

Diocese of Broken Bay Under the Pastoral Care of the Discalced Carmelites since 2008

25 February 2024, Second Sunday of Lent

Parish Mass Times:

Monday to Friday: 9am
Saturday: 9am, 6pm (vigil)
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 5pm
Public Holidays: 9am
Rock Mass: Once a term

Baptism: Third Sunday of each month by appointment

Wedding: Contact Parish Office at least 6 months prior notice

Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday: 8:30am

Anointing of Sick: 2nd Thursday of the month at 9am or by request

Eucharistic Adoration: Saturday 9:30 – 10am concluding with Benediction

Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am

Rosary: Immediately after weekday Mass and Saturday (8:35am)



**Every Monday
(during term time)**

Divine Will Prayer Group
10-11:30am - Hall

Second Wednesday of Every Month

Parish Catch Up Coffee Morning
Archies, St Ives Village 10:30am

Thursday evenings

Fr Sunny's Bible Study Group
Book of Revelation
7:30-9pm in the Church

**Every Friday
(during term time)**

Lectio Divina; Hall & Zoom 10am

**Second Thursday
of Every Month**

Anointing of the Sick – 9am

**Saturday 24th and Sunday
25th February**

Presentation of Reconciliation
candidates—all masses

Wednesday 28th February

Lenten Prayer Group—6pm in the Hall

Thursday 29th February

Parish Craft Group—10.30am in the Hall

Friday 1st March

Mass at 7pm
Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm



**“And he was transfigured
before them, and his clothes
became dazzling white”
(Gospel)**

Dear Parishioners and visitors to the Parish,

The observation of the English mystic poet William Blake that ‘great things happen when men and mountains meet’ is true of such pivotal events in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures as Moses’ reception of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai and the transfiguration of Jesus ‘on a high mountain’.

In the latter instance, as recorded by all three synoptic writers and now included in the luminous mysteries of the rosary by St John Paul II, Jesus is revealed as a long-awaited Messiah. Accompanied by representatives of the Law and the Prophets (Moses and Elijah), he is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James and John. His human bodiliness becomes the vehicle through which his inner reality as God-Man shines forth. Surely, this was a source of hope to his disciples after Jesus’ prediction of his death by crucifixion became a reality. Alluding to this event Peter wrote: ‘We had been eyewitnesses of his majesty...while we were with him on the holy mountain’ (2 Peter 1:16-18).

May God bless you,
Fr Greg Chee, OCD

CONTACT DETAILS

263 Mona Vale Road, St Ives
Phone: 9144 6998
Email: office@corpuschristi.com.au
In an emergency call 9144 6998
Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/stives

PARISH OFFICE TEAM

Fr Greg Chee, OCD, Parish Priest
Ed Wales, Parish Finance
Michelle Miles, Office Manager
Jennifer Perrott, Faith Facilitator
Gerri Hadwen, Sacramental Co-Ordinator
Christina Surjan, Administrative Assistant

HALL BOOKINGS

Michelle Miles / Christina Surjan
9144 6998

Corpus Christi Parish School
Phone: 7256 2114

17 Link Road, St Ives NSW 2075
Web: www.ccsidbb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Jayne Wheen
Email: ccsi@dbb.catholic.edu.au

**You can now find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiChurchStIves and
Instagram www.instagram.com/CorpusChristiStIves**

FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

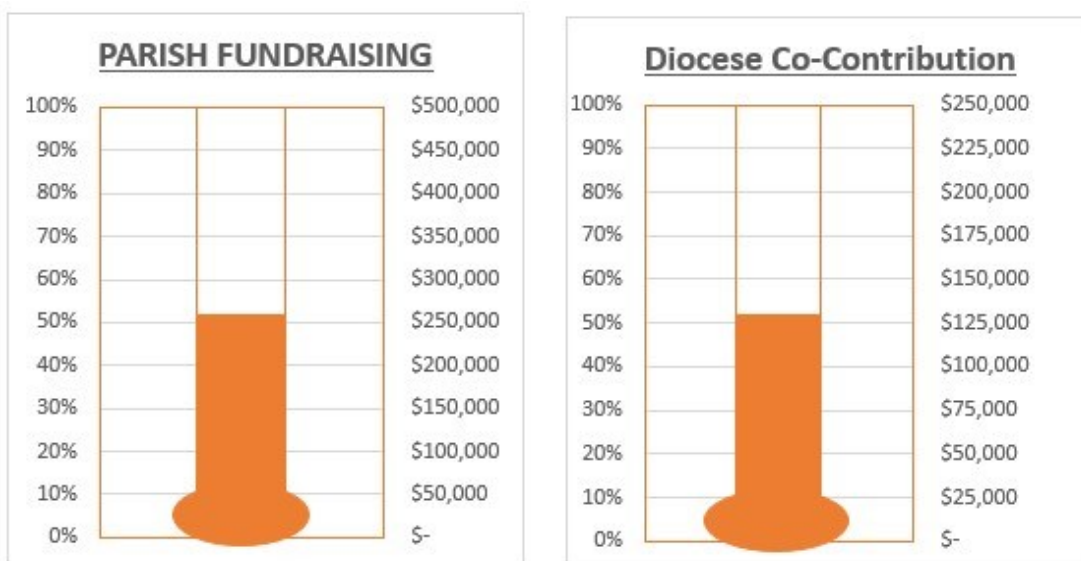
FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024

MASS AT 7PM

FOLLOWED BY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

AT 7:30PM

PRESBYTERY BUILDING PROJECT FUNDRAISING



Thank you for your generosity! To date parishioner donations total just over \$259 600 - we have passed the half way mark to our target of \$500,000! **For every \$100 donated the Diocese will give us another \$50.**

You can donate directly to our bank account as below:

Please reference: **New Presbytery Build** in your payment message. This will ensure that the entire amount will be used for the presbytery and the Parish won't be subject to Diocesan tax on these donations.

Account Name: St Ives Catholic Parish

BSB: 062 784

Account No: 100001798

Please note, any donations made are **NOT** tax deductible.

Regards the Parish Finance Committee

Social Justice Corner



The Most Dangerous Place in the World to be a Child

Childhood and adolescence should be a time of hope, not horror. Sadly, that is not the case for many children around the globe, including in Ukraine and Gaza. As the horror of the current conflict emerges, UNICEF Global Spokesperson James Elder has called the Gaza Strip *the most dangerous place in the world to be a child*.

In Gaza, 47.3% of the population is under 18. Reports from humanitarian agencies indicate the current conflict is the deadliest conflict for children in modern times:

A Palestinian child is killed every 15 minutes. There are now at least 19,000 orphans in Gaza and thousands who have lost one parent. Soaring rates of malnutrition and diarrhea, combined with insufficiently safe water, food and sanitation, could see child fatalities resulting from disease eclipse those related to the bombardments (UNICEF)

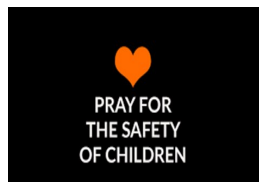
At least 11,500 children have been killed, with thousands more missing under rubble (Ministry of Health, Gaza). More than 10 children a day are losing one or both legs.

Those having limbs amputated are having it done without anaesthetic (Save the Children).

Save the Children's Jason Lee has said: *It's beyond belief that the world is allowing this to continue. The impact of seeing children in that much pain and not having the equipment or medicines to treat them or alleviate pain is too much, even for experienced professionals. Even in a war zone, the sights and sounds of a young child mutilated by a bomb cannot be reconciled, let alone understood, within the bounds of humanity.*

James Elder reported: *In my twenty years with UNICEF, travelling from one humanitarian crisis to the next – from famines to floods and war zones to refugee camps – I've simply never seen such devastation and despair as is happening in Gaza.*

As difficult as all this is to read, it is essential our parish community and the world does not look away.



PALMS

Do you have palm trees at home? We need some large palms to decorate the church for Palm Sunday. Assistance can be offered to cut and collect the palms. Please contact Christina or Michelle in the Parish office if you can help.



PARISH SOCIAL CRAFT GROUP

A happy group for a relaxing morning every fortnight - bring your own craft or handiwork if you wish.

Next get together **Thursday 29 February 2024 @ 10.30am** in the Parish Hall.
Enq.: Angela 0405 507 982

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and show our respect to the Elders past and present . We also wish to pay our respects to all Aboriginal people.

Prayer Zone



Please pray for the ill:

Michelle Fisher; Fr Sergio Chauira; Jessie Chang; Amy O'Connell; James Frederick Riley; Tom Brewer; Sylvia Fishburn; Nicolette Harris; Marshall O'Brien; Helen McCarthy; Quentin Stewart; Rob Sanders; Anne Jardane; Naomi Upton; Vanessa Park; Rebecca Davies; Grace Cheah; Elizabeth Walsh; Rebecca Anderson; Maria Garcia; Jose Mestres; Meacheal; Estelle Sok; Thi Nguyen; Carmel Hadley; Carmel Hurrell, Fergus O'Brien, Michelle Soumier, Gracie Spencer, Brendan Stone

If you know of anyone who can no longer attend mass due to illness; or if you have noticed one of our parishioners is no longer attending mass, could you please let Michelle or Christina know.

FINANCE UPDATE – SIX MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

Dear Parishioners

Over the last six months we have been concentrating on the planning for the new presbytery and making sure the assets of the Parish remain in good working order.

We thank those parishioners who were able to attend the two briefing sessions that were held in December and thank you for your feedback and comments. We also thank those parishioners who are assisting us with the planning of the new project. There were several suggestions made and we are busy incorporating the changes that will make the project less expensive and hopefully enable us to complete the project more efficiently. We intend having further parishioner briefings over the next couple of months.

Our fundraising is going well and we thank those parishioners who have helped us raise just on \$250,000 to date. The Diocese will contribute 50 cents for each dollar we raise up to a maximum of \$250,000 and we thank the Diocese for this generous donation. We are still asking parishioners to let us know if they have any contacts in the building and construction industries who may be able to provide labour and/or materials at reduced rates to assist us in making the presbytery one to be proud of.

It is pleasing to note that our operating income is up by 20% over the same period last year and our operating expenses are 5% lower than the corresponding period last year. We are still running at a slight deficit and are doing what we can to reduce our expenditure.

Over the six months to December we installed a TV in the boardroom at the back of the hall. This is proving useful to the groups that utilise this boardroom. We also renewed the Hall for Hire banner and the income from hall hire is increasing. A very successful concert and raffle was held in November that raised just over \$21,000 and we thank all those who organised the event.

We welcome all new parishioners and encourage those who haven't yet joined the planned giving to participate by way of a direct debit or credit card. If you haven't yet but would like to contribute by direct debit or credit card please call the Parish Office (9144 6998) or complete the form that can be found at the back of the Church and return it to the office or drop it in the second collection bag at the front of the church.

We thank all parishioners for their continued support as we all work together during these challenging times to enhance our Parish.

Fr Greg and the Parish Finance Committee

Income & Expenditure			
	ACTUAL \$	ACTUAL\$	ACTUAL \$
	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
INCOME			
Planned Giving - Envelopes	8,564	9,109	15,710
Planned Giving - Credit Cards	30,457	31,598	35,374
Planned Giving - EFTs	21,965	17,465	22,050
Total Planned Giving	60,986	58,172	73,134
Loose Second Collection	18,478	19,437	4,341
Tap & Go - \$5	-	-	700
Tap & Go - \$10	6,010	6,920	1,820
Tap & Go - \$20	3,440	4,000	3,540
Tap & Go - \$50	4,150	2,550	490
Donations	50	(270)	3,250
Pastoral Activities, Piety store and other inc.	11,060	12,395	4,668
Bulletin Advertising	2,051	-	2,652
Alpha Program	415	3,558	-
Discipleship	202	-	-
Interest Received	7,452	2,229	338
Market Day	-	11,050	-
Building Donations	0	0	100
Total Income	114,295	120,041	95,035
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Church Requisites	6,316	5,060	5,596
Employment Expenses including on-costs	63,244	56,642	61,639
Insurance	3,901	25,359	22,323
Office Expenses	8,663	4,297	2,404
Pastoral programmes, Admin. & other exp.	11,209	10,502	9,456
Formation	2,663	1,303	1,600
Alpha Program	256	-	1,247
Discipleship	956	-	-
Repairs and maintenance	15,355	14,848	13,822
Clergy Car Expenses	4,571	3,181	5,193
Interest repayment on Roof Loan	-	-	133
Total Operating Expenses	117,133	121,192	123,413
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,839)	(1,152)	(28,378)
NON- OPERATING INCOME			
Building donations - Presbtery	-	995	-
NSW Business Grant	-	-	7,500
NSW Jobsaver Grant	-	-	18,000
Total Non-Operating Income	0	995	25,500
NON -OPERATING EXPENSES			
Preliminary Expenses to Presbytery	-	-	(6,200)
Total Non-Operating Expenses	0	0	(6,200)
Roof Repayments to 31Dec 2023	0	0	(13,321)
Surplus / (Deficit) after roof repayments	(2,839)	(157)	(22,399)



The period of Lent can be considered as a time of journeying. It is a time to turn away from worldly distractions and journey home to God. It is a time of inner reflection and by the end of the journey you should find yourself in a different place spiritually than when you started.

A time to renew?

Lent 2024

Produced by the Wollongong Diocese, come and join us on the Lenten journey to deepen your friendship with Jesus and with each other as we walk together during this time towards Easter. You may also complete the program individually.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, 14 February 2024 in the church hall for the 6 weeks leading up to Easter.

Register with the QR Code below (or on the website with this link <https://bit.ly/42lDuWY>). Alternatively, complete your details on the clipboard in the foyer to reserve your copy of the Pietà Lenten Program. Booklets with bookmarks are \$5.00 each. Contact Jen Perrott for more information on (02) 9144 6998.

**Dates (in parish hall on Wednesdays
at 6:00-7:30pm)**

14, 21, 28 February 2024

6, 13, 20, 27 March 2024



RCIA PROGRAM

Last Sunday 130 Catechumens in the RCIA program from parishes in our Diocese gathered with Bishop Anthony at the Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral for the annual Rite of Election which took place on the First Sunday of Lent. This is a step in their journey to receive the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation – at the Easter Vigil.

Accompanied by their RCIA co-ordinators, Parish Clergy, sponsors, fellow parishioners, family and friends, the Catechumens were presented to the Bishop as a sign of “election” into the Catholic Church.

The Catechumens indicate their desire to join the Church by signing the Book of the Elect.

It was a beautiful grace-filled celebration as they journey towards the Easter liturgies.

Lets us keep Aidan, Terry and Shirin, who will be baptised at our Easter Vigil, in our Lenten prayers.

Aidan O'Neill with the RCIA team meeting the Bishop at Sundays Rite of Election.

Aidan is on the journey towards Baptism this Easter.



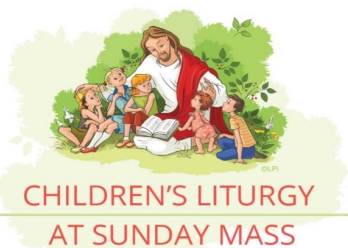


After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



At every Sunday 10am Mass, children are invited to go to the Church Hall during Mass to participate in Children's Liturgy.

There, they read the Gospel for the week and do activities related to that Sunday's gospel.

Morning tea is served afterwards for everyone!



EASTER CHOIR

Easter is fast approaching and we are locking in choir rehearsals for the Easter Triduum:

Holy Thursday 28th March

Good Friday 29th March

Easter Vigil 30th March

Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday 28th February from 7.30-9pm in the Church and the following weeks will be held on Tuesday the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of March from 7.30-9pm in the Church. There will also be a rehearsal one hour prior to the Triduum masses. Please come along and join in to make this Easter a truly memorable one.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024

Holy Name Church at 11am followed by morning tea in the sunroom.

The service for 2024 has been written by the people of Palestine.

It is entitled: **"I beg you...bear with one another in love."**



Pray and Play is for families with children aged 0-12years. It is an opportunity for the families to spend time together once a month after

Sunday 10am Mass for some simple games for the children while parents mingle and chat.

Our next meetings will be on 25 Feb, 7 April and 5 May.

Please keep an eye out on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Groups/CorpusChristiStIves>) for our latest news and photos.



Join our Facebook group

Keep updated with our latest news and photos on our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CorpusChristiStIves>

or scan the QR code to go directly to the Facebook group





Bio of a Catechist Les Leong

Who Am I?

I retired in 2012 from formal employment as an executive of a major international corporate group, headquartered in South Africa. By far, the larger part of my working life was with a corporation, responsible for financial resources, functions, risks and reporting. It is normal for management teams in corporations to have a key responsibility of driving up profitability and ultimately the value of the business. This is the environment that I worked in for over 37 years.

Family

My wife, Teresa, and I immigrated to Australia from South Africa in 2015 as we wanted to be a part of the 'growing up' phases of our two Australian grandchildren. We have a son, who with his wife and two sons immigrated to Bangkok, Thailand from London, UK in December 2023. Our daughter lives in St Ives with her husband, and son and daughter. We share the home with them.

How long have you been a catechist?

I have been a Catechist for only 1 year so far, and I can report that I have not missed a class because it is self-satisfying and I reckon satisfying for the children.

This year my wife and I will be travelling abroad so both of us will miss Catechism classes for a number of months. Although there is a dire shortage of Catechists, we are pleased that the current team have rallied to cover the lessons for us.

What brought you to being a catechist?

My life in South Africa was naturally dominated by asset accumulation and providing for the future. Teresa was for a large part of her life involved in religious development and teaching at a Catholic College in South Africa. Currently she has served a Catechist for about 7 years.

I attended a Bible study course offered to the St Ives Parish, called "The Big Picture." This course exposed me to Christian salvation history, and the promise of our Creator to his children that there is an opportunity after our earthly existence. After this course, I experienced a paradigm shift in my life. I discerned that I needed a counter-balance to previous priorities, and that was a

stronger belief and faith in Scripture teachings. Thus I deemed it important to allocate a fair portion of time to courses, resulting in me completing Alpha, Metanoia, and attending Bible Chapter studies by Father Sunny, etc. I also decided that one of my personal development needs is to teach young children scripture, necessary wisdom that I missed in my youth. Consequently, my initiative to become a Catechist

Why do you stay?

My only 1 year of teaching convinces me that there is a need for this ministry.

What would you say to someone considering being a catechist?

It is normal for each of us to learn how to cope with our life's journey in this earthly world.

Scripture gives us as Christians a view of what is to come during and after this life journey, and you may see that there is an essential need to inform children of this as a Catechist.



Help still needed. Can you help?

We are still in need of teachers for the following schools:

St Ives North on a Tuesday

Year 5: 1:00-1:30pm

St Ives Primary on a Wednesday

Kindy: 9:05-9:40am

Year 1/2: 9:05-9:35am

Turramurra North on a Wednesday

Year 1/2 or 3/4: 10:20-10:55am

Year 5/6 10:20-10:55am

All resources and training are provided. Come and join us. If you are busy or travel we pair catechists together to share the teaching. So you still have flexibility.

Or, maybe you work from home and could spare 30 minutes each week to help in a classroom.

Please contact Jen Perrott in the office on (02) 9144 6998 or on email, catechists@corpuschristi.com.au We would love to hear from you.



DISCIPLES
SCHOOL OF MISSION

ARE YOU CALLED TO....
**BE DARING
AND JUMP
INTO
MISSION?**

"The mission of the Church is to share the
Gift it has received".
Pope Francis

School of Mission
1st - 4th April, 2024
Mt Carmel Retreat Centre ,
Varroville, NSW




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Be FORMED in the faith
and evangelisation,
Choose where you want to go for
MISSION!

To register or more info
discipleschoolofmission.com.au





ST PIUS X COLLEGE
CHATSWOOD

OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 16 MARCH

Chatswood Campus 9am - 2pm
35 Anderson Street Chatswood


Oxford Falls Campus 8am - 12noon
1 Dreadnought Road, Oxford Falls

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL at www.spx.nsw.edu.au

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24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

WALKING IN A
New Life




From Friday, March 8th to Saturday,
March 9th we are invited to join with
the universal Church around the world
in observing "24 Hours for the Lord" - a
way to celebrate the sacrament of
Reconciliation in the context of
Eucharistic adoration.

MARCH
8-9
9AM - 9AM



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CHURCH
94 ARCHER ST, CHATSWOOD
CHATWOODOFFICE@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU

Starting with 9 am Mass on Friday and
ending with 9 am Mass the next morning,
with Eucharistic adoration and hourly
Confession, draw near to the Father who
is truly "rich in mercy", who extends it
abundantly upon those who appeal to
Him with a sincere heart.
Come experience His love and His grace.



**JOB
VACANCY**

Sacramental Coordinator

The Parish is seeking
to appoint a casual
role sacramental
coordinator located at
the Parish office in
Pymble

Application:
Please send your cover letter and CV
to the Parish Office at
office@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Further information and the full job description is available
at the link below

tinyurl.com/zn2naczc

Applications close on Friday, 1 March 2024

Pymble Catholic Parish | 02 9144 2702

THE SHRINE OF JP II PRESENTS...

THE MYSTERY OF THE DIVINE MERCY

WITH ST FAUSTINA & ST JOHN PAUL II

24.02.2024

@GOSFORD PARISH

A RETREAT DAY

INTERNATIONAL
GUEST SPEAKER:
FR PETER
PRUSAKIEWICZ
CSMA

9AM | MASS & PRAYERS THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF JP II

9:45AM | CONFERENCE 1: THE MYSTERY OF THE DIVINE MERCY

10:45AM | COFFEE BREAK

11:15AM | HOLY ROSARY + CONFERENCE 2: THE SECRETS OF ST
FAUSTINA & ST JOHN PAUL II

12:30PM | LUNCH BREAK

1:30PM | CONFERENCE 3: THE ANGELS IN THE LIFE OF ST FAUSTINA
& ST JOHN PAUL II, INVESTING WITH A SCAPULAR OF THE DIVINE
MERCY

2:15PM | HOLY HOUR

3:20PM | END OF RETREAT

Chrism Mass 2024 | Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Waitara

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 March at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay gather for this celebration with Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitments. During Mass, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and brought back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this sacred occasion in the life of our Diocese.



Light to the Nations
EASTER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

Holy Thursday – Easter Sunday
28 – 31 March 2024

Camp under the open skies, joining in the celebration of Easter through prayer, worship, liturgy, drama, music & personal sharing with 1000 people under a massive marquee.

Held over 4 days on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW, LTTN is an experience like no other. Enter into the Easter story, be forever changed.

FIND OUT MORE
LTTN.ORG.AU



Light to the Nations is a work of
DISCIPLES OF JESUS COMMUNITY



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF
Saint Cecilia
Founded in 1860—Nashville

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

WITH THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA

CHRIST, OUR FIRM FOUNDATION
Rediscovering the wisdom of the Church's spiritual tradition
Matthew 7:24-27

16 MARCH 2024
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL HALL
SATURDAY 10AM-4PM

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a Lenten Retreat Day. This day will focus on renewing the foundations of the spiritual life as we strive to live the Paschal Mystery throughout the year. The retreat day will include all day Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions, talks by the Sisters, personal testimony, a Holy Hour, and discussion groups. Women who have attended previous retreat days with the Sisters are encouraged to bring a friend to this event.

REGISTRATION
SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER.
A \$20 FEE ASSISTS WITH COVERING RETREAT EXPENSES.
DOORS OPEN 9AM. TEA & LUNCH INCLUDED
www.bit.ly/3RRAKfa

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CATHOLIC WOMEN'S NETWORK



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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Contact: Matthew Johnson - 0418 767 150 or 9488 8200

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The Catenians

***Strengthening family life through
friendship and faith***

Catenians meet every month to pray
together, to enjoy each others'
company and to support their
Clergy and Parishes.

For further information phone

President - John White 0439 851 910

Secretary - David Conoulty 0412 267 538

The Word

Sunday 25 February 2024: Second Sunday in Lent

Collect

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

From the book of Genesis Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. (R.)

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

Second Reading

From the first letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 8:31-34

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! King of endless glory!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! King of endless glory!

Gospel

From the holy Gospel according to Mark Mk 9:2-10

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.