

Dear friends,

FIRST RECONCILIATION – A LITTLE GIRL AND HER MUM

We celebrated this important step in many of our parish children’s faith this week and so let’s keep their parents in our prayers. Let me share a moment that happened for me earlier that evening while I was grabbing a couple of things I’d forgotten for the set-up of the celebration. A little girl (not one of the Reco kids) down the road was with her mum and recognised me. She called out across the road so I went over to meet the mum who’d not long knocked off from a busy but satisfying day at work that she shared about. Then the little girl piped up; ‘mum, why don’t you ever go to the church like so and so’s mum? (she named a friend). The mum indicated that she’d obviously ‘just been told’ by this daughter – and in case she felt a bit on the spot I tried to jump in and suggest to the little girl that what mum might most need after her busy day is a big cuddle from her daughter. I sensed such a goodness in that mum! I’m sure you also know those times when you meet someone briefly and something about them just strikes you as so genuine and good; someone you’d instantly trust. It was a simple little God moment in the street.

COMMUNITY ON THE BACKBURNER – A LENTEN POSSIBILITY

In terms of the little girl’s question, no doubt the many pieces of family life had been the focus - and somehow the idea of belonging in and commitment in the community of faith had gone on the backburner. I share that story not out of criticism. If anything, I sensed God’s loving presence in that mum and it was the brief moment of joy and friendship that I needed in the midst of my own hectic day. But I share it because, in terms of faith community belonging, that’s the reality for the majority of the families of the children who celebrated Reconciliation later that same evening. Let’s recognise how easily some helpful habits can be forgotten in any of our lives – the nourishment of the sacraments included. And one of the things people often need in order to be encouraged to befriend the sacraments; to build a meaningful belonging that finds nourishment and meaning; is people to accompany and befriend them, to invite them, to commit to them, to share coffee or a visit with them afterwards. In these last days of Lent, maybe some people come to mind to whom different ones of us could offer such accompaniment. Could we invite people to join us at a ceremony of holy week? Maybe some families could invite and meet another family at a common Mass time regularly, sit together and catch up afterwards?

OR WHAT ABOUT A CARD AND A FEW ENCOURAGING WORDS?

Who might know any of those beautiful First Reconciliation families? Maybe a first step of accompaniment is an unexpected congratulations card – to the parents thanking them for

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Paul Roberts
Parish Priest

Chris Rannaste
Parish Secretary

John Cowen
Parish Pastoral Council
Chairperson

Jim Prendergast
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FR. PAUL’S BLOG:
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MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am
3rd 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

their witness to faith by having guided their child in this step of the faith journey. Anyway, just some thoughts as we keep thinking of ways to share in God’s mission of the Good News today. Of course we don’t just seek to build the community for its own sake – but to keep building a vibrant, nourished, joy-filled people in active solidarity, to reach out and bless the world that God loves and cares about. Blessings for your final chapter of Lent.

With friendship in God’s mission, *Fr Paul*

COMMENTATOR AND READER’S ROSTER: To those involved in this important ministry, your new Roster is available in the Church foyer. Included is the Roster for the Easter ceremonies. Thank you to Marianne Castor for organising the Roster and all who have volunteered.

EASTER CHOIR: Choir practice for Easter has commenced. It’s not too late to come along!! The rehearsal dates are as follows:
Mon. 8th April; & **Mon. 15th April (please note the choir will be singing for the combined 2nd Rite of Reconciliation with St. Finbars on the Monday 15th April.)** at 7.30pm.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Devotions will be held at St. Nicholas of Myra Penrith commencing at 2.30apm on 28th April 2019 and will conclude with Mass at 6pm.

EASTER GIRLS CAMP @ MT SCHOENSTATT: For Girls Aged 10-13 (See Flyer on Noticeboard)
When: Thursday 25 April 2019 7pm—Saturday 27 April 7pm.
Where: “Home of Light 230 Fairlight Rd Mulgoa. **Cost:** \$95.00 **RSVP** Friday 11 April 2019.

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE *Bethlehem University in the Holy Land:* Tuesday 9th April - 7.30pm in the Parish hall. This event is supported by Our Lady of the Way and the Diocese’s Institute for Mission: Refreshments provided: Please contact Chris Welch for more information 0414 855 839 or see the Noticeboard situated in the Church foyer.

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

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

Please pray for **Recently Deceased Fr. Joe Tran.**



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 & Gregory Clare.