

Dear friends,

DIOCESAN FORUM

Saturday of this weekend is (was) a Diocesan Forum called by Bishop Vincent and involving almost 300 representatives from across the diocese's parishes, schools, agencies and groups. With the bishop now three years into his leadership of the diocese he's been keen to take this significant step on a local level during the National Plenary 2020 process. You might recall that in February our parish had a Sunday feedback and sharing of ideas gathering attended by 70 people, following the small group consultations that had been held around the parish since last year. The Diocesan Forum at Parramatta is like a larger version of that. We had participation from Parish Pastoral Council as well as parishioners working in school leadership roles.

LOTS OF TIME

Good dialogue, discernment and consultation takes a lot of time and some people find it frustrating. As many will know from their own involvements, it's a hard balance to strike between doing such processes adequately and getting on with actions. But when hasty decisions are made by one or two only, almost always it's a case of others feeling left out of the thinking. How valuable it is when people welcome each other's participation. On the other hand, how easy it is to be invested in my own view and wonder why everyone else doesn't just see it the same way and get on with it! AND THEN, as I'm sure we've all seen, even after good consultation, when it is often the responsibility of a smaller group or leader to make a decision (whether in family, work or community), there will often still be tensions.

PRAYER

Our prayer for leadership in those various contexts of family, work and wider community is so important – prayer for its quality discernment - prayer for its care of those the leadership serves – prayer for the best involvement of the various players in conversation.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Our Church's tradition of Social Teaching has a principle called SUBSIDIARITY. Basically it means that we strive to give meaningful participation in authority and leadership to those who the activity or decision affects! That of course means that people are also to take on responsibility, otherwise it's a formula for armchair experts! Subsidiarity doesn't necessarily mean that everything can be decided by consensus. It does call us, however, to a depth and breadth of consultation and discernment rather than to quick opinions and presumptions. In a family, for example, 'subsidiarity' applies to the efforts to involve each member appropriately in the way the family operates. *Continued over page.*



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

In a workplace, it applies to looking at various levels authority and involvement in decisions – rather than a culture where everything happens from above. Its application to the church is very strong and calls us, in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, to co-responsibility.

Let's pray for our families – our workplaces and community groups – our diocese – and indeed for our parish – that the principle of subsidiarity can guide our shared involvement in an excellence of discernment and co-responsibility – a discernment and co-responsibility that continues to activate and reveal God's call in our context.

With friendship in God's mission, fr Paul

Fr Paul – 2 weeks leave – Weekend and Mid-Week times

Starting after this weekend, Fr Paul will be taking two weeks of annual leave both from his full time role with the Institute for Mission and from here in the Parish. We are fortunate to be able to welcome visiting priests Paul has lined up for the weekends. And we are fortunate that Deacon George has kindly agreed to visit mid-week to lead **Services of The Word and Holy Communion** at each of the normal mid-week Mass times.

LIGHT UP ST PATS 2019: 6-21 JULY

In conjunction with Parramatta Council's *Winterlight Festival*, St. Patricks Cathedral Parish, Parramatta is once again hosting the Light Up St. Pat's projections. St. Pat's warmly invites you to visit the Cathedral in this time to view these projections which centre on the theme of Hope. This event will continue till the 21st July.

SERVING AT THE ALTAR: *Ongoing Formation day for Adult Servers and Acolytes.*

Saturday 3rd August—9.30am with registration and concludes at 2.30pm at the Institute for Mission - 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown. RSVP 29TH July—Phone 9938 3456
Email: ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org Morning tea and lunch provided.

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

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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 4.45pm-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
R.C.I.A : The process for adults interested in becoming Catholic. Office: 4735 1041

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 Grant, Gregory Clare, William Simmonds, Judy Chesters, Maria Apap & Paul Cudmore.

