

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: In our journey through Lent, Scripture reminds us of God's power to save. Strengthened by that teaching we turn to our God for what we need.

Reader: For our Church and our Community.

All: May all find a place of welcome and hope in our midst.

Reader: For the nations and governments of the world.

All: May they be committed to the protection and just distribution of the earth's resources.

Reader: For generosity towards others.

All: The father welcomed his wayward child—a sign of God's generosity and love. May we be generous towards others, willing to forget past sins and welcome others as God welcomes us.

Reader: Lord of Compassion, you inspired St Francis of Assisi to be your instrument of peace.

All: Inspire young women and men to consider becoming sisters, nuns, brothers or priests.

Reader: Lord God, creator of the world.

All: We ask that you would hear our prayer for all the people of New Zealand and may healing and hope return to the people of Christchurch.

Reader: For the work of Caritas Australia.

All: May our Project Compassion efforts bring about the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Reader: For those who have died.

All: May they come to the fullness of life in Christ.

Presider: Let us pray together.

All: God of love, you hold out your arms to all who seek you. With faith in your ever present guidance and constant hope in the possibilities of reconciliation, we offer these prayers. Amen.

HEAD AND NECK CANCER FOUNDATION

As a recent survivor of head and neck cancer, one of our parishioners, John Fordham, has led the charge in establishing the Head and Neck Cancer Foundation in association with a leading team of cancer specialists who cared for him during his treatment. The Foundation's chief goals are to stress the importance of early intervention and to fund research into head and neck cancer. As The Sunday Telegraph's wine critic, John has been the driving force behind the release of two wines, appropriately labelled Critic's Choice, which have been produced in partnership with Cellarmasters and McGuigan Wines. Sales of 2016 Critic's Choice Barossa Valley Shiraz and 2017 Critic's Choice Hunter Valley-Adelaide Hills Chardonnay anchor the Foundation's fund-raising campaign.

The wines are now available through cellarmasters.com.au at \$25 a bottle.

Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful reparation for those who have suffered clerical and institutional sexual abuse.



Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington, St Joseph Edgecliff and the 8:45am Mass at Double Bay
In the care of the Franciscans since 1879

St Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford St Paddington : St Joseph Church 12 Albert St Edgecliff

Parish Office: 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 Tel: 02 9331 4043 Fax: 02 9331 3745

Website: www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com Email: enquiries@stfrancis-stjoseph.com

Sunday 31 March 2019 : 4th Sunday of Lent Year C

From Fr Paul...This weekend we welcome speakers from Caritas Australia. Sr Ivy Khoury FMM and Ben Green have been heavily immersed in the work of Caritas. Delivering long-term employment programs and helping people regardless of ethnicity, religion or political they have sought to improve the lives of the poorest of the poor.

Also included in this bulletin is our third take home reflection for Lent. In this concise and powerful piece of writing we learn about Pope Francis self description as "a sinner on whom the Lord has turned his gaze". The leads us to a new understanding of the Gospel; no longer only the story of the *Prodigal Son*, but rather of the *Forgiving Father*. This is a Father who fixes a gaze of mercy, compassion and those seeking forgiveness.

PARISH NOTICES

QUICHE & CHARDONNAY AT ST JOSEPH

Quiche & Chardonnay is returning to St Joseph on Sunday, 19th May after the 11am mass! Whether you are new to our community or a regular parishioner please come and join us for a nibble with our parish community and friars. All are welcome.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Volunteers are urgently needed to assist with the 8:30am Mass at St Francis on Sunday mornings. We are in need of Greeters, Lectors, EMOHC and also leaders for our Children's Liturgy program (Children's Liturgy is term time only). Please note, this does not need to be a weekly commitment - you can join the roster as per your personal availability. Training and resources are provided. This is a great way to become more involved in the community. If you can help with any of these roles or would like more information please call Ruth at the Parish Office to discuss.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

Wed. 3rd April 2019. 7.30 - 9pm, PADDINGTON RSL CLUB 220-232 Oxford St, Paddington, opposite the Town Hall. Topic: "Sharing the Journey - Across Borders" Speakers: FRANCES RUSH, CEO of the Asylum Seekers Centre in Sydney & BILAL FAZILI, a Muslim Outreach Worker who works with disenfranchised youth. Donation entry. Info Marea: 0414 873 910.

UPCOMING PARISH PHOTOGRAPHY

A photographer has been engaged to take pictures of our churches and our community. Note, photos featuring faces will only be used when written permission is granted. We will contact you in the coming weeks with more information. If you lead a group or ministry and would like photographs taken of your group please contact Ruth at the Parish Office to discuss.

CONFESSIONALS AND OFFICE UPGRADE

Work will soon commence on a new confessional at Paddington and an upgrade to the confessional at Edgecliff. In addition, the Parish Office and Meeting Room will receive a facelift. The purpose is to bring our community in line with Diocesan Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. In the meantime the sacrament of reconciliation will be celebrated on request in the main body of the church.

UPCOMING DEVOTIONS, GROUPS AND MEETINGS

St Francis' Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour: 5:00pm every Saturday prior to the Vigil Mass.

St Joseph's Rosary Group: 7.30am and 5.00pm weekdays.

St Joseph's First Thursday Adoration: Next: 4 April at 5pm followed by Mass at 5.30pm in the church at Edgecliff.

Lectio Divina: A meditative reading of the Scripture. 7pm Wednesdays in the Parish Hall at Edgecliff.

Christian Meditation: Saturday 10:30am Saturday at the St Francis Parish Meeting Room.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WEEKLY DURING LENT

St Joseph Edgecliff
Thursdays at 5pm
4 April

St Francis of Assisi Paddington
Fridays at 9.30am with St Francis Primary School
5 April

The Stations of the Cross is a traditional devotion in honour of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Known also as the Way of the Cross, Via Crucis, and Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross had its origins with the Franciscans in the Holy Land. The Stations of the Cross is a contemplative mini-pilgrimage through the events that covered the final hours of Jesus' life on earth.

The point of this devotion is not to lead us to dwell on the physical suffering of Jesus, but rather to encourage us to enter into the love and openness of Jesus' life, to which his suffering and death give witness.

OTHER NOTICES

CALLING ALL SANCTA SOPHIA ALUMNI ANNUAL GALA DINNER & ALUMNI AWARDS

Date: Thursday 23 May 2019
Time: 6.00pm-9.30pm

Venue: The Great Hall, The University of Sydney

Join us as we celebrate Sancta and our enduring tradition of empowering humanity. Student performances Drinks, canapés and three-course dinner. Luxury raffle (items include holiday packages, wine collections and more).

Anyone interested in joining a parish table please contact Fr Paul in the parish office. Or contact Sancta directly on 9577 2100

TUNING INTO TEENS: EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT PARENTING
6-8pm Thursday nights, 2nd May to 6th June 2019 at Centre 360, 461-463 Oxford Street, Paddington. Tuning into teens is a free six-session parenting program for parents of children or adolescents aged 11-19. This program will assist you with the skills to be better at talking with and understanding your teen and will show you how to help your teen develop their emotional intelligence. For more information call Centre 360 on 9331 2691

ACT1V8 - A MONTHLY PRIASE AND WORSHIP NIGHT

All welcome to Praise and Worship, April 5th. Act1v8 - a Monthly Praise and Worship night is starting in the Eastern Suburbs. Live Music with adoration and fellowship over Barista coffee. While It is open to all, it is a great chance to bring young people together so please spread the word and join us at 7pm OLA Parish centre. 31 Donovan Ave. For more information FB and instagram @EasternDeanerySydney OR easterndeaneysydney@gmail.com



WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass and take home one of our Welcome Packs to find out more about your new community.

Welcome Packs are available at the church entrance.

OUR PARISH

Paul Ghanem ofm - Parish Priest
Piotr Rzcudlo ofm & Francisco Basnayake ofm - Assistant Priests
Pax Scarf ofm, Phillip Miscamble ofm, David Leary ofm, Joseph Lu ofm - Friars in residence
Ruth Rawlinson - Parish Manager
Tanith Bryce & Dean Thill - Cantor & Organist, Edgecliff
Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne - Music Dir. & Organist Paddington
Nicole Smeulders - Cantor Paddington
Emma-Gai Gold - Safeguarding Support Officer
Nicole Harris - Principal, St Francis of Assisi Regional Primary School

WEEKLY SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Sunday: 7:30am, 11:00am & 5:30pm
8:45am at Double Bay

Monday: 7:00am
Tuesday: 7:00am Communion Service
5:30pm

Wednesday: 5:30pm
Thursday: 5:30pm
Friday: 7:00am
Baptisms: First Sunday of the month at 12.00 noon

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:30am & 10:00am

Monday: 9:00am
Tuesday: 9:00am Communion Service
Wednesday: 9:00am
Thursday: 9:00am
Friday: 9:00am
Baptisms: Third Sunday of the month at 11.30am

2019 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

All Sacraments are prepared and celebrated at St Francis, Paddington

First Reconciliation - Wednesday, 27 March at 6:00pm

First Holy Communion - Saturday, 22 June at 5:30pm

Confirmation - Thursday, 5 September at 6:00pm

Details of all prerequisites and mandatory preparation evenings are available under the "Sacraments" menu on the parish website, www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com, in the sacristy at Edgecliff or via the Parish Office. Ph: 9331 4043

We remember those in need of our prayers: our deceased, those in hospital, nursing homes, the homebound and defence force personnel.

Recently Deceased: Jalil Tanous, Brian O'Neill, Sr Margaret Armstrong, Rod Lappin, John Taylor, Janet Heath OSC, Paddy Ferguson, Thos McArdle, Brian Muir, Geoff Deegan, Matthew Walker. Carmen Duncan, Faye & Brian Anderson, Toney Mark Fitzgerald, Vivian Zhou, Angela Mitchell.

Mass Intentions: Aotearoa New Zealand, Sheila Freckmann-Dillon, Domenico & Nita Casamento, Dominica O'Reilly, Suzanne Johnston, Barbara McKay, John Corisy, Brian McCann, Margaret Kennedy, Margaret McCaffrey, Marie Toohey, Anette Angles, Patricia Upton, Carline Upjohn, Susan Griffith, Valerie McPhee, Mary Bray, Patricia Thomas, David Saw, Montilla Family, John McCue, Clara Gallucci, Rosarita Rosario, Hector Destro, Mary Healey, Bellanto Family, Magin Ballesteros, Michael Heffernan, Geoffrey Hughes, Orla Sheehy, Paul Quilligan, Katharina & Manfred Lemech, Iryneji Skira, Sean Killen, John Kelly, David Goodman, Terry O'Halloran, Carmen De Campos, Joyce, Bryan Digges, Maria Castillo, Suzie Slocumb, David Roderick, Sr Mary Hereward, Gaetano Carone, Ian Stewart, Rick & Penny Hing, Coneceição John, Carl Lahood, Francisco Correa, Frank & Lena Kaine, Herbert Graham, Jose Castelo, Luca Vitale, Mollie Windsor, Janice Hui, Teresa d'Souza, Holy Souls.



Archdiocese
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Franciscan Friars Australia



Archdiocese
Franciscan friars

@SydArchdiocese
@OZFranciscan



Parish
Archdiocese

www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com
www.sydneycatholic.org

Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

31 MARCH 2019

I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I AND II OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he

who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lk 15:32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life;

he was lost and is found.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy

and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

CELEBRATING THE MERCY OF GOD

Jesus tells the parable of the Lost Son as a defence against criticism of the welcome he gives 'tax collectors (social outcasts) and sinners' and his 'eating with them' — that is, his festive celebration with them of the mercy of God.

The parable powerfully depicts the dehumanisation of a young man who had callously requested his inheritance from his father and who subsequently squanders it. Reduced to wanting to eat what pigs eat — what could be worse for a Jew? — the young man 'comes to his senses'. This may be a painful moment of growth in self-knowledge. It does not, however, represent much of a conversion: he remains calculating: 'I can't go back as a son. But at least if I get in as a servant, I'll be clothed and fed'.

On his return, his father does not let him finish his prepared speech about coming back as a servant. Instead, overcome with compassion, he welcomes the boy and orders a big family celebration. Why? Because the son who was dead has come back to life; the lost one has been found.

The hostile reaction of the older brother is a key focus and challenge of the parable. We never in fact learn whether he goes in and shares in the music and dancing or whether he remains outside, locked in anger and resentment.

The parable seems to describe two kinds of sinfulness — and to suggest that one is much easier for God to deal with than the other? Is there perhaps a bit of both kinds in me?

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 9394 3400 Fax 02 9746 1140. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2019. No 390. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS. The story of the prodigal son confirms Jesus' words that there is great rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner. The joyful and lavish banquet prepared by the father to celebrate his son's return is a symbol of the heavenly banquet. In this story the older son cuts himself off from the banquet. Unable to forgive like his father, he chooses to stay outside in his own private hell. May we know the joy of forgiveness and the joy of forgiving.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 66:10-11

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

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Josh 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 33:2-7. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Cor 5:17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

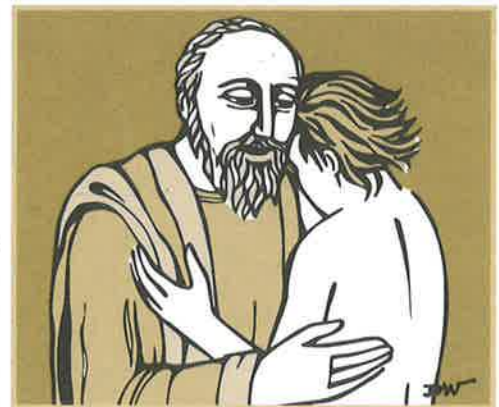
The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my father and tell him:



Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.