Wednesday 25 March at 2.00pm Anointing Mass

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Anointing Mass 8 am Maria Regina Church 6 March 2020 First Friday of the month

Adoration & Benediction 9.30am

Sacred Heart Church 6 March 2020 First Friday of the month (no 9.30am weekday Mass)

Anointing of the Sick Mass 10.30am Sacred Heart Church

Parish Pastoral Council Matthew Hyland matthyland100@yahoo.com.au

#### **Pittwater Parish Ministries**

Catechists Co-Directors Maureen Wooldridge - 9997 4694 Veronica Thomas veronicathomas2009@gmail.com

Evangelisation Ministry Erich Ott (Coordinator RCIA) 0409 124 840 Sr Margaret Collis - 9974 4116 Sue Berg - 0419 991 781 (Coordinators Adult Faith Education/ Formation

> Legion of Mary Connie Robinson - Director 0458 007 706

Little Hearts Playgroup Co-Directors-Marie Bockman mbockman@hotmail.com Maureen Wooldridge - 9997 4694

Media & Communication Ministry Laura Ee - Director media@pittwaterparish.org

> Music Ministry Josh Willard - Director 9157 0999 ext 17

Pastoral Care and Communion to the Sick Ministry Co-Directors Denise Bottero - 9997 6904 Marie Bockman mbockman@hotmail.com

> Parish Library Trish Newman - Director 9918 3973

Sacramental Program Ministry Suzy Caruso 9157 0999 ext 0 sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

Social Justice Ministry Tamara Harding - Director 0403 226 699 www.facebook.com/pages/Pittwater-Friends-0F-Soibada/162612300466694

#### **Youth Ministry**

Katrina Pratt (Yr 5-8) soul@pittwaterparish.org or katrina.pratt.youth@gmail.com. Josh Willard (Soul Youth) music@pittwaterparish.org

All our Ministries comply with Working With Children Check requirements



# 29th February & 1st March 2020



Shirley, 36, is an indigenous Manide woman living in a remote province in the Philippines. Shirley was struggling to support her family and keep their children in school. She faced regular discrimination and disadvantage, limiting her family's access to food, education, employment and healthcare. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley trained to become an indigenous health worker. She has learnt to supplement her income and is able to feed her family. The program has also empowered Shirley to send her children to school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help people like Shirley, and her children gain confidence and respect within their community.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



## **ADULT FAITH EDUCATION TALKS**

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

You are invited to two evening talks to be given by Father Denis Uhr. Denis was born in Brisbane and went to the MSC school Downlands in Toowoomba. After noviciate in Douglas Park and studies in Canberra and Melbourne he spent many active years in MSC schools with a focus on English, Modern History and RE. Denis is now semi retired in Kensington and has an interest in the emerging creation stories that are seeing the Universe evolving over the last 14 thousand years.

The Talks: Sacred Heart Parish Centre Mona Vale.

Talk 1: Tuesday 17th March from 7.30pm until 9pm. Title: How Could God want Jesus Executed? Talk 2: Tuesday 24th March from 7.30pm until 9pm. Title: Our Role in the Resurrection of the Universal Christ. *All Adults are welcome. Come and join us from 7pm for a coffee or tea before the talks start*.

Regards, The Adult Faith Education Team.



instagram.com/soul\_pittwater

#### SAFEGUARDING

We the people of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay and the Catholic Parish of Pittwater are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

The Australian Salvatorians invite you to a

YOUTH GATHERING

JOIN US FOR YOUTH MASS, BBQ, ACYF REUNION AND PARTY - WITH DJ!

Sunday 15th March 6-9pm St Patrick's Parish, East Gosford

Sosford parish will celebrate the feast of it's patron, St Patrick, on this day



# Pope's Message for Lent 2020

"We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20)



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

#### 1. The paschal mystery as the basis of conversion

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This *kerygma* sums up the mystery of a love "so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue" (*Christus Vivit, 117*). Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will. Rather, life is born of the love of God our Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the "father of lies" (Jn 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness.

In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: "Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew" (No. 123). Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

#### 2. The urgency of conversion

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God's mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a "face to face" relationship with the crucified and risen Lord "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God's love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.

In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hos 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

## 3. God's passionate will to dialogue with his children

The fact that the Lord once again offers us a favourable time for our conversion should never be taken for granted. This new opportunity ought to awaken in us a sense of gratitude and stir us from our sloth. Despite the sometimes tragic presence of evil in our lives, and in the life of the Church and the world, this opportunity to

change our course expresses God's unwavering will not to interrupt his dialogue of salvation with us. In the crucified Jesus, who knew no sin, yet for our sake was made to be sin (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), this saving will led the Father to burden his Son with the weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, "turning of God against himself" (Deus Caritas Est, 12). For God also loves his enemies (cf. Mt 5:43-48).

The dialogue that God wishes to establish with each of us through the paschal mystery of his Son has nothing to do with empty chatter, like that attributed to the ancient inhabitants of Athens, who "spent their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new" (Acts 17:21). Such chatter, determined by an empty and superficial curiosity, characterizes worldliness in every age; in our own day, it can also result in improper use of the media.

#### 4. A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself

Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Today too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, in the midst of Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church's magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students, 18 December 1927). The same holds true for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

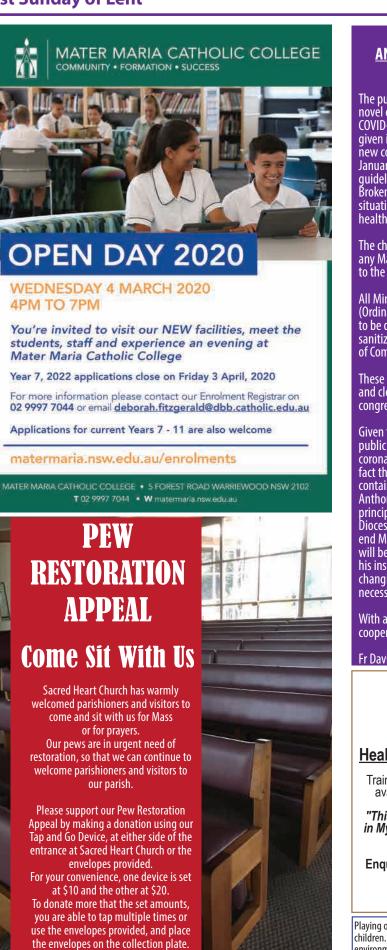
FRANCIS

# **DO YOU WANT TO FAST FOR LENT?**

Fast from hurting words and say kind words Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude Fast from anger and be filled with patience Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope Fast from worries and trust in God Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity Fast from pressures and be prayerful Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy Fast from selfishness and be compassionate Fast from grudges and be reconciled

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

# 29th February & 1st March 2020



All donations are not tax deductible and are not refundable. No receipts can be issued.

# **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT for** COMMUNION

The public concern about the novel coronavirus, now name COVID-19, remains - especially given its recent outbreak in many new countries. At the end of January, Bishop Anthony issued guidelines for the Diocese of Broken Bay pertinent to any such situations of general community health concern, namely that:

The chalice is not to be shared at any Masses but is to be reserved to the Celebrant(s) only.

All Ministers of Communion (Ordinary and Extraordinary) are to be diligent in the use of hand sanitizer prior to the distribution of Communion.

These measures are to be publicly and clearly communicated to all congregations at Mass.

Given the continuing level of public concern about the coronavirus, but in light of the fact that the virus is currently contained in Australia, Bishop Anthony instructs that the above principles be maintained in the Diocese of Broken Bay until the end March 2020. The situation will be constantly monitored and his instruction reviewed should changing circumstance necessitate

With appreciation for everyone's cooperation,

#### Fr David Ranson VG



# **Healing Prayer Group**

Trained Prayer Ministers are available by appointment

"This and more you will do in My Name".... Jesus heals His people

Enquires or appointments: Maryanne Vorlicek 0414 430 635

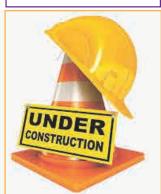
Playing outside is natural for most children. Maintaining a safe outdoor environment is key to keeping children healthy. Child injuries do occur, and while on the Church premises, we ask that the parents be aware, supervise and are responsible to keep their child safe.



# **DATES for your DIARY**



STATIONS OF THE CROSS Every Friday in Lent after morning mass.



From 2nd March there will be repair work undertaken at the front porch of Maria Regina Church. During this time, please access the Church only through the side entrance. Thank you.



Mater Maria Catholic College

Join us for our Open Day on Wednesday March 4 between 4.00pm - 7.00pm. We are now enrolling students in Year 5 for Year 7, 2022.

Please visit the College website www.matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolments for a prospectus, Application for Enrolment or to register for a College tour. Applications for Year 7, 2022 close on April 3, 2020.





# **Disabled Parking Area**

There are 2 Disabled Parking Spaces available on the Church grounds. Please observe the signs and refrain from parking in the Disabled Parking Area or in the driveway, especially during the weekends when Mass is on, and reserve this for our parishioners who are in need of the space. Thank you



# The *Living* Word

#### **First Reading**

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 A reading from the book of Genesis Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man

became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

#### The word of the Lord

## **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

#### (R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R)

My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. (**R**)

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R)

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips

and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R)

#### Second Reading Rom 5:12-19 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

#### The word of the Lord

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

#### Gospel Mt 4.1-11 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture savs:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says

He will put you in his angels' charge,

and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

#### The Gospel of the Lord

#### Reflection

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin. The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.

© Dianne Bergant CSS

#### Lenten Listening 2020

This year's Lenten resource offered by the Diocese of Broken Bay is called 'Lenten Listening 2020' and allows parishes to reflect on the 6 Plenary Council themes in conjunction with the Lenten Scripture texts. If you are interested in leading a group, please contact the office on 9157 0999.

# 29th February & 1st March 2020







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