



# St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

## One Family

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*Fifth Sunday of LENT Year B, 17th-18th March, 2018*

### This Week

**SUNDAY 18th Mar**  
 9am, 11am, 6pm Mass  
 Baptism Prep at 3.45pm

**MONDAY 19th Mar**  
 8.30am Rosary  
 9.00am Mass

**TUESDAY 20th Mar**  
 8.30am Rosary  
 9.00am Mass

**WEDNESDAY 21st Mar**  
 6.30pm Rosary  
 7.00pm Mass

**THURSDAY 22nd Mar**  
 8.30am Rosary  
 9.00am Mass

**FRIDAY 23rd Mar**  
 8.30am Rosary  
 9am Mass  
 9.30am Divine Mercy

**SATURDAY 24th Mar**  
 10.30am Reconciliation  
 6pm Mass

**SUNDAY 25th Mar**  
**PALM SUNDAY of the**  
**PASSION of the LORD**  
 9am, 11am, 6pm  
 Baptism Welcome

*Year of Youth*  
*Open new horizons for*  
*spreading joy*

### *letting go .....*

If ever you get the chance to travel to Turkey make sure you go to the Roman ruins at Ephesus. The trip is instructive for all sorts of reasons, not least because two thousand years ago Ephesus was a seaport and now you have to drive inland for over an hour to get there. I wonder what our cities will look like in another two thousand years? But Ephesus is worth the trip. The Roman ruins there, especially the library, are extraordinary. For Christians, however, three other places there capture the imagination. It's the place to which the great letter in the New Testament was addressed. There are the ruins of the hall in which the important Council of Ephesus met, and there are ruins of a monastery built over what is claimed to be the final home of St John, the Beloved Disciple. There is also the much more dubious claim that Mary's final house, and the site of her Assumption, is on top of the mountain overlooking the ancient city.

There are good reasons to believe that the Gospel of John, from which we have just read, was written in Ephesus, 70 years after Jesus' death. I like to think about the context in which the Scriptures were written, not just because it helps me understand some things in the text, but also to appreciate that our Scriptures were inspired by the experience of a flesh and blood community. Ephesus was a centre of learning, trade, government and religion in the ancient world. We also know that the early Christians were greatly persecuted and martyred there. The early church was filled with stories of betrayal, torture, death and heroic witness to the faith. The stakes for believing in Jesus were very high. And it was the heroic witness of these martyrs that eventually led to the conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity. It should come as no sur-

prise to us then that John's Gospel should have a special focus on sharing in the sufferings of Jesus and the glory to come. The words of Jesus in today's Gospel must have been very important to a community that was awash with the blood of their fellow believers. Our foremothers and forefathers in the faith counted themselves blessed to die as Jesus died, alive in the faith of God's love for the world. Just imagine how that community of martyrs first heard these words, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.' By comparison we have it easy today, but martyrdom comes to all believers in different ways. In the broadest sense a martyr is one who is prepared to pay the price for holding true to Christ. For us now this might mean making serious choices about the company we keep, the business ventures we enter into, the non-violent protests we mount, foregoing luxuries so that others in our world might have necessities, and even remaining faithful to the vows and promises we have made. Christian faith sometimes bites hard, and when it does we know we are sharing in the martyr's lot. And what should be our response when our faith in Christ costs us something big? Jesus models it for us in today's Gospel, '...what should I say? "Father, save me from this hour." No, it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.'

May this final week of Lent, then, see this flesh and blood community be like our forebears in Ephesus and actively seek out ways of sharing in the martyr's lot by letting go of what is not essential and focusing on the One who loved us to the end.

*by Richard Leonard SJ*

# Parish Calendar, News & Events

## DIARY

- 20th Mar:** Family Night for Reconciliation Candidates  
**20th Mar:** LENTEN REFLECTION at 7.30pm  
**21st Mar:** Come Away Day at Holy Cross  
**22nd Mar:** Child Safety Committee Meeting 7.30pm  
**23rd Mar:** Practice for Good Friday's Station of the Cross at 4.00pm  
**23rd Mar:** Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm  
**24/25 Mar:** Presentation weekend for First Reconciliation candidates  
**25th Mar:** Palm Sunday  
**27th Mar:** Reconciliation Service 7.30pm  
**29th Mar:** **Holy Thursday**  
7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
**30th Mar:** **Good Friday:**  
10am Station of the Cross  
3pm Solemn Commemoration of the Passion  
7pm Prayer at the foot of the Cross  
**31st Mar:** **Easter Vigil** at 7.30pm  
**1st Apr:** **Easter Sunday:** 9am & 11am Masses



### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGY

**SIGN UP SHEETS:** Please sign up for the liturgies you are available to be involved in this weekend so that by next weekend we are well prepared and everyone knows for which liturgy they are needed.

### GOOD FRIDAY'S STATION OF THE

**CROSS** will be lead by Parish Young people. The practice will take place on **FRIDAY at 4.00pm in the CHURCH**. All young people in the parish are invited to take part. Please come to the practice.



### FAMILY NIGHT FOR RECONCILIATION CHILDREN

is on **TUESDAY, 20th March at 7pm** in the church. If you have registered your children for this sacrament this year, you have to attend this family night with your child. Sign in start at 6.45pm.

**COME AWAY DAY.** Please consider a day of quiet on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Holy Cross Retreat Centre 10am-3pm. It is only 35 minutes away and is a tranquil space to renew the spirit.

**CHILD SAFETY COMMITTEE:** The Parish now has a team of people who have done the training on Child Safety delivered last year by the Archdiocese. Our task is to make sure that we have a child friendly and safe environment when children are in our care and this includes the Tennis and the Netball clubs who operate under the name of the Parish. There will be a meeting of this small group on **Tuesday March 22nd at 7.30pm**. Watch this space for more information. The Conference of Bishops have now established an independent company called Catholic Professional Standards Agency Ltd. (CPSL) The staff and the Board of Directors are now in place and there are no clergy involved at that level. Their task will be to establish practices for ensuring standards and audits are in place. It will oversee practices for children and vulnerable

adults. The Royal Commission has made over 180 recommendations. More information to follow.

### LENTEN FAST FOR CREATION CALENDAR

#### WEEK OF APPRECIATING NATURE

**19th Mar: Celebrate the new way.** For the Easter holiday, plan an outing in nature to rejoice in creation rather than consumption.

**20th Mar: Meditate on the gift of creation.** Take a walk outdoors, contemplate the plants in your home or simply close your eyes and focus on the feeling of sun and wind on your skin.

**21st Mar: Capture your joy in creation.** Start a daily or weekly journal or photography project to reflect on how creation strengthens your spirit, how you see it changing, and how you will protect it.

**22nd Mar: Help others connect.**

**23rd Mar: Sing.** Song that praise the goodness of creation can help connect with the joy of the creator.

**24th Mar: Pledge to care for creation.** Pledge to pray, act, and advocate for creation. Learn more at [LiveLaudatoSi.org](http://LiveLaudatoSi.org).

**WALK FOR JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES** will take place on

**Palm Sunday March 25th starting at 2pm**

from the State Library. There will be talks by faith leaders, from refugees, Tim Costello, a prominent leader, who has recently visited Manus Island. Before the walk there is a Prayer Service in **St Patrick's Cathedral at 1pm** and then as a Catholic Community we will join the walk at the State Library. This is a great way to witness to faith at the beginning of Holy Week.



### PROJECT COMPASSION

*A Just Future starts with Community*

#### **Ditosa from Mozambique**

Ditosa is a young girl from Mozambique who hopes to go to university and become a police officer. Featured in Project Compassion 2013, Ditosa faced a challenging future with food scarcity, little education and few job prospects. Cared for by her grandmother and aunt, after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses, they also lost their home and livelihoods in severe flooding.

Thanks to the support of Project Compassion, Caritas Australia and Caritas Regional Chokwe (CRC) helped Ditosa's family to build a new house and assisted with transport fees, school materials and fees, to help Ditosa to stay at school.

Ditosa attended the Matuba Children's Centre (set up by Caritas in 2007) which provides vulnerable children, like Ditosa, with lunch, study help, and computer and income-generating skills training. In 2018, Ditosa has graduated from school and is ambitious for the future.

"Without the support of the people from Australia and Caritas I would not have been given this opportunity to continue my schooling."

Ditosa dreams of going to university to continue studying and secure an even brighter future.

*I love to learn and want to be a police woman. Education is important in my life but I know that university is expensive, so if I can't go to the police academy I want to learn commercial science so that I can work in a bank."*Ditosa

### PRAYER FOR LENT WEEK V:

Loving God, you gave us the gift of life and the gift of freedom. Enlighten our faith so that we can receive the call to live the mys-

tery that surrounds and discern your will. Amen

**WORKING BEE and PALMS**

Time flies, in a couple of weeks we will be in Holy Week which starts with PALM SUNDAY. Our church garden is growing and needs some tidy up before that. We are hoping to have a **WORKING BEE** on **SATURDAY, 24 MARCH** between **9.30am to 11.30am**. If you are able to help, please come with your garden tools. We need as many volunteers as possible. **AND** If you have **PALM branches** (big or small) please bring them on the same day so we can use them for church set up.

**THE PARISH ANNEXE**

When Fr Tim moved to Marrickville, a suggestion was made that we name our annexe after him, in recognition of his contribution to our parish and the driving force he was in the renovation of the annexe.



The idea was enthusiastically received and after consultation with some of our parish groups and parishioners, we would like to call our annexe the 'Tim O'Toole Annexe' It is propose to have a blessing and dedication of the annexe on Sunday 8th April at midday with tea and coffee provided for those wishing to stay and chat—or—you might like to bring along a picnic lunch. Feedback is welcome (either verbally or by e-mail) on this proposal

**A thank you from Bishop Charles Drennan Bishop of Palmerston North, New Zealand.**

Dear Sisters, Just a brief note of thanks for inviting me to share in the great privilege of witnessing your vows Karen. It was a wonderful celebration in a vibrant parish whose heart has been nourished by you all. I felt very much at home among you all. Please pass my thanks too to the parishioners of St Paul Apostle Parish-what a great young music group! Best wishes to you all and please keep me in your prayers.



Charles

**Fr Kevin's corner**

We are drawing close to the centre of our faith in the Sacred Triduum of Easter. God's word to us this week suggests God is at work in our lives to make all things new. But we must cooperate. Jeremiah tells us that religion is meant to be more than a duty which is often tired and boring. It is an *adventure* to help us find the energy of God moving in our lives. God is making a new promise, a new covenant. This time it's not written on stone tablets but on our hearts. Do I really believe what God says: "*You will be my people and I will be your God*"?

When I step into the church do I let myself be touched by God's word - a word that is fresh this moment? Or is it just old words that don't connect with what is happening in my life, or in the world right now?

This new covenant Jeremiah talks of becomes clear in the arrival of Jesus, God with us. His gift was a life of extravagant love. He came to free us from all that makes us terrified or tired, afraid or guilty. He shared himself with anyone willing to accept his friendship. He reached out to beggars, lepers, sinners, misfits. Today He asks us to reach out to people who are pushed out by people's prejudice or cruel policies that lock up people fleeing danger and seeking a place of safety and asylum. Christ's love is offered to people whose relationships have been broken, through divorce or cruelty or unfaithfulness. His offers his love to people who are condemned because of their sexual orientation or because they are a bit different.

So we are challenged to believe that, in the midst of so many problems in the world today, God is still doing a new thing. People look at Jesus and still find the courage and the grace to treat each other with more respect. Jesus' teaching calls us to act in solidarity with the people among us who are vulnerable.

As we approach Holy Week we see a very human Jesus who struggles to be obedient to God and his mission. In Jesus' Passion we see a God who never tires of the heartbroken or those who fail. He always gives us a second or even a third chance! In the gospel, some Greek pilgrims come to Philip and ask, 'We want to see Jesus.' They saw something hidden in this man that attracts them. It was his incredible love for all. But how can people see Jesus in the midst of all the noise and pressure and commercialism that makes up the world now? Surely it will only be through the actions and signs of people who love like Jesus does.

When Jesus thinks of his death, he gives us a simple image: 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.' Anyone who clings selfishly to life will lose it; anyone willing to surrender it generously generates more life. If I live just for myself, or my money, success or security, it will surely be a pretty shallow and empty life.

Back in February 2004 Sr. Dorothy Stang, who for more than 30 years lived among the poor people in Brazil's Amazon rainforest and defended their land rights, was gunned down on a lonely road. She was reading the words 'Unless the grain of wheat dies'. *The love that gives itself is the love that gives life.*

*Kyomi Danee cp.*

**Sunday Readings**

**THIS WEEK:**

**5th Sunday of LENT Year B**

Jer 31: 31-34

Heb 5: 7-9

Jn 12: 20-33

**NEXT WEEK**

**PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD Year B**

Is 50: 4-7

Phil 2: 6-11

Mk 14: 1-15: 47

[www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

**This weekend we pray for:**

*Those who are sick*

Jeffrey Hall, Donald MacLeod, Elizabeth O'Toole, Brenda Solari, Maud Quinn, Sienna Hyland, Ponciano Cabrera, Devika, Jayanthi. Clifford Lemillour; Li Tsu Lay, Emma Segovia, Lambert D'Silva, Marie Martin, Emily Martin, Pat Garrard, All who need our prayers



*For those who have died*

Joseph D'Argent, Archie Lazarus, Philip Martin, Carmela Sant Vella, Stephen D'Souza, Pat Guinan, Juan Colombo, Therese Jordan, Maria Radgticchio, Emilio Di Paolo, Oi Sing Lay, Matias Jover Snr., Bernadette Dizon, Joseph Allegany, Mary Micallef, Andrew Fowler, Lorenzo Roussetty, Nonie Wilson, Vincenzo Calonica, Rita Sultana, Joseph Zerafa, Leoncio C Bollozos, Patrice Bonhomme, Maria Levy, Bertha Francisco, Fernando Concepcion, Violet Pereira, Lachlan De Abrew, Winifred Junkeer, Douglas Alexo, Lester Bower, William Bower, Ester Yu, Eduardo Leynes, Kenneth Rajakariar, Sylvia De Abrew, Amelia Valleri, Rosa Murgana, Rocco Tropeano, Marcelina Tambalgue, Anne McLaren, Chulani Tillerkeratne, Brian O'Higgins, William Bower, Firas Basil

*May they rest in peace*



## St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

### Priests:

Fr Kevin Dance CP (PP)  
Fr Pastor Mumburi CP

### 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 Chris Mithen CP  
Fr Pastor Mumburi CP

### Sisters of Cross and Passion

Sr Brigid Murphy CP  
Sr Joan Smith CP  
Sr. Karen Englebretsen CP

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 17th-18th March 2018 (3rd Sunday)				
	6pm	9am	11am	6pm
<b>Welcome</b>	Lien Phan, Carlos & Sylvia Fernandes	David & Sandra McGuire, Carolyn Tinney	Marie Allas Jean Jansz	Volunteers
<b>Sacristan</b>	Peter Miller	Sandra & David McGuire	Antoinette Gargano	Mignonne Meerwald
<b>Readers &amp; Commtrrs</b>	Jessica Satya Graha Karen Rolfe Liseby Lapierre	Rosa Mitchell Bernie O' Hara (Comm only)	Anne Astin Dianne Allegany Jerry Sementhy	William Roncon
<b>Gifts</b>	Gertrude Akom Emmanuel Jeganathan	Lionel & Dharshi Alwis Sabina Chitaranjan	Marie Nelson Hanan Matty	Cecilia & James Stijni- jovski
<b>Communion</b>	Paul Negri Michelle Boissezon, Lionel & Riona Alvey Naisha Pande Nina Pande, Mark Rolfe	Paul Smith Danny O' Hara , Mary Moore, Peter van Helmond Ernie & Wilma San Giorgio	Glen Johnson Damian Kearney Rhonda O'Connor Christine Gaiardo Meagan O'Connor Shaniah Pereira Sharon Normington	Mignonne Meerwald Eugene Rebeiro Swineetha Disanayake Margaret Keating Daniel Maset Volunteer
<b>Servers</b>	Brodie, Christopher Ananya, Avinda,	Mark Harper, Joyen, Tara	Calvin, Cassandra, Joaquin, Kiara	Lakni Adrian, Schron
Roster for next weekend 24th-25th March 2018 (4th Sunday)				
	6pm	9am	11am	6pm
<b>Welcome</b>	Carmeline Don Paul Denise Richie, Trevor Saldanha	Anne Peters, Danny & Rose Sugunasekera	Anabela Costa Yvonne Sherwin	Julian Disanayake with volunteers
<b>Sacristan</b>	Lien Phan	Ernie San Giorgio	Yvonne Sherwin	Volunteers
<b>Readers &amp; Commtrrs</b>	Mark Rolfe Liz Flood Nick Dimitrakas	Milroy Martyn Patricia Shaw Dennis	Florence Madeira Meagan O'Connor	Marg Keating Max Quirin
<b>Gifts</b>	Christine Cachia Inez Caruana	Glenn & Romaine Todd Shami Denham	Dilinger Family	
<b>Communion</b>	Steven Herbert Bridgette Herbert, Lien Phan Dominica Arena, Karen Rolfe,	Fred Hall Marina Nadarajah Anne Peters Elaine Gillett Glenn Todd Ayomi Fernandez	Yvonne Sherwin Christine White Geraldine Mutthumani, Ging Calixto, George Jornt, Shaniah Pereira Maretta Dunlop	Aidan Del Socorro Roland Mathias Nona Sangalang Gabby Catania Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Volunteer
<b>Servers</b>	Jocelyn, Christopher, Avinda, Joshua	Ashvika, Tara, Joyen	Calvin, Cassandra, Joaquin, Kiara	Lakni Adrian
<b>Cuppa</b>	Carlos & Sylvia Fer- nandes	Alvita Dias, Regina Thurairatnam Bealiah Wemyss	Antoinette Gargano Berta Pereira	
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Church Prep</b>  Team 5 Herbert Family	<b>Communion to the sick</b> (after 9am Mass)  Patricia Shaw-Dennis	<b>View Hills: - Friday 6th April Communion Service</b> Christine Kennedy, Geraldine Lorenz Ging Calixto, Ralph Martyn	



### 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 FOCCUS 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**