

Dear friends,

### WELCOMING A DEACON AND HIS WIFE

As I wrote in last weekend's message, Deacon George Bryan, married to Kaye, was ordained as a permanent deacon for our diocese a few years ago after retiring from a university role. George has had a great appointment serving in the vibrant parish of Blacktown with a special added commitment to pastoral care in mental health. George is ready for a next appointment and along with Kaye's support and her involvement where possible, is happy to come to us at OLOW with the benefit of it being much closer to their home. The usual understanding in the diocese is that permanent deacons give about ten hours a week of ministry time. George visited me at my workplace at the Institute for Mission last week for an initial 'get to know you' and role planning time. And once he now consults with Kaye, we'll put together a role description to guide his ministry contribution for OLOW and to respect the time boundaries needed for attention to their wider vocation and life as well.

### ABOUT DEACONS

For a long time in the western world, the ancient concept of ordained, married deacons tended to disappear. A 'permanent deacon' is a little distinct from a 'transitional deacon' who is also ordained but normally proceeds to then be ordained a priest. For me personally, my ordination as a deacon in 1992 remains significant because that was the time of making a public commitment. But it needs to be said that being ordained a deacon is a ministry with its own nature and integrity. It's not somehow meant to be 'a partial priest' which the transitional deacon idea on the way to priesthood can run the risk of suggesting to people! Bishop Bede Heather recovered the tradition of permanent deacons when the new diocese of Parramatta was established in the 1980s and so we have had a number of such deacons in the diocese. In fact four men, accompanied by their wives, were ordained by Bishop Vincent two Friday nights ago at Parramatta Cathedral; John Cinya and Margaret (appointed to Blacktown), Rocque Dias and Gemma (appointed to Baulkham Hills), Thong Nguyen and Chi (appointed to Marayong) and Roderick Pirota and Catherine (appointed to the Cathedral). Roderick is the brother of our parishioner Harold Pirota.

### EXTRA OPPORTUNITY - SCRIPTURE NOURISHMENT – CAR POOL?

The special 4 sessions of scripture reflection starting this week here in the parish got booked out in a flash! A few people have asked if there are any day time options. Yes! Starting this Friday 15<sup>th</sup> for 5 Friday sessions in a row (10am to 2pm and BYO lunch), some people might plan a car pool and come to the Institute for Mission (1-5 Marion St Blacktown, just off Flushcombe Rd next to Patrician Brothers College). **This series is part of faith formation for catechists**

#### PARISH TEAM

**Fr. Paul Roberts**  
Parish Priest

**Chris Rannaste**  
Parish Secretary

**John Cowen**  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Chairperson

**Jim Prendergast**  
Finance Committee  
Chairperson

#### CONTACT US

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**FR. PAUL'S BLOG:**  
[paulfromifm.org.au](http://paulfromifm.org.au)

#### MASS TIMES

**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday 6:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month**  
Filipino Mass 11:00 am

#### Weekday Masses

**Wednesday 9.15 am**  
**Thursday 8.15am &**  
**Friday 7.15am.**

**Children's Liturgy**  
During 9.30 am  
Mass on the  
1st & 3rd  
Sundays each  
month



## OUR LADY OF THE WAY

*What does the LORD require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God. MICAH 6:8*

**BUT** - has been opened up for any others to attend. You are welcome to come and enjoy the down to earth way Dr Laurie Woods will open up themes and understanding from the Gospel of Luke. Register ASAP via Maree on 02 8838 3486 (*Maree is from the diocese's agency called the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine that arranges support for the catechists and is welcoming others to enjoy this series at no cost. The director of the CCD is Cecilia who is an OLOW parishioner*). Happy week ahead.

**With friendship in God's mission, fr Paul**

**REST IN PEACE:** The funeral of Patricia Payne will be held at Our Lady of the Way on Monday 11th March at 10.30am. We extend our prayers and condolences to Patricia's husband Bernie and all her family and friends. God's peace be with you all at this sad time.

**PLENARY 2020:** Perhaps you were unable to attend the parish gathering and would like to give some positive feedback or suggestions on how we can make a difference in our parish future. Feedback can be given by emailing the parish at [emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org) with '**Parish Feedback and Thoughts Ahead**' in the subject heading or by phoning the parish office on 4735 1041 or alternatively, there will be a '**Parish Feedback and Thoughts Ahead**' box at the back of the church for your input.

**THANK YOU:** to everyone for your generous welcome and hospitality to our families beginning their Sacramental journey last weekend. Special thanks to our Scripture teachers who assisted with the children's activity in the hall.

**R.C.I.A Program:** This weekend the community offers our prayers and support to our RCIA Catechumens Justin, Kaylee, Georgia, Liam and Lily; and Candidates, Pamela & Charlene as they proceed to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election and Rite of Recognition. We ask that the prayers continue during Lent in this final preparation stage for full reception into our community at the Easter Vigil.

**EASTER CHOIR: Choir practice for Easter will commence on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome!**

#### SACRAMENTS

**Reconciliation:**  
Saturday 4.30 pm-5:30 pm  
**Baptisms:** By appointment  
**Weddings:** By appointment

**First Holy Communion and / or Confirmation**  
Please contact Parish Office  
olowpar@pnc.com.au or  
[emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)

**R.C.I.A :** The process for adults interested in becoming Catholic. Office: 4735 1041

**Please pray for Recently Deceased Patricia Payne and the Anniversaries of Arthur Cook and members of The Aaron Family, Irene & Chris Vandareitt & Anetta Toombs.**



**Please pray for those who are sick in our community:**  
*Grace Perry, Kevin Rose, Karen Gulliksen, Harry Beasley, Maddison Farrugia, Leone Kirton, Vicki Wells, Mark Simmonds, Max Scott, Anita Glynn, Libby Lawson, Paul Dalton, Bernie Payne, Shirley & Les Coburn, Graham & Christine Hall, Michelle Gardam, Melissa Reardon, Jacqui Walker, Mary Berkout, Patricia, Knoke, Brian Payne, Mervin McCaster, Marie Mahoney, Jeffrey Ridley, Habib Kaltoum Rahme, Michael Mercieca, Carmen Smith, (baby—Jordan Edwards) Moira Thomas, Joyce Dukes, Beryl Page, Frances Payne, Val Smith, Bernadette Dearie & Barbara Grant.*