

Dear friends,

Happy feast of Pentecost as the Easter season comes to a close. As we know, in the cycle of our worship, the weeks we now move into beyond the Easter season are named 'Ordinary Time'. We are called as a Christian people to live the assurance of - Jesus risen - in all the ordinary circumstances of our lives. In Australia 33 years ago, Pope – now called 'Saint' – John Paul II, talked of Easter being the norm of Christian life, even in all that's ordinary. And the sign of that, he suggested, is joy. Here's a little of his message, given in Adelaide in 1986:

*I have said before on another occasion: "In a true sense, joy is the keynote of the Christian message". As I said then, my wish is that the Christian message may bring joy to all who open their hearts to it: "joy to children, joy to parents, joy to families and to friends, joy to workers and scholars, joy to the sick and to the elderly, joy to all humanity". I now add: "joy - deep and lasting joy - to the people of Australia".....*

As he identified joy as this heart of the Good News that we are called to share with the world, John Paul II wasn't saying that life is all roses all the time! Here's a piece of that reality check:

*We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery - the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. "We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"*

More recently Pope Francis re-emphasised this core joy of us as people called to be and share joy with the world; with the creation that God made and loves. And Francis likewise said that joy doesn't mean that everyone's laughing all the time! Like John Paul, Francis is a realist. He speaks frequently of the remaining injustice in the world that's needing our human response. But he identifies joy with the quality exuded by people who know that Christ is risen and connected with all of creation. Francis encourages us that:

*"Every baptised person is called to transmit the divine gifts of peace and joy, thus continuing Jesus' saving mission in the world, each according to his or her own vocation."*

Pope Francis said this just a few weeks back as he addressed pilgrims in St Peter's Square. He was speaking of the mission of God in which we all share. May Pentecost this year be an encouragement in our place in that mission. May it be a real reassurance for us of God's love for us and desire to fill us with presence and grace – with God's very Spirit in us. May Pentecost spur us on to say our next YES to being God's joy for many in the mission of remarkable Good News!

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



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

**Bishop's Good Shepherds Appeal – OLOW Appeal weekend will be—15 & 16 June**

When God calls, will you help them answer? The Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is training 15 young men to be true shepherds of Christ's flock and future priests for the Diocese of Parramatta. Your gift to Parramatta Catholic Foundation will support our seminarians to prepare for the priesthood and a life of community service. Please give generously via the Bishop's Good Shepherds Appeal envelopes or online at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)

**A SPIRITUAL POT POURRI: Presented by Bishop Peter Ingham:**

At: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville.

When: July 5—July 7 Cost: \$300.00 Contact Mrs. Carla Walker. 8795 3400.

**Women in Leadership: 4 – 7 July**

The Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo invites women of any age and any experience in formal leadership positions, and for those who exercise leadership without a formal title in business, schools, homes, offices, parishes, anywhere to the Women in Leadership workshop. The aim is to support women to explore their unique gifts – as people, as women and as leaders. 4-7 July. 02 4236 0533 or [cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au](mailto:cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au) for more information.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MEETING:** A meeting with Fr Paul for all Ministers on Sunday 16th June at 10.45am in the Parish Hall.

**SRE teacher's :** Please note there will be a Catechist meeting on Monday 17th June at 9.30am. Envelope's for Scripture classes to be collected this weekend from the church foyer.

**ARE YOU COELIAC/GLUTEN INTOLERANT?** If you are – we have LOW GLUTEN hosts to enable you to receive The Body of Christ in communion. Please see Father or an Acolyte before Mass and they will arrange for the LOW GLUTEN host to be available for you.

**PARISH TEAM**

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

**CONTACT US**

**Parish Office**  
15 Troy Street,  
Emu Plains NSW 2750  
PO Box 27 Emu Plains  
Ph: 02 4735 1041  
Email  
olowpar@pnc.com.au OR  
emuplains@parra.catholic.org  
www.catholicparishemuplains.org.au

**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 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 4.45pm-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 Jan Gerlach and the Anniversaries of the Mercieca, Mula & Borg Families & Vincent O'Brien**



**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, Barbara*