

Dear friends,

REMEMBER THE CARDS?

Remember not so long ago that we used a prayer card in the middle of Mass? The idea was to ask someone what he/she would like you to remember in your thoughts and prayers. Someone said to me that weekend; 'if I didn't speak to that person, I possibly would never have met her – and in fact I was so moved by what she shared!' That was just one of several significant comments I heard people make that weekend. And even though the card said we'd remember the person in prayer for 'a week or two', I noticed early the other morning that the card was still on my fridge. It gave me another chance to remember my person's name and remember them again in my prayer.

AND THE NAME?

Noticing the card again also prompted me to ask how many new names I've remembered in recent weeks. I admit that when I first came to the parish a few months ago I worked on remembering a lot of names in a hurry – but I then felt like I reached a bit of saturation. BUT – it's too easy to say that and I know I have to muster the energy again to review names learned and get a next batch of names into my head. This week I presided for a "founder's day" Mass at the largest Catholic High School in NSW. The school has over 1700 students! Before leaving back to work at Blacktown I had a catch up coffee with the principal. I'd noticed as we walked through the crowd that he used quite a few names and I told him how I noticed that. I learned that there are 160 teachers and 40 support staff there. And he'd made it a project to learn all their names in the first year, as he also began learning many student names. Pretty impressive effort and he's no spring chicken either.

IMAGINE

I was imagining what it would do to a parish if every one of us who belonged there, did in the parish community, about 20% of what he did with the staff of 200. That doesn't even account for the many extra names of the students that he learned – but if we copied a 20% portion of his staff statistic, that would mean each of us would learn and be able to use 40 new names of people in the parish in the next year. That's less than one per week. For most of us it might require jotting and regularly checking some notes with names and doing that mightn't be a familiar idea to some of us. But how amazing would it be to have a parish where just about everyone was consciously committed to meeting new people, by name, all the time? What do you think? Is it worth trying and promoting this idea? What if we cut that 20% figure to only 10%? That would mean just 20 new names, learned and remembered, over the next year – less than one per fortnight.



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

Thanks to God for people who get to know us – thanks to God for people who build community – thanks to God for next new possibilities.

With friendship in God's mission, fr Paul.

BLESSING WEEKEND: On this weekend we pray special blessing on the vocation of the parents guiding their children towards Eucharist. The parents "announce" their intention to guide their children towards Eucharist by way of a simple enrolment process at one of the Masses this weekend and the parish will affirm their announcement, offering our ongoing prayer support during this most important step in their family's faith journey.

Deacon George Bryan—will be available in the Parish Office on Thursday's from 1pm—5pm. George is very open if anyone needs to ***have a chat.***

Church Warden—a very important member of our parish organisation—who assists the smooth running of our Masses by way of collections and facilitating ministers for the Eucharistic procession. A special ***thank you*** to all those who have served for so many years in this ministry. ***A Church Warden is required for the 9.30am Mass, please consider volunteering and contact the Parish Office 4735 1041.***

Kindergarten enrolments are now being taken for 2020.

Enrolment packs can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our website at <http://www.olowemuplains.catholic.edu.au>. Ensure your child's place at Our Lady of the Way by completing and returning your enrolment forms as soon as possible. Once complete, please submit your application to the School Office. Enrolment interviews commence Week 1, Term 2 (29th April, 2019).

PASTORAL STATEMENT ON THE 2019 AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL ELECTION:

Copies of Bishop Vincent's pastoral statement—available in the church foyer.

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Paul Roberts
Parish Priest
George Bryan
Deacon
Chris Rannaste
Parish Secretary
John Cowen
Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson
Jim Prendergast
Finance Committee

CONTACT US

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FR. PAUL'S BLOG:
paulfromifm.org.au

MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am
3rd Sunday of the Month
Filipino Mass 1.00 pm

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

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 ***the Anniversaries of Lewis Zammit, Antonio Frago & Nita & Frank Lindsay.***



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.