St Paul the Apostle Parish40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153T: 9639 6516 W: www.stpaultheapostleparish.orgOffice hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pmParish Priest:Father John Paul EscarlanAssistant Priest:Father Abraham KunnatholyFor latest updates please visit our Facebook pageImage: Strate Stra	Weekend Mass times Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am and 5:00pm Weekday Mass times Monday to Saturday 9.10am (preceded by Rosary at 8:40am) Thursday 7.00pm (preceded by Adoration at 6:00pm) Reconciliation: Thursday 6.15pm - 6.45pm (during Adoration) First Friday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (during Adoration) Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm Adoration: Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm First Friday 9.45am - 9.00am Saturday Masses livestreamed to Facebook: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat 9.10am, Thu 7:00pm, Sun 9:30am	Ash Wee Ash Wee beginning attain rede Liturgic • <u>Station</u> • <u>Lenter</u> There Invitatio Do you wa and Gospe of this grou group will St Paul's
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# Preparing for the Lenten Journey: Weeks of Reflection and Renewal

As we stand on the threshold of the Lenten season, a time of spiritual renewal and self-discovery, we are invited to embark on a journey of preparation in the weeks leading up to this sacred time. Lent is not merely a period of giving up certain indulgences, but an opportunity for profound reflection, repentance, and a deepening of our relationship with God.

Here are some practical ways to prepare our hearts for the Lenten journey:

- Reflect: Acknowledge the moments of grace, as well as the times when we may have fallen short. This reflection sets the stage for a humble and contrite heart, ready to embrace the mercy and forgiveness of our loving God.
- Attend Reconciliation: Allowing us to approach Lent with hearts cleansed and renewed.
- Pray for Discernment: Prayer is a powerful tool in our spiritual journey. Spend time in prayer, asking God for guidance and discernment as you prepare for Lent. Seek the Holy Spirit's assistance in identifying areas of your life that need growth and transformation
- Set Lenten Goals: Specific and realistic goals to help us stay focused and purposeful in our Lenten observance, eg include daily prayer routines, acts of kindness, or commitments to spiritual reading.
- Almsgiving: Use these weeks to assess how you can practice almsgiving during Lent. Identify acts of sincere and purposeful charity to prepare our hearts for the sacrificial nature of Lent.
- Educate Yourself on Lenten Traditions: Familiarise yourself with the rich traditions and practices associated with Lent. Understanding the significance of Lenten symbols, such as ashes, the Stations of the Cross, and the liturgical colours, can deepen your appreciation for the season.
- Plan a Quiet Retreat: Or some quiet time. This allows you to detach from the noise of daily life. creating space for God to speak to your heart and prepare you for the upcoming season.

As we anticipate the season of Lent, let us approach it with open hearts, ready to be transformed by God's grace. May these weeks of preparation be a time of profound spiritual growth, paving the way for a Lenten journey that leads us closer to the heart of our Lord.

### Funeral service for the late Jacqueline Bazouni

The funeral service will be held this Wednesday 14th at 10:00am at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church, 40 Alice Street Harris Park, May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace.

### Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 25 February

Looking for young adults to worship with? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards. The next Mass will be at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, on Sunday 25 February for 6pm Mass. Please contact Laura on laura@stbernadette.org.au

### Parish Safeguarding

We take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously. Refer concerns to the Parish Priest, or to safeguarding@parracatholic.org or 8838 3419. More information www.safeguarding.org.au

Please pray for our sick. Lord, heal the sick, grant strength, comfort, and divine peace. Amen Aeroll Klein, Anthony Iannuzzi, Cathie Christie, Peter Casey, Daniella Younis, David, George El-Bayeh, Gracia Zalvidea, Iranie Perumal, Kayla Ho, Lucas Le Huray, Mary Finianos, Nick Galea, Peter Gamble,

#### Please pray for ... may the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace. Amen

Jack & Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Father Kevin Bates, Father Timothy Crowley, Brother Brendan Maguire, Beth Kenny, Celerina Dakoykol, Charlotte Dos Remedious, Charles & Josephine Clayton, Clive Ryan, Cristina Pulvirenti, Fouad and Olga Matta, George Steele, John Buggy, Lenore Dabrera, Marie Cunningham, Mary White, Mervyn Davies, Raymond Isaac, Signati Concetta, Jacqueline Bazouni. Novena to our Mother of Perpetual Help Prayed during our morning Mass every Wednesday. Thursday Cenacles

# Held in Marian Chapel after

every Thursday morning Mass.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** Fridays 3:30pm in Marian Chapel.

Liturgy of the Hours First Friday at 6:00pm

St Paul's Mens Ministry Second Thursday of the month:

6pm-Church, 8pm-Parish Hall 2SM Filipino Mass Second Sunday at 11:00am

Mass with Ephpheta Third Sunday at 9:30am

Moments of Mercy For the sake of his sorrowful passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Prayer for Vocations If we can't see where we're going, we'll never get there. The Good Shepherd leads us to green pastures, refreshes our souls and brings light to a darkened world.

Catholic Outlook Access at anytime online: www.catholicoutlook.org/

# Catholic Weekly

News, articles and information: www.catholicweekly.com.au/

Low gluten hosts Available upon request.

# Hearing Loop

For signal, set to 'T' (Telecoil). Overheads for hymns used in the Church are used with permission under ONE LICENCE No A-642251

dnesday - February 14<sup>th</sup> [Repent and believe in the Gospel] nesday Masses, including distribution of Ashes, will be held at 6:30am, 9:10am and 7:00pm. This marks the of the Season of Lent. Penance, reflection, and fasting prepares us for Christ's Resurrection, through which we emption. The practice includes wearing of ashes on the head and symbolise the dust from which God made us.

# al services in our parish during Lent - everyone is welcome to attend

- ns of the Cross will be held 7:00pm every Friday evening.
- is no need to register your attendance and everyone is invited to attend any or all of these sessions.

on to attend Christ's Catholic Community weekly prayer group - Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>

ant to prepare vourself for weekend Mass? Especially during Lent? Please come along as the group goes through Readings el with an explanation of the Gospel. Praying of the Rosary follows and sing one or two songs in between. The first assembly up will be Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Conference Room of our Parish Centre and take about one hour. It is hoped this assemble every Friday on an ongoing basis. Please direct all queries to the organiser Pauline Camilleri 0407 417 039.

#### s Mens Ministry update

is to know Christ and Him crucified" was the opening salvo from Tony Montgomery on our discussion on Sacrifice. So appropriate for Lent. Twenty eight men gathered for our February meeting during the week. All were challenged to address Lent as an opportunity to make some changes by placing the needs of others before their own doing so with a genuine and humble heart. Next meeting is Thursday March 14; all men over 18 welcome. Details please contact 9639 6516 or mensministryofstpaul@gmail.com

#### Call out for volunteers to operate our Mass audio visual

If you can use a TV remote then you've got all the skills needed for this role! We are seeking volunteers to assist in operating the powerpoint presentation for our various Masses. If you are interested and available to assist, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

#### **Registration for Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Registration (via our website) closes 5:00pm Tuesday 20th February. To know more please contact Sandra Sheehan via the parish office. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is the process through which older children and adults are prepared for entry into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation. Last weekend we welcomed our three catechumens, who have been undergoing faith formation, and will be receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to pray for our three catechumens on their journey.

# **Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities**

11th Our Lady of Lourdes | 14th Ash Wednesday, Saints Cyril and Methodius | 17th Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

# Praying the Nicene Creed during the season of Lent

There are two creeds that are used for the Profession of Faith: the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. In the majority of instances, the Apostles Creed is prayed, however during the season of Lent, there is an option to use the Nicene Creed. The "Nicene" Creed is actually not the creed from the Council of Nicea in the year 325, but a summary of the faith expressed by that council and the Councils of Constantinople in 381 and Chalcedon in 451. Its proper title is really the "Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed". The creed was originally used only in the celebration of baptism. Proclaiming the creed is not about reciting a long list of what we believe but rather a vibrant, life-filled glorification of God, and of God's love for us. Its structure, its every word, is a proclamation of God's goodness.

#### Other changes in Mass during Lent

During the season of Lent, you will notice two very distinct omissions in our liturgies, whereby the Gloria (Glory to God in the Highest) is not said nor is the Alleluia verse used before the Gospel. The Gloria is a hymn that celebrates the coming of the Lord using words from the angels at Christ's birth. The Church during Lent returns in spirit to a time when the people of God were in exile, waiting for the Messiah to come and save them. It is a similar season of expectation as is Advent, but instead of awaiting Christ's birth from the womb of Mary, the Christian people await Christ's second "birth" from the womb of the sepulcher. Secondly, following this same spirit of exile, the Church joins Moses and the Israelites as they wander in the desert for 40 years. It is a time of agony and purification, one where the faithful join together in saying, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" which is why "Alleluia", the word is rooted in a Hebrew expression "praise the Lord", is thus omitted during Lent. As a result, our focus in Lent is not in rejoicing, but in mourning our sins, looking at how they prevent us from an authentic relationship with God. Once these are removed through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are able to rejoice again at Easter, for it is not only Christ's resurrection we celebrate, but our own rebirth in the spirit.

### Mass with Ephpheta Community

Next Sunday at the 9:30am Mass we welcome back members of the Ephpheta community after a break in January. **Caritas Project Compassion Sunday** 

Please take home a Project Compassion box to support Caritas Australia and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas has supported communities to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow. To find out more, or to donate online : caritas.org.au/project-compassion/ Project Compassion boxes can be returned at Easter time.

# Vacancies - Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia

Could you share stories of suffering Christians? Are you looking for flexible part time work? ACN is recruiting for a number of Diocesan Outreach Assistants who will deliver monthly presentations in parishes across Sydney. For more details visit www.aidtochurch.org/work



n discussion groups will be held every Wednesday in the Marian Chapel at 7:00pm. Each week there will be a different theme.