



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 3rd—4th February, 2018

This Week

SUNDAY 4th Feb
 9am, 11am, 6pm Mass
 Baptism Welcome

MONDAY 5th Feb
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

TUESDAY 6th Feb
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

WEDNESDAY 7th Feb
 6.30pm Rosary
 7.00pm Mass

THURSDAY 8th Feb
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

FRIDAY 9th Feb
 8.30am Rosary
 9am Mass
 9.30am Divine Mercy

SATURDAY 10th Feb
 10.30am Reconciliation
 6pm Mass

SUNDAY 11th Feb
 9am, 11am, 6pm
 Baptism at 12.30pm

The Divine Touch

I recall that when Romania was liberated from Communist rule, the television showed heart-breaking scenes of malnourished children and young adolescents in orphanages.

Generally, they lay listless on their beds or simply rocked backwards and forwards: isolated, solitary in a crowded dormitory.

It soon emerged that these youngsters were suffering from what we might call 'touch deprivation'. No-one had ever cuddled them, placed a comforting hand on their shoulder, caressed them.

It was only when these things were done that they began to be healed, made human, brought to life because somebody said: 'Your body is precious, let me hug you'.

The persons who cuddled them were imitating Jesus in a profound and contemporary manner.

What was the situation in today's Gospel?

Jesus had just recruited Simon and his brother, Andrew, to follow him as an itinerant preacher roaming around the countryside and towns of Galilee.

They had abandoned the family business of fishing. When they paid a visit to Simon's home, they found Simon's mother-in-law sick in bed with such a fever she could be given up for dead.

We read that Jesus, learning about her distressed state, went to her and 'took her by the hand'.

'Took her by the hand' – our Lord broke the taboo which forbade physical contact between a woman and a male who is not an immediate relative.

Why? Because he knew what she needed. Not 'an aspirin and a good lie down', but she needed to be reassured that she was not quarantined, isolated from family and friends. In reaching out and taking her by the hand and lifting her up, Jesus not only cured a pa-

thology, but healed a dis-ease. She was ill at ease, feeling cut off from human society. Once healed, she got back to bustling around the house.

Almost certainly you have seen Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It has as its centrepiece the act of the creation of humanity.

It depicts two great hovering figures. God is stretching out his hand and just touching the outstretched hand of Adam. The Divine touch brings the earth-creature, 'Adam' in the Hebrew, into a humanised relationship with God.



Jesus, the Divine person in the midst of the mess of human history, stretched out his hand and took Peter's mother-in-law by her hand, restoring her to a fully human social life, a life of relationships.

How is the Divine touch to be made real today?

Through the companions of those orphans in Romania.

Through you,
 Through me.

He has no other way. You and I have to offer him our hands to reach out and heal.

We practise it symbolically at Mass at the greeting of Peace – and sometimes more than symbolically! There has been a bit of a fight in the family, some silly dispute which could fester. With a peck on the cheek or a half-embarrassed handshake along with 'Peace be with you', the isolating distance is overcome. We need to take that symbolic action out into the world.

Through your outstretched hand. Extending your hand can make someone more fully human. *You know* who needs that healing touch. *You know* who is within your reach.

Do it, and it may be the most touching thing you ever do.

In that person's life, it may be the touch of Heaven

by Fr Michael Tate.

Parish Calendar, News & Events

DIARY

9th Feb: Parish **BINGO** night at 7.30pm in the Annexe

10th Feb: First Profession of Karen Englebretsen

13th Feb: Shrove Tuesday—Senior's event

14th Feb: **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Masses are 9am & 7pm

23rd Feb: Stations of the Cross

20th Mar: Family Night for Reconciliation Candidates.

Well life is full of changes! You are just getting used to your new Parish Priest. Now we say goodbye to Father Jose who has been asked to live in our Templestowe community as he continues his Social Work Studies. Thanks Jose for your service of St.



Paul Apostle community. Now we welcome Father Pastor, a young Passionist priest from Tanzania who will join me and the parish team in serving you here. Please pray for us all as we move into or out of the community.



First Profession of Karen Englebretsen

We, the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, are very happy to invite parishioners to join us for Karen's First Profession at a celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday February 10th at 11.00am at St Paul Apostle Parish. Bishop Charles Drennan, from Karen's home Diocese in New Zealand will be our main celebrant. A private reception will follow.

Karen has been journeying with us since 2014 and here in Endeavour Hills since May 2015. Karen has chosen to make her commitment to God through taking vows in our Congregation and this is a great blessing for us. The practice of the Church is that Vows are initially for three years and then the person makes a final commitment. We ask you to pray for Karen and all the other young women in Vietnam, Botswana, Argentina and England who are journeying towards commitment and also our Passionist brothers who are in the early stages of their discernment journey.

There will be an opportunity after the Mass to congratulate Karen. She has asked that there be no gifts but if anyone wishes to make an offering towards our Missions it will be most appreciated. We will be welcoming some of Karen's friends from New Zealand and also two Sisters from our Congregational Leadership Team, Sr Eileen Fucito and Sr Marie McNeice and of course we are delighted that Sr Anne will be with us for the occasion.

Thank you all for your generous support over the years that we have been privileged to be with you here at St Paul Apostle Parish.

Blessings

Sisters of the Cross and Passion
Joan, Brigid & Karen

2018 SACRAMENT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN OUR PARISH

This year the children's sacrament program will start with First Reconciliation and First Communion. Last Thursday, we had the registration night for these two sacraments. If you wish your children to take part in this program and missed the registration night, please contact Didi or Sr Joan at the Parish Office to organise a meeting time. This is only for those in Grade 4 or above.

If your children do not attend Parish's School, they are also required to attend our After School Religious Education (ASRE)

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (ASRE)

is a program provided in our church for our children who attend non-Parish's schools. Classes run once a week, on **Tuesdays 4pm to 5pm**, during school terms. This year's classes will start on **Tuesday, 6th February at 4pm**. Registration forms are available from the Parish Office during Office hours. Cost is \$30/child (concession is available for any family with more than 1 child attending)

ASH WEDNESDAY

It seems only yesterday we celebrated Christmas, but the Lent season is already just around the corner, is a reminder that we have to be ready at all times. This year, Ash Wednesday is on **14th February** and we will have 2 masses on this day. One in the morning at **9am** and the other one is at our usual Wednesday evening at **7pm**.

PARISH BINGO

As the holiday over and the school begins their program, so is our parish activities.

Our Parish Bingo will start their round on **FRIDAY, 9th FEBRUARY at 7.30pm** in the Annexe. This activity is for anyone age 18 years and above. Contacts are: Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675, Denver 0403 315 443 or Joe 0419 385 441

SENIORS EVENTS-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2018

Tuesday, February 13th which is Shrove Tuesday we will do pancakes and a cuppa after the 9am Mass. Please indicate your interest in attending on the sign-up sheets.

Friday, March 16th: **Bunjil Place** are presenting 80 minutes of the Pirates of Penzance Musical at 11am with morning tea included. If we get more than 10 people we will get tickets for \$17.00. In a couple of weeks, we will be asking people who are interested to sign up.

LENTEN GROUP REFLECTION

We will be happy to arrange a weekly group reflection if we get sufficient interest. Please indicate on the sign-up sheets if you are interested in being part of a Lenten group

reflection. Thank you

Fr Kevin's corner

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

Praying for those who are sick in our community is one of the ways we show our care and concern. When we come to the Eucharist as a community we bring our concerns with us and pray for ourselves and others. We show the names of people who have requested prayers on the screen. However, we are never really sure how long a name should stay on the list. To help us be more responsive we need to take some names off from time to time. Please contact the office if we have removed the name of a person who still wishes to have the prayer of the community. For reasons of privacy, it is important that the person for whom we are asked to pray is happy for their name to go on the screen.

ROSTER 2018 are ready and we have emailed them all. If you have not given us any email address or if you have not received it in your email, please contact Parish office either by email or by phone.

THANK YOU FROM ANDREW CENTRE

To all at St Paul Apostle Catholic Church
How can I begin to express our gratitude once again for the beautiful hampers that you so generously made up for some of our most needy families. It brings such joy to every recipient and makes a potentially very sad time of the year into something worth celebrating and looking forward to. Thank you for the gifts and the careful and beautiful way every hamper is presented. They really are amazing! God bless all as you seek to serve and bless the Endeavour Hills community in God's name

*Yours sincerely,
Judy Martin (Andrew's Centre)*

As we say goodbye to summer holidays and organize ourselves for the work of the year, God's word today is very interesting. The Scripture readings show us three people who are reflecting deeply about life. Job is having a **bad day**. He asks himself "Why is life so hard? Why do we suffer?" I'm sure each of us has felt like that sometime. Perhaps the struggles of our life are God's hints to us. They invite us to go a bit deeper as we try to understand and make sense of our lives.

Then St. Paul writes to the community in Corinth. As he brings the "Good News" to them Paul supports himself by working as a tent-maker. He worries because the people in Corinth are often arguing and quarreling among themselves. Paul shares with them that he feels driven by the Spirit to preach to them. He hopes that their lives will become fired up with the love of God. His life is a struggle too, but deep down he finds joy because he knows this is what God wants him to do.

Jesus was busy forcing demons out of people's lives. The demons of sickness or the demons of fear or superstition or anxiety are challenged by Jesus. So he relieves the fever of Peter's mother-in-law. As word spreads, the whole town gathers round with the sick or those tormented by demons. Jesus healed all sorts of terrible diseases and forced out a lot of demons. Next morning, very early, Jesus got up and went to a place where he could be alone and pray.

So it seems that it is ok to sometimes feel a bit squashed by worry. It's ok to sometimes feel the pressure of our responsibilities. But it is **always important to build a safety valve**, a place of quiet where we can be still and get things back in perspective. We call it "**prayer**". Prayer is the chance to be quiet and hear God remind us: "*Be still and know that I am God*"

Kevin Lane cp.

Sunday Readings

THIS WEEK:

5th Sunday Ordinary Time Year B

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7;
1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23
Mk 1: 29-39

NEXT WEEK

6th Sunday Ordinary Time Year B

Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46;
1 Cor 10: 31-11:1
Mk 1: 40-45

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Elizabeth O'Toole, Brenda Solari, Sienna Hyland, Ponciano Cabrera, Devika, Jayanthi. Anjana, Clifford Lemillour; Li Tsu Lay, Emma Segovia, Lambert D'Silva, Marie Martin, Emily Martin, Frederick Quinless, All who need our prayers

For those who have died

Anne Payet, Peter Rongoni, Guiseppe Laria, Primo Tabuada, Martin Ujka, Maria Vu Thi On, Remi Lafamie, Paul Gatt, Margaret Neville, Domnic Parascandal, Jeannette de Jonk, Alex De Silva, Casimira Stana Leynes, Guiseppe Binanti, Maryse Quenette, Clifford Bensley, Hyacinth Anderson, Pier Rongoni, Gordon Gebbie, Adam Mitchener, Richard Petrus Wirian, Sylvia Knight, Ludivina Barba, Jean Savannah, Sebastiano Raccosta, John Almeida, Teresa Almeida, Christopher Wijesekera, Roslyn Bortignon, Jean Savannah, Marie Junkeer, Henny Budiman, Armando Clemente

May they rest in peace



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

Priests:

Fr Kevin Dance CP (PP)

Pastoral Associates:

Sr Joan Smith CP

Sr Brigid Murphy CP

Parish Staff:

Bursar: Gillian Velupillay

Secretary: Didi Karkas

Passionist Community

Fr Brian Gleeson CP (*leader*)

Fr Kevin Dance CP

Fr Jose Mathew CP

Fr Chris Mithen CP

Sisters of Cross and Passion

Sr Brigid Murphy CP

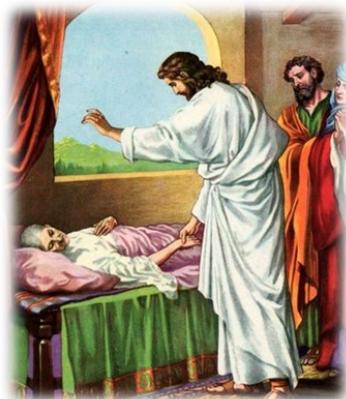
Sr Joan Smith CP

Karen Englebretsen

**St Paul Apostle
North Primary
School - 9700 6068**
Mrs Mary Lucas

**St Paul Apostle
South Primary
School - 9700 3663**
Principal
Mr. Paul Gleeson

**St John's Regional
College - 9791 3366**
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan



Roster for this weekend 3rd-4th February 2018 (1st Sunday)				
	6pm	9am	11am	6pm
Welcome	Judy Tarranto, Bettina D'Rozario Beryl Barnfield	Marina Nadarajah Rita Constanzo	Antoinette Gargano Damian Kearney	Julian Disanayake volunteer
Sacristan	Mark Rolfe	Denver De Rozairo	Yvonne Sherwin	Volunteer
Readers & Commtr	Kathleen Stewart Emily or Lindley Ah- Qune, Mary Pegram	Virendra Jayetileke Mary Moore	Rhonda <i>or</i> Michael O'Connor Geraldine Mutthumani Maximus Anthony	Aidan Del Socorro Pierre Mendonca
Gifts	Beryl Barnfield Helen Sanders	Margaret Magee Danny & Rose Sugunasekera	Shalet Mamachan Ashlyn Mamachan	Cecilia & James Stisnijovski
Communion	Gertrude Akom Jolene Stewart Jenny Satya Graha Denise Ritchie Jessica Satya Graha Jeremy Ferrao Karen Maillard	Sandra & David McGuire Esteban Morales Sig Romano Errie Gunawan, Pierre Marion Rosa Mitchell	Vianney & Alex Clark Louis Newman Crystal Jayamaha Antoinette Gargano Bryant Jayamaha Rinku Arora Jean Jansz	Pierre Mendonca Margaret Keating Tania Mendez Maureen Dawson Anne Kankanige Volunteer
Servers	Jocelyn, Jessica N Ananya, Joshua	Mark Harper, Joyen, Tara Luke	Calvin, Cassandra, Joaquin, Kiara	Lakni Schron Adrian
Roster for next weekend 10th—11th February 2018 (2nd Sunday)				
	6pm	9am	11am	6pm
Welcome	Sue Sharp Peter Miller Anne Peters	Siro De Rozairo Denver De Rozairo	Cecile Boissezon Tanis & Sharon Normington	Volunteers
Sacristan	Lien Phan	Anton Nadarajah	Volunteer	Nona Sangalang
Readers & Commtr	Natasha Noronha Denise Rodgers Reg Young	Medgee Gontram Marina Nadarajah	Yvonne Sherwin, Glen Johnson, Rinku Arora	Mignonne Meerwald Maureen Dawson
Gifts	Sujeeva & Tania Wick- ramaratne	Siro De Rozairo Denver De Rozairo	Yolaine Chaperon	
Communion	Marie-Claire Maillard Celine Quinless Denis Rice Grace Tyszka Neluska Sendapperuma Helen Sanders Kathleen Stewart	Siro & Denver De Rozairo Dharshi Alwis Aloma Perera Edna & Bernard Da- vid Anton Nadarajah	Anabela Costa Michael O'Connor Sai Dlinger Joseph Allas Josephine Khoshaba Daniella Thevanesan Binitha Mathews	Swineetha Disanayake Daniel & Marie Mas- set
Servers	Jocelyn, Avinda Andrew, Christopher	Mark Harper, Ashvika, Casey	Calvin, Cassandra, Joaquin, Kiara	Lakni Adrian
Cuppa	<i>4th Sunday of the month</i>			
Flowers	Church Prep	Communion to the sick (after 9am mass)	View Hills: - Friday 9th February Mass at Heatherton Rd care Crystal Jayamaha	
Riona Alveyn	Team 5 Herbert Family	Errie Gunawan		

Sacraments:

Baptism are held on the **1st & 2nd Sundays** of the month. Preparation is on the 3rd Sunday of the month. **Parish Office**

Marriages require 6 months notice to one of the priests, participation in a FOCUS marriage preparation program, or a CatholicCARE Course.

Anointing of the Sick is held during Mass on the 1st Friday of the Month at 9am. Before going to hospital for major surgery, why not ask one of the priests to pray with you and anoint you.

Children's Sacraments require full participation in the preparation phase.

Registration forms in the Parish Centre