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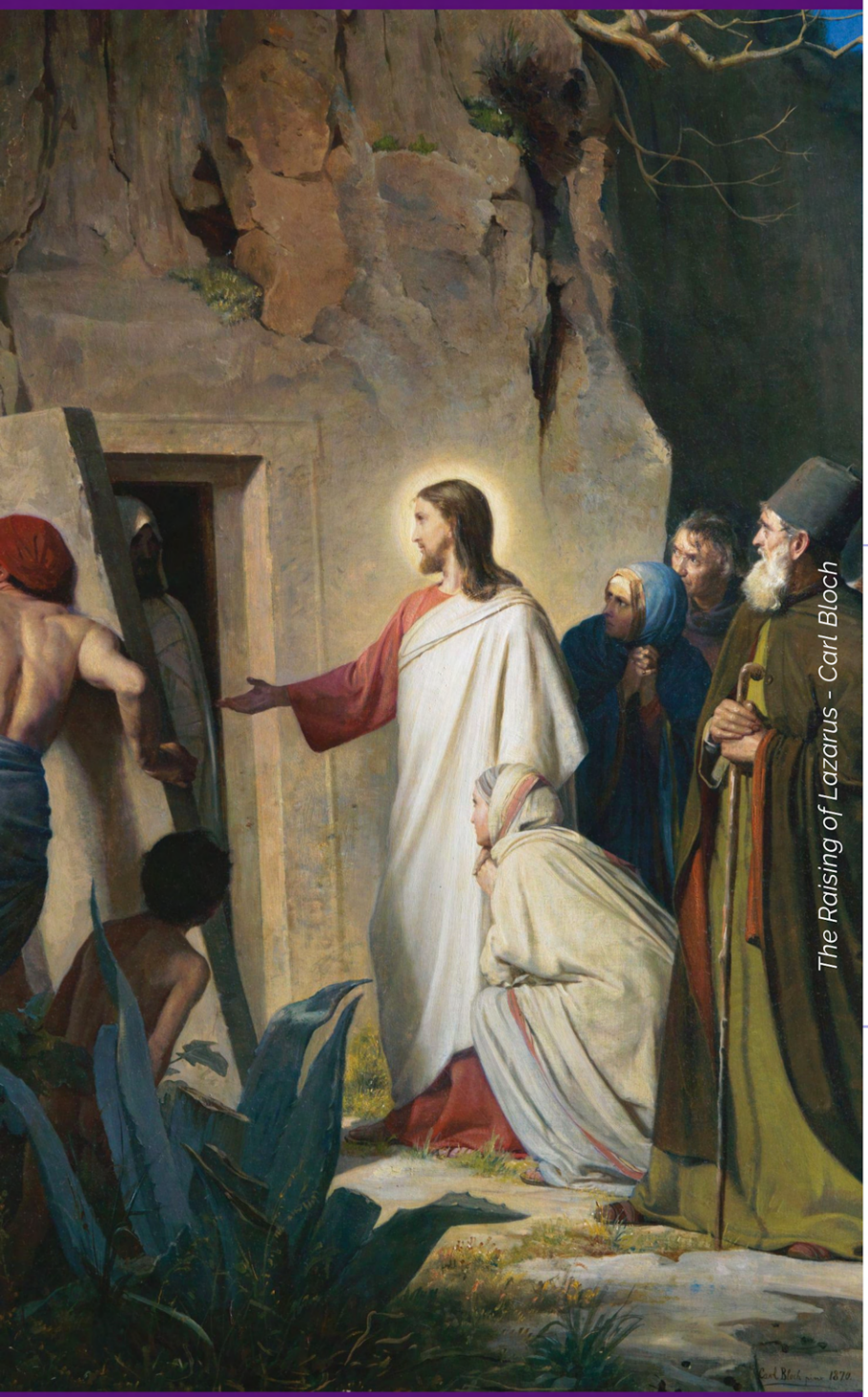
PARISH OF CHATSWOOD

26 March - 1 April 2023

Fifth Week of Lent (Year A)



The Raising of Lazarus - Carl Bloch

I am the resurrection and the life.

This Sunday's Gospel - John 11:1-45

Welcome!

A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish. It is good to have you with us. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our community at Our Lady of Dolours please visit our parish website at www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood

Would you like to receive our Parish Bulletin by email? Please contact chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

In this week's bulletin take a look at the beauty of the Day of the Unborn Child, and we look forward to the screening of The Letter.

Do you or someone you know struggle with speaking English? Our Lifestyle English Conversation Prgramme could be just what you need to help build your confidence. See inside for more details!

For any inclusions to next week's bulletin, please e-mail your content to Olivia at Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au by close of business on Wednesday.

Our Lady OF DOLOURS

FROM FR DAVID

Dear friends

Our parish "24 Hours for the Lord" last Friday/Saturday was a very special event. Even though the lead in time was quite short, the numbers of people who came to our church - all through the day and night - was very encouraging. For all those who could participate it was a very graced experience. I do want to record my special debt of gratitude to Elizabeth Chung for her initiative and leadership in this event, and to Olivia Lee our Parish Support Officer for her great assistance throughout, along with Mary Nguyen who was present with Elizabeth through the event. The priests who were able to join us, too, were very generous in their time. And very warm thanks to those who so generously acted as Guardians throughout the 24 hours. Their presence ensured the unbroken rhythm of the event and was a great witness of our Eucharistic faith. Please God, we will now have this event annually. It seemed to bring so much grace to our parish!

This weekend we do two things:
Firstly we welcome Streetwork to our parish https://www.streetwork.org.au/ This remarkable local initiative assists young people in need. The presence of Streetwork in our community during Lent is a great way for us to undertake almsgiving – one of the three Lenten practices. We give to others so that they might grow and flourish to be the people God has created them. Please give generously to our appeal through the envelopes available in the pews.

Secondly, we return to reflecting on our Mission as a Parish. Late last year, as part of our journey, Being Church in the City, over 200 people contributed their ideas on what is the core Mission of our Catholic community of faith. Our team is in the process of now progressing this. However, we wish to provide anyone who missed out last year the chance still to participate. You will see flyers in the pews which we invite you to complete. These can be left in any of the white boxes around the church.

Through the journey we have been on since Pentecost 2021, we have:

- Shared our Dreams for our church, our community, our precinct
- Gained a good sense of who we are through the surveys we have undertaken, especially the National Church Life Survey
- Reflected on our Mission.

In the meantime, too, we have configured the pastoral life of our parish community into Circles of Ministry of which we now have nine:

- Growing in Faith: catechesis and formation
- Igniting Young Hearts; children and youth
- Worshipping Together: liturgy and music
- Leading Reflective Lives: prayer and spirituality
- Nurturing Relationship: Community and family
- Caring for one Another: Support and Visitations
- Caring for our World: ecology and Social Justice
- Sustaining our Future: administration and Stewardship
- Animating our Future: Strategic directions

Now in the time after Easter we will

- Continue to support and develop the leadership of our Circles of Ministry
- Formulate our Mission

So that at Pentecost this year we will be able to launch our Mission and also present a possible framework for our life together at the service of that Mission. This, in turn, will enable us to discern

"where" we wish to go and "how" we will do this.

We now enter the fifth week of Lent. We do so by enjoying the return of the Bach Akademie providing an afternoon of beautiful sacred music on Sunday 26 March. Tickets will be available at the door.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. To help us prepare for this most significant of weeks we will celebrated a communal form of the Rite of Reconciliation during our Holy Hour on Thursday 30 March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to come together so that as community we can place ourselves before the forgiving and healing ministry of Jesus. We are also mindful of our children who have been preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation over these last weeks and who this week will be invited to celebrate the Sacrament for the first time as part of their journey to receiving the Eucharis for the first time in June.
On Friday 31 March we show the film, The Letter in the Magnificat room on Friday 31 March, at 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. This is the film that Pope Francis authorised, appears in and intended as a letter to each of us. It is a cinematic rendering of his encyclical on the environment, Laudate Si'. That our Earth is changing is now a reality. The consequences are dramatic for the planet. Young people are well aware of this and are looking for leadership to give them hope. That is what Pope Francis provides in this film. We very much hope that you will be able to come and that you will pass on the word to your teams, your families and your friends.
And a special congratulations to Fr Joey who this weekend is in Melbourne graduating from the University of Divinity with his Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction!

With my gratitude to all,

Fr David

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER

RECENTLY DECEASED:
Clara Jen
Maria Woon Siong Gan

ANNIVERSARY:
Robyn Morrow

SICK:
Anthony Mustaca
Victoria Tano
Fe Mendoza.

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for March

Requests for Mass Intentions:
It is a privilege to our priests to be able to offer Mass for a special intention, we welcome such requests. It is important to note, however, that a priest can only receive one intention per Mass. Therefore, it may not be possible to have a Mass offered on a specific day and time, given that the priest may already have allocated an intention for the Mass. Do be assured that if a Mass cannot be offered on a specific occasion it will be offered by a priest at the first available opportunity. Notwithstanding, if you would like a Mass for a specific purpose at a particular time, please contact a priest directly to seek to arrange this.

Our Lady of Dolours Parish is committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and those in the community who are vulnerable.

Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ who teaches the fundamental sanctity of each human person.

Should you witness anything that undermines the safety of anyone in this parish please contact the parish office on 02 9410 9000 or chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au or contact the Office of Safeguarding on 8379 1605

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we gather, the Cammeraygal people, and pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as we continue the journey of Reconciliation

Above: Madonna and Child by Richard Campbell

Palms for Palm Sunday

As with most things in our society the price of Palms is also increasing. As it is our desire to ensure that all people who attend the Palm Sunday Masses can leave with a Palm, we ask if any parishioner who has Palm trees in their garden would they be willing to donate some palms to the parish.
If anyone can supply us with Palms, it would be greatly appreciated. This may be the time to prune your trees so as to encourage growth for next year.

The palms would need to be delivered to the Parish office during the week before Palm Sunday i.e. Monday 27th to Friday 31st March. Please let the parish office know if you are able to help with this by emailing Olivia at Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au

Thank you for your help.
Dcn Kevin Hale

The ripple effects of pain do the opposite of what a rock does when it is thrown into a pond. Instead of the ripples expanding outer and wider, the ripples of pain go inner and closer until we are left alone with God.
Pain can be instrumental in bringing us into union with God.

Venerable Fulton Sheen

GOSPEL REFLECTION

We have witnessed in the last few Sundays in Lent that being a Christian is all about being a new person. It is about the change from thirst to satisfaction (the woman at the well), it is about the change from darkness to light (the man born blind), and today it is about the change from death to life (the raising of Lazarus). Jesus is living water, Jesus is the light of the world, and Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

This passage from John's Gospel, particularly Jesus' statement that he is the resurrection and the life, is most familiar to us from the funeral liturgy. In the context of someone's death his words often bring comfort and hope. We apply these words to physical death, but they extend beyond that, to apply to spiritual death as well.

The prophet Ezekiel lived in the early years of the exile of the people of Judah in Babylonia, modern-day Iraq. The people of Judah were not refugees: they were prisoners of war, the captive slaves of the victorious enemy. Many of them probably would have preferred death to the living nightmare of what they were suffering. The last third of Ezekiel, from chapters 33 to 48, is a message of hope and salvation for people who cannot believe what had happened to them, for a people full of despair and in the depths of depression. One of Ezekiel's messages is about the valley of the dry bones. Ezekiel's vision is of the bones being covered in flesh and coming back to life. The words are addressed to the people in exile, so it is obvious that the prophet was not talking about physical death. God's promise is that the Spirit will reanimate them, give them fresh hope, and will restore them to their homeland. 'You will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil', the prophet promises. Interestingly, these words of Ezekiel are the words on the monument to Holocaust survivors at the Yad Vashem memorial in Jerusalem.

Paul tells the Christians in Rome that the Spirit has made a home in them. Just as it is the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead so it is the Spirit who gives life to our bodies. Paul was not talking about the afterlife, but the here and now. It is the same with the story of Lazarus. It is not only a story about what God offers us after we die, but what God is offering us today, while we live. Through initiation, through baptism and confirmation and eucharist, our God is offering us life for today, not just for when we die. If we want to rise again after death, we have to rise again while we are alive. We have to rise up out of the waters of baptism and live new lives.

Augustine of Hippo told his congregation this same message sixteen hundred years ago. It is not just physical death that should worry us but spiritual death, which is sin, that is our concern. Augustine said:

For everyone who sins dies. Yet everyone fears the death of the body, though few the death of the soul. Everyone takes care that the death of the body should not occur, bound though it is to come some day. This is why they are troubled. It is a source of trouble to prevent the being who will die from dying, yet no one troubles to prevent the one who will live forever from sinning … If only we could persuade everyone, and ourselves with them, to be as much in love with the life that endures as we are with the life that is running away. (In Euangelium Iohannis Tractatus 49)

I

n our eucharist today we thank God for the gift of life. We thank God not simply for the eternal life we hope to enjoy after death, but for the eternal life we hope to enjoy while we live. We thank God, who is full of mercy and redemption, for loving us even when we sin. We thank God for the Spirit who gives us life. We thank God for the broken body and the spilt blood of the Lord, who gives us life. We thank God that the sin of death is transformed into the grace of life. As we thank God today we commit ourselves once again in these days of Lent to being those who believe in life by the way we live today.

Text: Homily Help - Geoffrey Dunn - Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday **27 March:**	• Mass 12:30pm. • Chaplet of Divine Mercy 11:30am • Rosary (Cenacle, MMP) 11:45am
Tuesday **28 March:**	• Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm • Morning Prayer: 8:45am • Rosary 9:30am • Funeral of Maria Gan 2:00pm
Wednesday **29 March:**	• Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm • Morning Prayer 8:45am • Rosary 9:30am • Anointing of the sick after 12:30pm Mass • First Reconciliation Ceremonies 3:00pm
Thursday **30 March:**	• Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm • Morning Prayer 8:45am • Rosary 9:30am • Adoration and Exposition: After 9:00am Mass • Benediction 12:00pm • First Reconciliation Ceremonies 3:00pm • Holy Hour with Reconciliation available 7:00pm (Second form of the Rite of Reconciliation).
Friday **31 March:**	• Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm • Morning Prayer 8:45am • Rosary 9:30am • Stations of the Cross 11:45am and 7:30pm
Saturday **1 April:**	• Mass 9:00am • Morning Prayer 8:45am. • Exposition, Reconciliation, Rosary 9:30am • Novena Our Lady of Perpetual Help 10:00am • Benediction 10:30am
Sunday Mass **2 April:** Palm Sunday The Passion of the Lord	• 5:30pm Vigil (Saturday Night). • 7:30am • 9:00am Family Mass • 10:30am • 5:30pm Youth Mass

Cultural Community Mass:

Filipino: 12:00pm, 1st Sunday | Spanish: 12:00pm, 3rd Sunday | Indonesian: 7:00pm, 3rd Sunday

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday 27 March:
10:00am: Atrium Term 1 (Atrium).
4:00pm: Atrium all 3 levels (Atrium).
7:00pm: Alpha (Magnificat, St Peter, St Paul).

Tuesday 28 March:
10:00am: Bible Discussion Group (St Paul).
11:00am: OLOD Primary School Practice (Church).
4:00pm: Atrium all 3 levels (Atrium).
7:00pm: Indonesian Legion of Mary (St Paul).
7:00pm: Filipino Choir Practice (Church).
7:30pm: The Wild Goose Reflection and Discussion Group (Magnificat)

Wednesday 29 March:
9:30am: Lifestyle English Conversation Programme (Magnificat)
11:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (Magnificat).
11:00am: OLOD Primary School Practice (Church).
6:30pm: Indonesian Traditional Instrument Practice (St Paul).
7:00pm: Parish Finance Committee Meeting (Magnificat).
7:15pm: Exploring the Faith Course (St Peter).

Thursday 30 March:
9:00am: CGS Atrium Formation (Magnificat).
10:00am: Atrium 3-6 years old (Atrium).
11:00am: OLOD Primary School Holy Week Practice (Church).
2:00pm: OLOD Primary School Holy Week Practice (Church).
6:00pm: Legion of Mary (Magnificat).

Friday 31 March:
9:00am: CGS Atrium Formation (Magnificat).
10:00am: Meditation (St Paul).
10:00am: Mercy College Holy Week Rehearsal (Church).
2:00pm: OLOD Primary School Holy Week Practice (Church).
7:00pm: Movie Showing of 'The Letter' (Magnificat).
7:00pm: Online Zoom Meditation ID: 892 0631 0929 Pw: 085507

Saturday 1 April:
9:00am: CGS Atrium Formation (St Paul).
11:30am: Baptismal Preparation (Magnificat).

Sunday 2 April:
10:00am: Teen Choir Practice (St Paul).
10:00am: Filipino Choir Practice (Magnificat).
1:00pm: Filipino Fellowship (Magnificat).
6:30pm: Capstone Young Adults (Magnificat).

ABOUT US: TONY AND SHALINI

This week we meet Tony and Shalini! Tony's favourite colour is blue, and Shalini loves green. They both love Pista ice cream, especially because Shalini lovingly makes it at home, but Tony prefers a brownie or a dark plum cake instead of ice cream. With great taste like this it's no wonder that Tony and Shalini have also cracked the recipe for a wonderful, long marriage as they have now been married for an incredible 49 years with 2 kids, and are now proud grandparents to 3 grandchildren.

Ministry/Involvement with OLOD:

Tony:

1.Teaches catechism at State schools ie Chatswood (delegate) and Roseville
2.Reader of God's Word at Sunday/Weekday masses
3.Legion of Mary OLOD Parish (Treasurer)
4.Eucharistic Minister

Shalini:

1.Attends to Piety stall
2.Eucharistic Minister

Both Tony and Shalini involve themselves in other parish activities ie attending and promoting Alpha. Occasional fund raising for StreetWorks at Bunnings (by cooking sausages and making sandwiches). Shalini has also been helping the Catechist Co-ordinator at our parish when called upon to do so.

What has been your biggest challenge?

We are both deeply concerned about falling enrollment for scripture classes at state schools. It is sad to see general decline of the practice of faith and so many Christians identifying as "no religion". We feel powerless to arrest this decline even within our friends and family circles.

What does Our Lady of Sorrows symbolize for you?

She symbolizes for us the pain and suffering in the world caused by such events as the war in Ukraine and other places of conflict resulting in displacement of millions of families and loss of lives. Also pain and hardship caused by high cost of living and the anxiety to vulnerable families. Combine this with the decline in faith and trust in God.

What inspires you to do what you do for the Church?

Tony is passionate about teaching Catechism at State schools which he had done for 16 years in our parish as, in many cases, it is the only opportunity for children to learn about Jesus and our faith. He also loves to proclaim God's Word at Sunday and weekday masses. Tony has been a member of the Legion of Mary since his youth in India and now at OLOD parish.Shalini shares Tony's passion in all these activities and lends her supports and encouragement and also active participation in some of these activities. We feel we should involve ourselves in our parish as much as we can.

Start a conversation with Tony and Shalini - if you see them around say hi!

CHOIR CORNER

If you have any questions, please contact me at chatswoodmusic@bbcatholic.org.au

Patrick Harrison, Director of Music

Choir practice runs every Tuesday evening 6:00pm - 7:30pm in the choir loft in the church. You don't have to be a good singer, it's more about letting the beauty of the music enhance our prayer and worship. All are welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We are looking at growing our Children's Choir so if your child loves to sing, please bring them along! The Children's Choir sings at the 9am Sunday Mass on the third Sunday of each month. Rehearsals are held after the 9am Mass the second Sunday of each month so there is time to prepare.

YOUTH MASS

Now that we have a weekly Youth Mass each Sunday 5:30pm, you are invited to join in the music ministry! We meet in the choir loft each Sunday at 4:30pm. Hope to see some more young adults and teens there!

VINNIES MONTHLY REPORT

In Feb, Chatswood St V de P received 4 requests for help. A previously homeless family of 4 needed some help to settle into a newly leased unit in Artarmon. A struggling Jobseeker recipient whom we have assisted before and who has particular difficulties with paying for furniture storage until he gets new digs, contacted us again. A Disability Support Pensioner could not cover his Specialist Medical Expenses until he reaches the Medicare Safety Level. An urgent call was received from a young lady just out of prison who needed food and clothing. Costs of some $750 were incurred.

We trust that parishioners are aware of the Poor Boxes at the various entrances of the Church and that donations to these go towards assisting our local needy.

John R

A reminder that we are hosting a birthday party for little Mahtab, whose family our Community Action Group supports. This will be her first birthday in Australia! If you would like to donate to Mahtab's birthday please transfer your donation to the parish account below and note the transaction as Mahtab's Birthday: Chatswood Parish Working A/C
BSB: 062 784 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 100001609

MOVIE NIGHT: THE LETTER

Showing at Our Lady of Dolours on Friday 31st March at 7:15pm for a 7:30 pm start in the Magnificat Room.

"The Letter" is a film about Pope Francis's Laudato S'I encyclical and his invitation to four activists from different parts of the earth to come to Rome to dialogue with him about climate justice. This beautiful and at times surprising film was made by the same award-winning documentary team that made My Octopus Teacher. Following its global premiere in Vatican City on 4 October 2022, the film was an instant success amassing over 7 million views in its first two weeks, with the support of celebrities such as Leonardo DiCaprio and Arnold Schwarzenegger. And now it is coming to Our Lady of Dolours, showing for one night only. This is a film for the whole family that will stimulate valuable conversation with your children. Teachers report that anxiety about the future of the planet is endemic among young people. Pope Francis's film The Letter gives hope and encouragement that is sorely needed and is a vital message of faith for our young people and for us all.

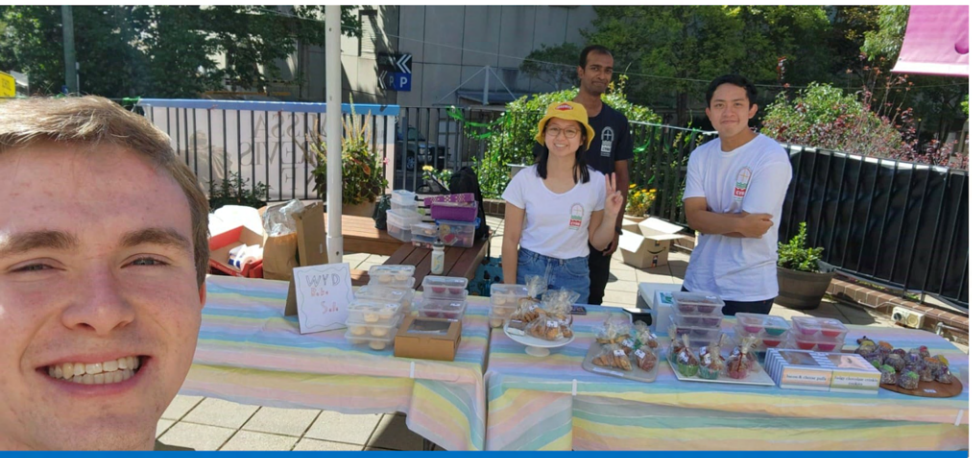
WORLD YOUTH DAY

Our young adults are preparing to join hundreds and thousands of other young people in celebrating their faith at World Youth Day in Lisbon this year! Sean Dixon, Cailin Geraghty, Clive Sam, Monty Calimbahin, Savio Coutinho, Ashleigh Wan, Thomas Hurrell will join other young Aussies in Lisbon together with Pope Francis to celebrate the joy and unique gifts that young people bring to our Church. If you would like to support our pilgrims, there is a tap and go donation point at the back of the church where you can also read more about them.

Please continue to keep all the pilgrims in your prayers.

PARISH PICS

Check out these snaps from across the week!



Last week's Bake Sale - thank you to everyone who supported our WYD pilgrims!

Happy Birthday to our wonderful colleague, Evangeline!

Congratulations to Doris who was inducted as an Acolyte and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at the Spanish Mass last week!

The Staff, PPC and PFC gathered to break open our results of the National Church Life Survey - exciting things ahead!

YOUTH

Hey everyone! Have a look below at our upcoming youth ministry events. We're back for 2023 and our team is so excited to journey alongside the young people of our Parish!

Cailin Geraghty, Youth Leader

Youth Groups

Cornerstone Youth Group

FOR YEAR 5-8

Keystone Youth Group

FOR YEAR 9-12

DATES/TIMES

BOTH GROUPS MEET ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAY'S OF THE MONTH (DURING SCHOOL TERM)

6:30PM-8:30PM

LOCATION

MEET IN THE FORECOURT OF OUR LADY OF DOLOURS

Youth Masses

SUNDAY 5:30PM

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES:

READING
MUSIC
WELCOMING
ALTAR SERVING
COLLECTIONS
OFFERTORY

Young Adults

DATES/TIMES

1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY'S OF THE MONTH

6:30PM-8:30PM

Stay Updated

EMAIL

FOUNDATIONYOUTHMINISTRY.OLD@GMAIL.COM

INSTAGRAM

FOUNDATION_YOUTH_MINISTRY

FACEBOOK

SCAN THE QR CODE

PIZZA LUNCHEON WYD FUNDRAISER!

If you're 18 or over, grab a drink and some home made pizza whilst fundraising for a wonderful cause: to support our World Youth Day Pilgrims.
Tickets are $85 and include food and drinks.
Scan the QR code below to get your ticket on TryBooking now!

SCAN ME

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our parish Atrium session times are:

For 3-6-year-olds

- Monday 10:00am - 11:30am and 4:00pm - 5:30pm
- Tuesday 4:00pm - 5:30pm
- Thursday 10:00am - 11:30am

For 6-9 and 9-12-year-olds

- Monday 4:00pm - 5:30pm
- Tuesday 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Term 1 Sessions:
Monday 6 February until 6 April (9 weeks)

Term 2 Sessions:
Monday 1 May until Thursday 29 June (9 weeks)

Term 3 Sessions:
Monday 24 July until Thursday 21 September (9 weeks)

Term 4 Sessions:
Monday 16 October until Thursday 7 December (8 weeks)

"Children are the joy of the family and of society."

Pope Francis

Family Mass

Our 9am Family Mass is a family and child-friendly liturgy oriented to families with young children. This Mass is central to our mission of empowering parents in their role of bringing their children into relationship with God through their connection to the parish community.
There are many ways you and your child can get involved in this Mass such as:

- Join the Children's Liturgy of the Word .
- Sing in the Children's Choir on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
- Children from Year 3 and up can join the Prayer Reading Roster.

But the best way to begin is to come along, see how everything unfolds and encourage your children to get involved.See you there!

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD

Established by Pope John Paul II, the International Day of the Unborn Child (25 March) is observed annually on 25 March to commemorate the opposition to abortion.The day is recognised to create awareness among people about protecting the unborn children, advocating against abortion, and respecting the dignity of human life starting from the day of conception.

The International Day of the Unborn Child coincides with The Feast of the Annunciation, which marks the day when Jesus Christ became an unborn child in his mother's womb. The day is celebrated by Christians to remember millions of unborn children who lost their precious lives due to abortion.

Social Justice truly begins in the womb as it pertains to people, and people start in the womb. The preborn are most vulnerable at the beginning stages of life and it is here that they require our greatest attention and efforts. The Day of the Unborn Child calls us to respond to this situation in a number of ways:

- Spiritual adoption of the unborn baby – around the church you will find prayer cards for the baby which you elect to adopt spiritually. It is unlikely that you will know who this baby is this side of heaven.But by praying for it you ask God's protection to allow it to be born, nurtured and enjoy a full life.
- Pray for Expectant Mothers – in today's society many women are pressured into having an abortion or fall prey to the social values that promote abortion. We can support these women by our prayers and if possible by material aid.
- Post Abortive Women – For those women who have succumbed to the pressures to have an abortion, there often comes a realisation of the gravity of what they have done after the abortion has taken place and they suffer post abortion trauma and guilt. These women are still loved by God and through the Church they receive forgiveness and healing in the sacrament of reconciliation. They may also benefit from programs such as that offered by Rachel's Vineyard which helps women in the healing process after an abortion and helps them to restore their dignity as a loved daughter of God. Information: rachelsvineyardaus@gmail.com, Jeanette 0400 092 555.
- On Sunday 26 March, please join in a peaceful and prayerful procession beginning from St Mary's Cathedral at 12 noon to highlight the dignity of the unborn child and convey a message to our society that such babies though unborn still have the dignity of any other human being and are deserving of love and care (see elsewhere in the bulletin for details of this procession).

A booklet, Why We are Pro-Life produced by Catholic Answers in San Diego and sponsored by the Marian Catholic Action Group will be made available free of charge to those who wish to understand more about pro-life matter.

Let us say a prayer for the unborn:
Heavenly Father, in Your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image - as well as theirs - made for eternal life. Dispel their fear and selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother can give. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Michael and Cecilia O

As this Sunday, March 26 is customarily the Day of the Unborn & is where a procession from St Mary's Cathedral will take place at 12:00pm, it was thought this prayer for the Spiritual Adoption of a little child who may otherwise be aborted is a marvellous devotion - well explained on the Holy Cards which will be available in the foyer beginning on the feast of the Annunciation & everyday until Christmas, mirroring Our Blessed Mother's pregnancy.

Jesus, my Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Your Mother, who bore you so lovingly, and of St Joseph, strong man of faith, who protected you both, I pray to you for the life of the unborn child who is in danger of abortion, the one I have spiritually adopted. Please give to the parents of this particular child the grace and courage to bring them to the life you have destined for them.

Margaret D

PIETY STALL

When you enter the church, on the right hand side you'll see a room - that's our piety stall! Open after Mass every Sunday (including the Saturday night Vigil), the piety stall is a great place to have a look at gifts, cards, ornments and many more items helping to encourage your faith.

Check out some of the items that will be stocked this month and pay the team a visit.

Before the middle of the year the piety stall will be completely cashless, helping to make payments easier for our community.

Spiritual Direction

Now available with Fr Joey.

For more information please e-mail the parish office at chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS ALTAR SOCIETY

Altar flower arrangements can donated to honour any special occasion.

Donations can be made on a one-time basis or annually. The suggested donation for floral arrangements is $100.

Volunteers will then beautifully and simply arrange your flowers for Sunday.

Please submit your donation at least one month prior to the date you would like to dedicate the flowers.

To reserve a date on the calendar, contact the parish on 02 9410 9000 or chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

Scan this QR code to donate to the first or second collection for our Parish.
Thank you for the many ways in which you support our parish!

Home Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be available again to visit your home for a week from Saturday to Saturday or Sunday to Sunday. A special blessing will be given when the statue is picked up from O.L.D. church after 9 am Mass.

A booklet of prayers will be provided to help your family and friends to venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary.

If interested, please contact via text or audio call for reservation
Cecilia @ 0466 961 240; or,
Ditas @ 0405 999 510

DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH?

JOIN OUR

LIFESTYLE ENGLISH CONVERSATION PROGRAMME(LECP)

2023 PROGRAMME CONTINUES EACH WEDNESDAY DURING SCHOOL TERM

WHEN DO WE MEET?
EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 9:30-11:00AM DURING SCHOOL TERM

WHERE:
MAGNIFICAT PARISH MEETING ROOM, O.L.D. CHATSWOOD

What is involved?
Each week mentors will select 'topics' of interest as the basis for our conversation in English

You will have the opportunity to develop your speaking skills and increase your confidence in a friendly space!

What is Lifestyle English Conversation Programme?

As a person with a language background other than English, this programme may be of particular interest to you.

LECP gives people (over 18) of all cultural backgrounds who are not comfortable with the use of everyday English, the opportunity to improve their language skills and build confidence through conversations in English with the support of our mentors.

Still interested?

For more information please contact Anthony on 0414364522 or anthony@churchinthecity.com.au (Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood Catholic Church)

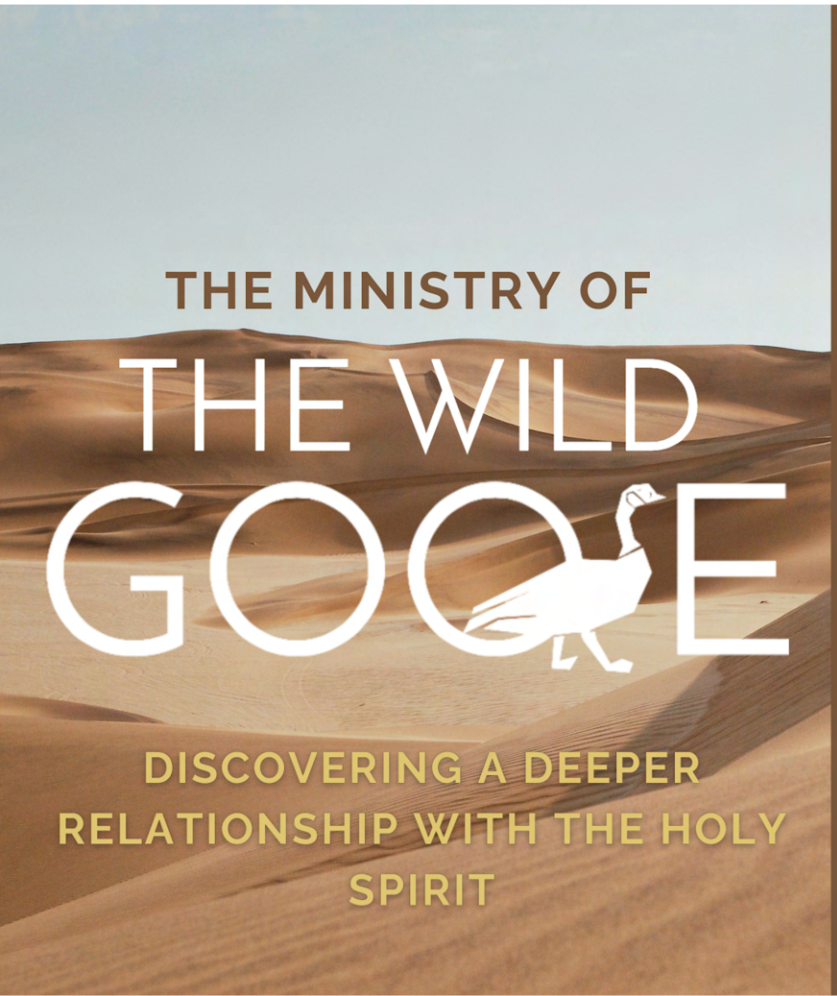
If you know friends or family members who could benefit from LECP, please let them know!

The Sisters of the Mother of God are the oldest congregation of sisters in the Romanian Greek Catholic Church. The history of their community has long been one marked by persecution, particularly when Romania was under communist rule.

Today the sisters continue to aid their local community with youth groups, spiritual support and counselling, as well as providing the poor with basic necessities. But they are facing a major problem. Their ancient heating system has finally broken down and needs to be replaced, but they cannot afford the cost. The sisters need your help!

To make an offering and learn more visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject

Aid to the Church in Need



THE WILD GOOSE

Reflection and Discussion on the Holy Spirit, beginning March 7.

Tuesdays 7:30pm- 9:00pm
Magnificat Room, Kirk Street

All welcome!
Any questions? Contact Gill at gillian-hawkins@bigpond.com

The Wild Goose series is truly a work of the Holy Spirit. "Wild Goose" was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit.
It is a 14 part series featuring Fr Dave Pivonka and various interviews. Shot in various locations from Niagara Falls to the California desert,

The Wild Goose invites viewers to an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit.

Meditation Days at St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia

Invitation to St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia for 2023 :
Sundays - 19th February, 21st May, 20th August and 19th November.
For our Introduction and Renewal Days for Christian Meditation.
Timetable : Arrival from 10am to register for a 10:30am start, presentations, introduction to meditation, periods of meditation, Mass, information exchange, conclusion around 3pm.
Book display and morning tea provided, BYO picnic lunch.

Enquires : Ann Bergman, anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas , atlomas@bigpond.com / 9653 2637

Day of the Unborn Child

10:30am Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
12:00pm Street Procession
1:30pm Benediction

Join the celebration and commemoration of the importance and beauty of all life.

for further information contact Maureen Playdon 0428 402 528.

Chrism Mass 2023

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 4 April at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The priests of our Diocese gather for this celebration with Most Rev Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitment. During Mass, the oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and then taken back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year.

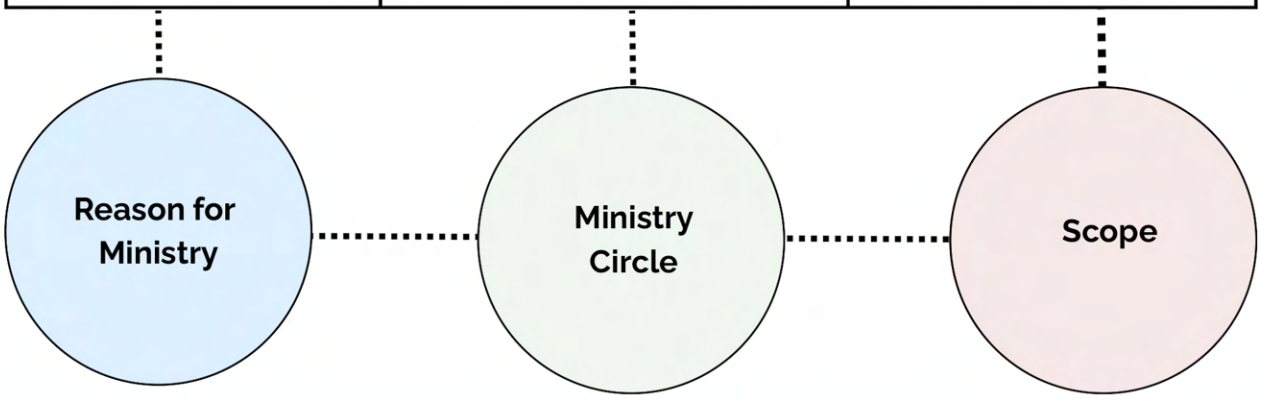
The Art of Liturgical Celebration
Liturgy and Music Conference 28-30 September, Brisbane

6 Keynote presentations, 50+ Workshops, Conference Mass, Panel Discussion, Regional Interest Group, Yarning Circles, Conference Dinner, Trade and Resource Exhibits.

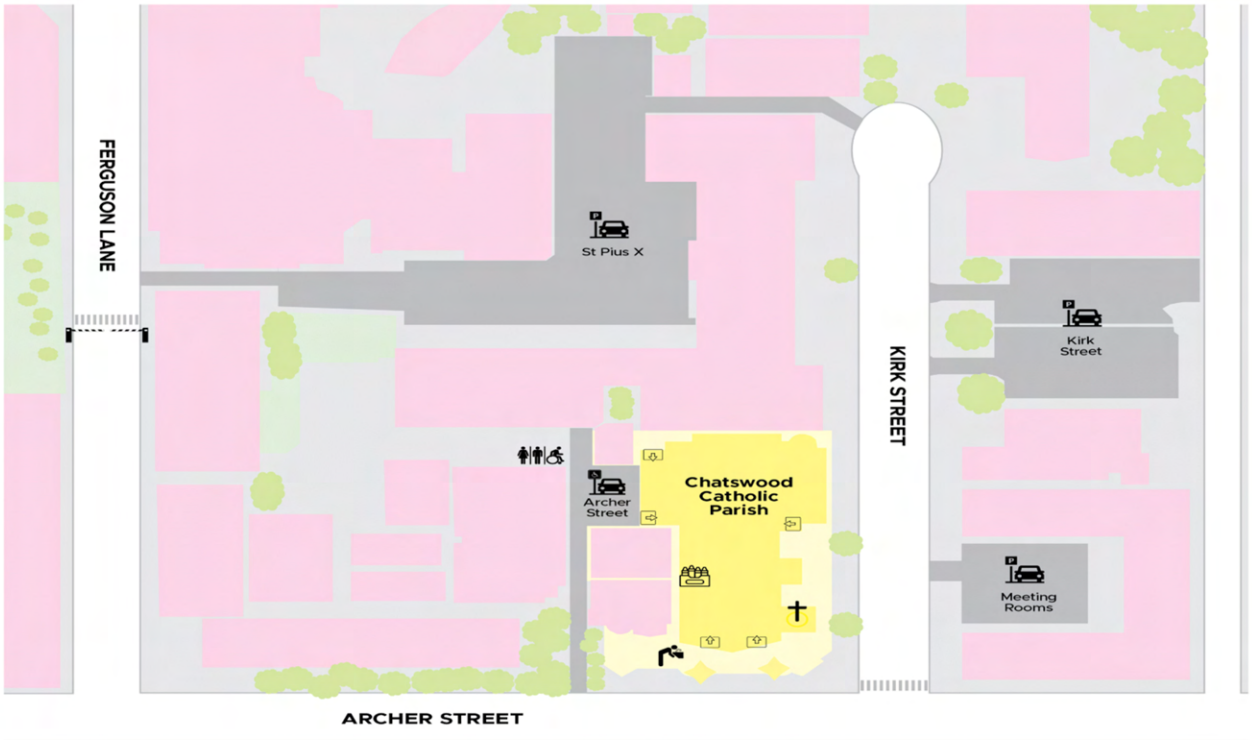
This conference is an absolute MUST for all liturgists, musicians, clergy, choristers, lay liturgical ministers, composers, teachers, conductors, liturgy teams, campus ministers - all who love liturgy and music! Enquiries: liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au

OUR CIRCLES OF MINISTRY

Love God Mark 12:30	Worshiping Together Leading Reflective Lives	Liturgy and Music Prayer and Spirituality
Love One Another John 13:34	Nurturing Relationships Caring for our World Caring for One Another	Community and Family Ecology and Social Justice Support and Visitations
Make Disciples Matthew 28:18-20	Growing in Faith Sharing the Good News Building our Future	Catechesis and Formation Mission and Evangelisation Administration and Stewardship
Supports all ministries	Building our Future	Administration and Stewardship



PARKING



INFO AT A GLANCE

Parish Support Team:

Parish Priest: **Very Rev Dr David Ranson VG**
david.ranson@bbcatholic.org.au
Personal blog: davidranson.com.au
Twitter: @FrDavidRanson

Assistant Priest: **Rev Fr Joey Frez**
joey.frez@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9027

Assistant Priest: **Rev Fr Marek Woldan**
marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9028

Deacon: **Rev Kevin Hale**
kevin.hale@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9026

Parish Services Officer: **Olivia Lee**
chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9000

Administrative Assistant: **Chloe Aylward**
chatswoodadm@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9021

Parish Director of Music: **Patrick Harrison**
chatswoodmusic@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9034

Children's Ministry Coordinator: **Angela Hague**
angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9033

Children's Ministry Assistant: **Mona Saouma**
mona.saouma@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9024

Facilities and Finance Manager: **Michael Mercer**
michael.mercer@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9030

Book-keeper: **Amelia Lee**
amelia.lee@bbcatholic.org.au | (02)9410 9032

Mass This Week:

Monday	Mass 12:30pm.
Tuesday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Wednesday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Thursday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm. Reconciliation: 7:00pm.
Friday	Mass: 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Saturday	Mass: 9:00am Reconciliation: 9:30am.
Sunday	Masses: 5:30pm Vigil (Saturday Night). 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 5:30pm Youth Mass

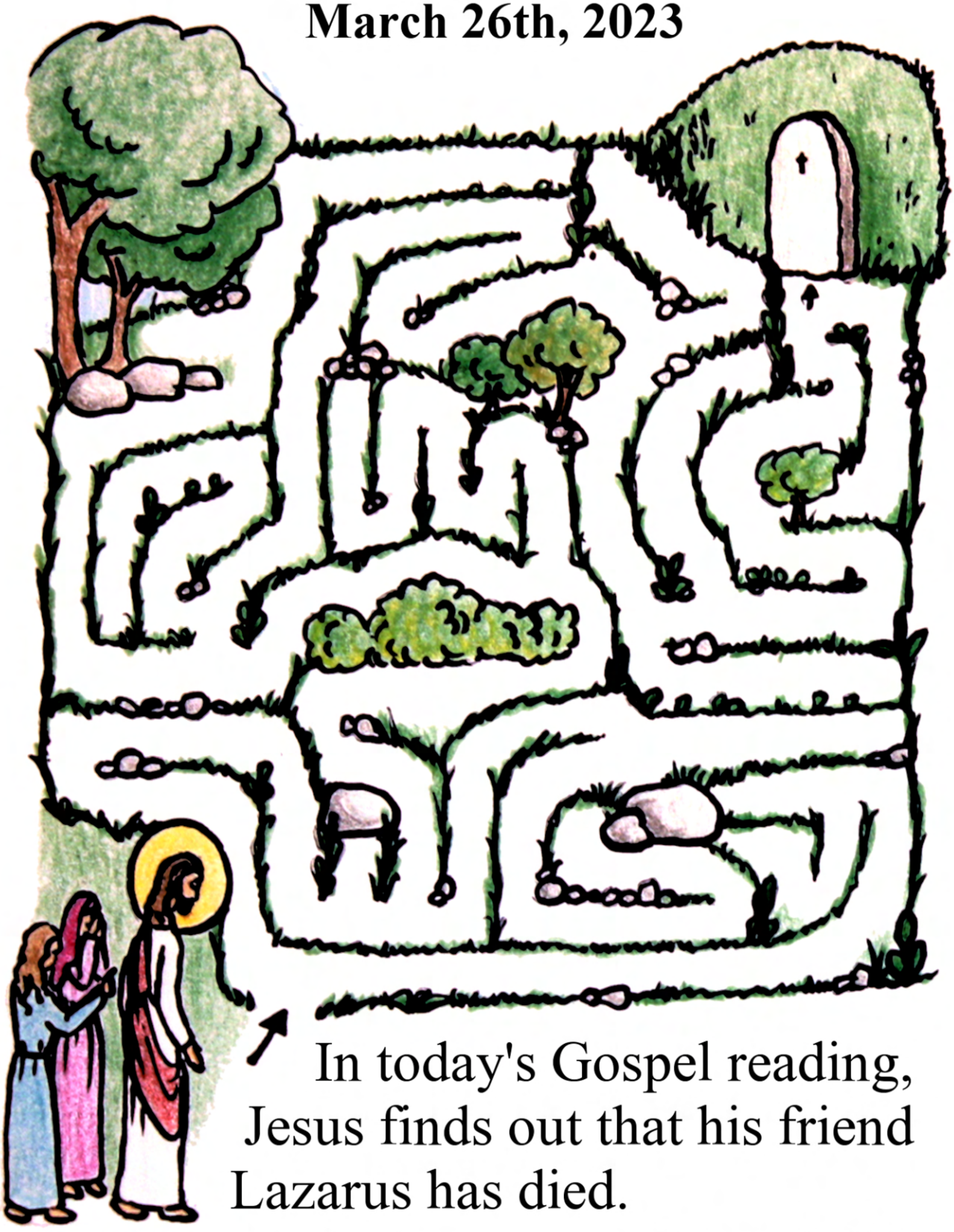
facebook.com/OLDChatswood

bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood

Want to receive the bulletin via e-mail?
Contact Olivia at
Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au

Our Lady OF DOLOURS

Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 26th, 2023

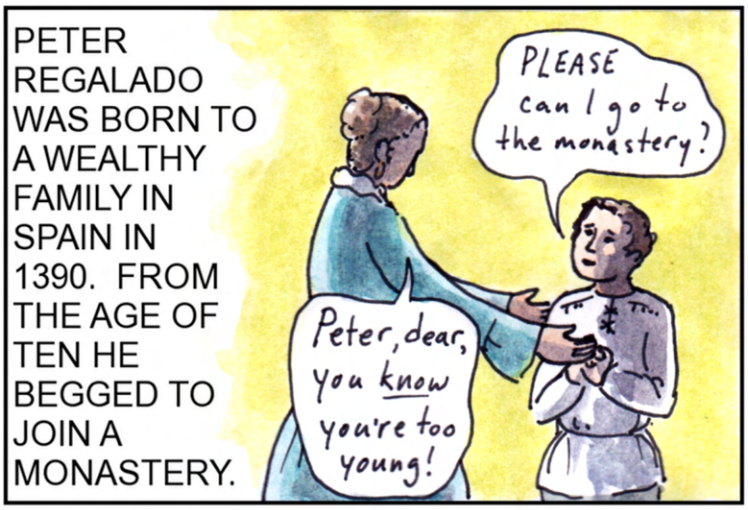


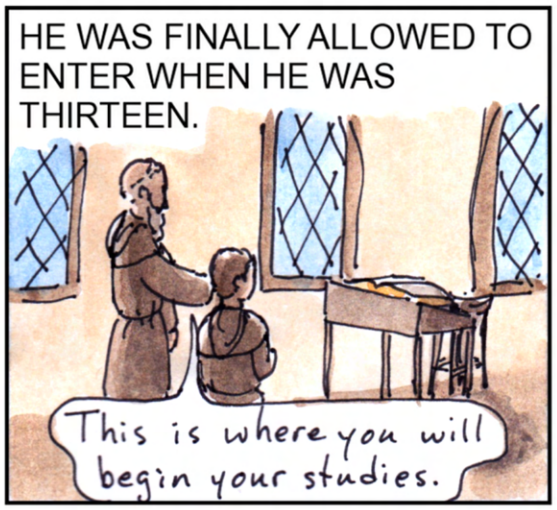
In today's Gospel reading, Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died.

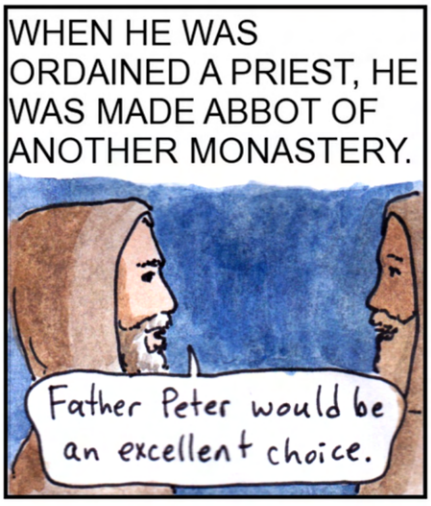
Can you find your way through the maze to the tomb where Jesus will raise him from the dead?

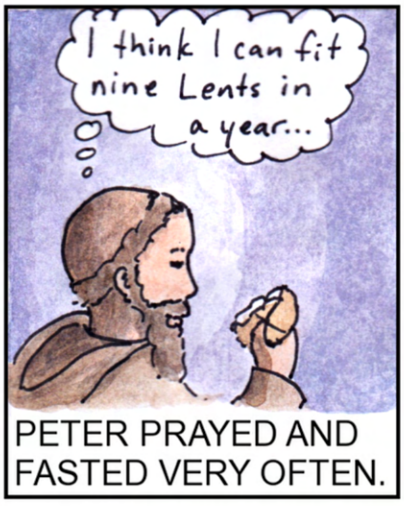
Saint Peter de Regalado

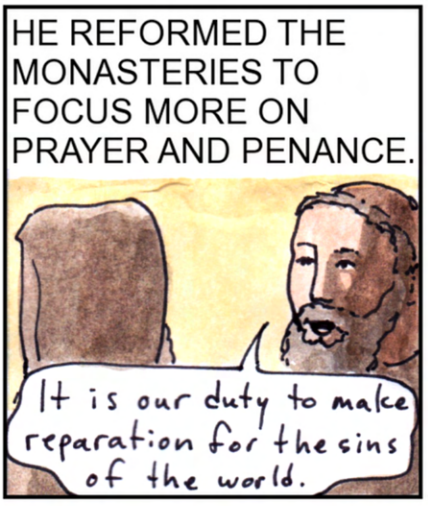
March 30

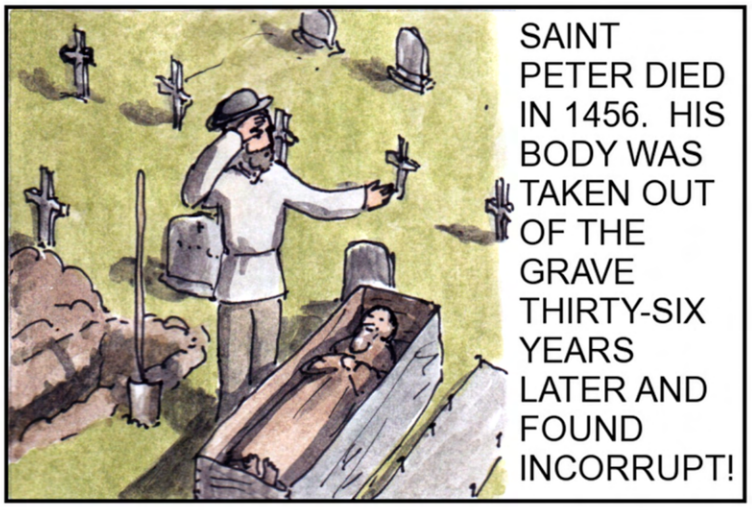










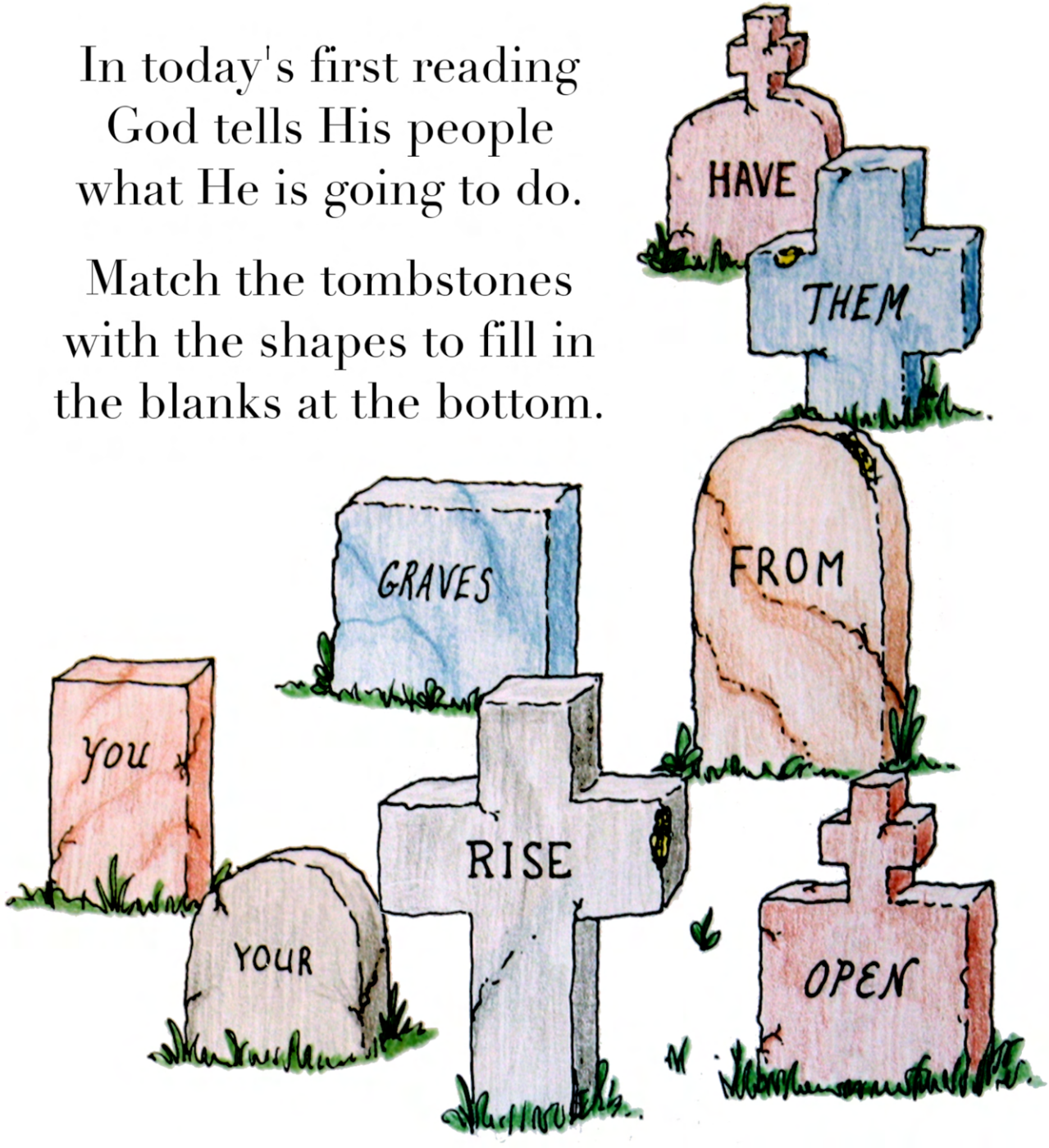


GOD DOES NOT CALL EVERYONE TO A LIFE LIKE SAINT PETER REGALADO, BUT HE DOES WANT EVERYONE TO DO SOME PENANCE. IN LENT ESPECIALLY, WE SHOULD TRY TO GIVE UP SOME FOOD WE LIKE AND PRAY A LITTLE BIT MORE. GOD USES OUR SACRIFICES TO DO GOOD IN THE WORLD.

An Ezekiel Puzzle

In today's first reading God tells His people what He is going to do.

Match the tombstones with the shapes to fill in the blanks at the bottom.



I will ___ ___ ___

and ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

God Raises People from the Dead!

In today's Old Testament reading God promised His people that He would raise them from their graves. In the Gospel story Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the dead. At the end of time God will raise everyone from the dead.

God does not like death. We all have to die because we are sinful, but God wants to raise us from the dead, like Lazarus.

Did you know that there is something worse than dying? Sinning is worse than dying, because when you commit a mortal sin you kill God's life in your soul. When you die you know that your body will rise again, but if you are not sorry for any serious sins then your soul will go to Hell because it doesn't have God's life in it. In Lent we should try to get rid of all the sin in our souls by going to Confession so that our souls will have God's life in them and be ready to celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Easter!

Answer to Ezekiel Puzzle: I will OPEN YOUR GRAVES and HAVE YOU RISE FROM THEM.