

**Dear friends,
Bishop's statement – and some remarks from fr Paul**

Bishop Vincent has a statement available in the foyer following the past week's coverage of the Cardinal George Pell abuse case appeal. Beyond that particular - and what might even be ongoing, high profile story - I've tried to reflect with you a number of times about the darkness that the people, who are the Church, are left to bear and carry as a result of historical clerical abuse and systemic dysfunction. I want to re-emphasise that I include my own solidarity with yours; solidarity in prayer and solidarity in any local action possible towards being a humble Church, open to valid criticism, keen to walk with and learn from people who have been abused – and/or people who have been marginalised from their Church or from their wider, rightful belonging and flourishing in the society.

Scrutiny of the clergy

As a priest I'm obviously a member of the 'institution of the clergy' that is in these years under the most intense public judgement and scrutiny of all time. Amidst the priesthood's historical evidence of vocational commitment and selflessness, some or much of which I trust will only be known in heaven, is also evidence of sin, crime, dysfunction and systemic mismanagement. And so, with a heavy heart over these years, I accept and encourage the scrutiny of the institution of the clergy. I don't want members of this community to feel that when they are around me they need to filter or minimise their reflections about any negative institutional elements of the clergy or Church that they have experienced or may continue to experience!

Mission – what is it?

In the briefest nutshell, God's mission is the flourishing of the world and all creation! It is for that mission, that purpose, that we are called to be God's Church. Our answer to the question: 'How are we bringing God's mission alive?' could begin by simply reflecting on what difference we are making in the world. Recently I've been reflecting with you about our missionary nature as a parish and have included a simple concept that I called a '**one for one**' parish. As well as speaking about it, I've written a few bulletin articles about it - but I was told this week that the idea has been misunderstood by some. I really apologise for that. Being a 'one for one' parish is simply a way of saying that for every bit of energy we give to building and maintaining our local needs in this parish place and property, that we'd also give energy outwards to growing God's blessings! We did it recently with the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. We did it by writing beautiful prayer messages to a grieving and traumatised community in Sri Lanka. We do it through generous parish catechists who say yes and give energy to go into State Schools each week. We're doing it through the decision of the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee of the Parish this week that we should find and subsidise some young faith leaders in the parish

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OUR LADY OF THE WAY
PARISH EMU PLAINS

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

to go to the Australian Catholic Youth Conference in Perth in December to be inspired to grow their faith and leadership.

Mission & The Missions!!!

Many of us might have grown up with the message that '**mission**' is what was often called '**the missions**' – places in distant lands that collections were taken up to support. But **mission** is about us all - and about how we live God's ways, God's blessings, God's difference. It might be across distant lands – or across the street – or across hearts. As Pope Francis said recently, each one of us is God's mission to bring alive some part of the Gospel today. Being a missionary parish means being alive to asking, as the norm of our faith: 'Lord, how do you want to activate us today as your blessing to make a difference in and for the world?'

With friendship in God's mission. fr Paul

REST IN PEACE PEARL LEVINGE : Pearl's funeral will be held at St. Nicholas of Myra on Tuesday 27th August at 11am. Our prayers and condolences are extended to son Geoffrey and family and all those who have known Pearl. God's peace be upon all at this sad time.

PLEANARY 2020: We have now entered the **second phase** - known as the Listening & Discernment phase. Working with the newly released National Themes for Discernment the Pastoral Planning Office is offering Plenary 2020 Information and Training Sessions which will explain how our Diocese is seeking to "**Go out into the Deep**". A training session will be held here in the **Parish Hall on Saturday 31 August 2.30pm–5.30pm.** **Everyone is welcome to attend!** Rsvp for catering Tanya Quinn tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org Ph. 88 38 3441 Contact the Parish office for other session venues, times and dates.



BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL: Providing care for our retired clergy, this appeal will be held next weekend 31st August and 1st September. Envelopes available in the church foyer.

BLESSING WEEKEND FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: *Welcome* to all the children and parents who have come to make commitment to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 19th September at 7pm. As a parish we make our commitment to them, to pray for and support them on their journey.

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: Recently Deceased Pearl Levinge

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), Joyce Dukes, Beryl Page, Frances Payne, Val Smith, Barbara Grant, Gregory Clare, William Simmonds, Judy Chesters, Maria Apap, Paul Cudmore, Angela Lonergan, Ken Skillicorn & Frank Cummins.

