



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Second Sunday of LENT Year B, 24th—25th February, 2018

This Week

SUNDAY 25th Feb
 9am, 11am, 6pm Mass
 Baptism Welcome

MONDAY 26th Feb
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

TUESDAY 27th Feb
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

WEDNESDAY 28th Feb
 6.30pm Rosary
 7.00pm Mass

THURSDAY 1st Mar
 8.30am Rosary
 9.00am Mass

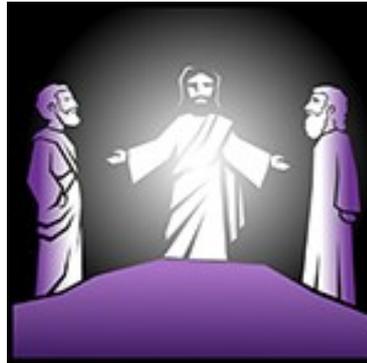
FRIDAY 2nd Mar
 8.30am Rosary
 9am Mass
 9.30am Divine Mercy

SATURDAY 3rd Mar
 10.30am Reconciliation
 6pm Mass

SUNDAY 4th Mar
 9am, 11am, 6pm
 Baptism at 12.30pm

Transfigured Body-souls

I saw an advertisement in the local paper a while ago, announcing the annual ‘Mind-Body-Soul Expo’ – Tarot cards, palm readings, crystals, etc etc. I went once to have a sticky beak. Amongst the stands was a lady who offered to take a photograph of one’s ‘aura’, the glow which apparently can be perceived surrounding a person. Using, I think, an infrared camera, she would photograph one’s head and hues of various colours would be revealed. Of course, it was just heat from the skull, but she confidently interpreted the aura as revealing one’s true personality. Of course it was nonsense, but it was on the border of a truth, the truth in today’s Gospel. Who Jesus of Nazareth *is*, his true personality, is revealed at the same time that his body is transfigured with Divine Light: ‘This is my beloved Son’. That is who he is, confirmed whilst his body radiates the *aura* of Divine Love.



This was not a solitary mystical experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it, partly because it was meant to reassure them when the trauma of the crucifixion occurred. Surely the Heavenly Father of Jesus would not allow his beloved Son to be conquered by death? But there was more. The transfiguration of Jesus shows what happens with a human nature in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. That is the destiny desired by God for us as we share in the life of our Lord’s resurrected humanity. St Thomas Aquinas famously said: ‘If only my soul is saved, *I* am not saved.’ I am a human being, a body-soul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthly needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light. But is this a far distant prospect? Is it possible to anticipate or prefigure that destiny in our bodies now?

We read of St Francis of Assisi, or Padre Pio, being so devoted to the crucified Jesus that the intensity of their devotion was rewarded with their bodies exhibiting the wounds of the crucifixion . . .

the ‘stigmata’.

Could a person share in the transfiguration experience of Christ, exhibiting that phenomenon in his or her own body?

Which gives me my opportunity to recount my favourite story of the life of a saint. *

A disciple of St Seraphim of Sarov recounts this story. St Seraphim is talking to him as they are standing in a snow-covered field.

“Why then, my friend, do you not look me straight in the face? Look freely and without fear; the Lord is with us.”

The disciple reports: ‘Encouraged by these words, I looked and was seized by holy fear. Imagine in the middle of the sun, dazzling in the brilliance of its noontide rays, the face of the man who is speaking to you. You can see the movement of his lips, the changing expression of his eyes, you can hear his voice, you can feel his hands holding you by the shoulders, but you can see neither his hands nor his body – nothing except the blaze of

light which shines around, lighting up with its brilliance the snow-covered meadow, and the snowflakes which continue to fall unceasingly.’

“What do you feel?” asked Father Seraphim.

“An immeasurable well-being,” I replied.

“But what sort of well-being? What exactly?”

“I feel”, I replied, “such calm, such peace in my soul, that I can find no words to express it.”

“My friend, it is the peace our Lord spoke of when he said to his disciples: ‘My peace I give to you,’ the peace which the world cannot give; ‘the peace which passes all understanding.’ What else do you feel?”

“Infinite joy in my heart.”

My dear friends, that is the promise our Heavenly Father makes to you and to me, personally and individually.

You and I *can* be, and with God’s grace *will* be, body-souls radiant with Divine Light, translucent to Divine Glory, filled with ‘immeasurable well-being’, ‘infinite joy in our hearts’.

**Conversation of St Seraphim on the End of the Christian Life in The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church by Vladimir Lossky, St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, New York 1976*

by Fr Michael Tate



Parish Calendar, News & Events

DIARY

28th Feb: LENTEN REFLECTION at 7.30pm
2nd Mar: World Day of Prayer 10am,
2nd Mar: Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm
8th Mar: International Women's Day
20th Mar: Family Night for Reconciliation Candidates.

LENTEN REFLECTION will be continuing on **WEDNESDAY EVENING of 28th February** at 7.30pm in the Prayer Room. No problem if you missed the first week, please come along and join in this reflection evening during this Lent.

SENIORS EVENTS-MARCH 2018

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. Please sign up if you would like to be included and indicate if you need a lift.

MUSIC AT THE MONASTERY (at Holy Cross)

This is a fundraising for the Passionist Mission in Vanimo PNG supporting disabled children. On **SATURDAY, 3rd March 2018 from 6pm at HOLY CROSS MONASTERY** (Serpells Rd, Templestowe) Tickets are \$20pp (adult) \$30 per family or Donation. Fr Chris Monaghan and his Journey-men group will perform at this event.

PROJECT COMPASSION

A Just Future starts with Community

Rattanak from Cambodia

Rattanak is a skilled young barber, living an independent life in rural Cambodia. But it wasn't always that way. As a child he contracted polio and also became deaf. Like many people who are deaf or hard of hearing, Rattanak faced isolation at home, with a lack of opportunity to escape poverty.

His sister discovered the Deaf Development Program (DDP), run by Caritas Australia partner, Maryknoll Cambodia. It provides sign language, job training and interpreting services to people aged 16 and over who are deaf or hard of hearing and aims to raise awareness about deafness in the hearing community.

So far, it's helped over 430 deaf or hard of hearing people with their education and more than 200 people to find jobs. It has also trained more than 300 people without deafness as sign language interpreters

Rattanak graduated from its education program in 2010, returning the following year to train as a barber. The DDP then helped him to set up his shop in his parent's house in the village.

Having emerged from his isolated world at home, Rattanak is now running a successful business, supporting himself and his wife...and now a baby.

We are very proud of him. It can show to other people in other countries that deaf people with a disability can do



anything." DDP Co-Director, Sokly

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, 2nd March will be held at St James' Anglican Church (Langhorne St, Dandenong) at 10am. Please contact Jolene Stewart who is our representative on the organising committee.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, March 8th

Theme of UN Australian Committee for Women.

'Leave no woman behind

Together we can empower women across the globe'

The JPIC group would like to invite you all **women and men** in our Parish community to join us for a reflection evening to celebrate **International Women's Day on March 8th at 7.30pm.** This will be held in the Church and will take the form of a short prayer service, conversation around the needs of women in so many parts of the world especially rural women who make up a quarter of the world population. It will be followed by a social time with conversation over cheese and wine! If we are to influence change, we need **women and men** to be working together for the common good of the whole human family. Please come along, bring a friend and a small plate. **All welcome.**

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

FOODBANK. This weekend we invite you to contribute towards the supply of eggs for the Foodbank. This being the main source of protein for those who have need of the foodbank. We have received letters of thanks every time we contribute and we know they really appreciate our support. You will see members of the JPIC group at the doors in the foyer and the gathering space as you leave Church. Please give what you can.

LENTEN FAST FOR CREATION CALENDAR

FOOD WEEK

26 Feb: Nurture nature in your garden. Avoid chemicals, which do grave long-term harm to the soil and waters

27 Feb: Try Organic. Which is produced without the most harmful pesticides and fertilizers

28 Feb: Choose Compassion. All God's creation deserves respect. Choose meat, eggs and dairy that were farmed ethically and sustainably,

1 Mar: Eat Local and Native. Native foods will preserve the web of life in a local area. These foods will also support smaller-scale farmers

2 Mar: Eat Less Meat. Renew our tradition which includes a weekly day without meat to help protect the earth from the massive greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation.

3Mar: Compost Food Waste. Compost at home and in your parish to strengthen the soil and sequester greenhouse gas.

PRAYER FOR LENT WEEK II

Gracious God, in this season of Lent we listen attentively to your word. We ask you to bless us with your gifts of discern-

ment, wisdom and good counsel. Liberate us from all our fears and worries. Eternal source of light shine in our hearts. May we always be the body of Christ blessed, broken and given to a world hungry for your truth, compassion, mercy and justice. (more Lenten material can be found on website: www.cam.org.au/evangelisation)

AN INVITATION TO CONSIDER SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Fr Pastor, our new assistant priest is a trained Spiritual Director and has offered to accompany several parishioners in their spiritual journey this year.

Spiritual Direction is a unique ministry of pastoral guidance between an experienced and trusted person trained in the art of helping a fellow pilgrim who seeks to grow in intimacy with God and to live in right relationship with others.

The agreement between them involves regular meetings, remuneration for service, absolute confidentiality, the maintenance of professional boundaries, and the freedom of either party to terminate the relationship.

Spiritual Direction is neither psychotherapy nor a pious exercise. Rather it is for those who take their inner life seriously and those who are willing to reflect on their life's calling, direction, or ministry.

To arrange an appointment with Fr Pastor to discuss your suitability, readiness, or to learn more about the process of accompaniment, please contact him at the parish office or after Mass.

CYRENE CENTRE

The Cyrene Centre works with the local community to assist in dealing with the harmful effects of alcohol and other drug use. Next weekend we will have a third collection for their annual fundraising to support the works they do in the community.

Fr Kevin's corner

"There is their presence he was transfigured."

Stand on a ladder and you see a bit further into the distance. Fly in a helicopter and you see the whole city and the country round about at the same time. The higher you climb the mountain, the farther you can see. I guess that's why God often led people up a mountain in the Scriptures. Today, Jesus goes up and takes three of his disciples with him to the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter, James and John are the same three that Jesus will ask to go with him into the Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden of struggle and pain as he faces his fear of death, as he asks himself does he really love us that much! They will be privileged to see his enormous struggle to be faithful to what he has said during his life.

Where I worked in Papua New Guinea, only a thin veil separates the spirit world from the world of daily life. Here in Australia, we try to keep well away from the world of the spirit. In today's gospel the three disciples saw the veil removed just for a moment. God's power and love break through and shine on the face of Jesus. Their Friend is transfigured. They see the Glory of God. Just for a moment they saw what Jesus will be like when the God's reign is complete. Jesus prepares them for the time when they would see him not in glory, but bruised and broken by the violence done to him in his Passion.

There are a few moments in our lives when the glory of God is able to break through our usual worries and concerns. They are moments to be treasured. But we need to be still and switch off all the voices in our heads. We need to be present to let it happen. But the vision is too beautiful to last, and soon it's time to come down from the mountain and keep following in the footsteps of Jesus.

One day, when all our faults and sins have been burned away in the love of God, our lives will be transfigured too and the glory of God will shine in us and through us. We just need to learn to take Christ seriously and to put more heart and more love into our work, our relationships and our prayers. That's why we are given again the season of Lent.

Do I transfigure? Or do I disfigure another person by my words or my behavior?

Kevin Daniel cp.

Sunday Readings

THIS WEEK:

2nd Sunday of LENT Year B

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18;

Rom 8: 31-34

Mk 9: 2-10

NEXT WEEK

3rd Sunday of LENT Year B

Ex 20: 1-17;

Cor 1: 22-25

Jn 2: 13-25

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Donald MacLeod, Elizabeth O'Toole, Brenda Solari, Maud Quirin, Sienna Hyland, Ponciano Cabrera, Devika, Jayanthi. Anjana, 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

Maria Bortignon, Rita (Dolly) Rampal, Horace D'Silva, Santo Aiello, Dominic Vu Ngoc Tran, Peter Carter, Maria Quilala, Dominic Grech, Lilian de Silva, Jeanette de Vaz, Jose-Guilermo Urriola, Dominga Cabrera Marcelo, Laura Bonnet, Dionisia Prates, Jose Calixto Snr, Julie Cachia, Pina Anzalone, Jean Baptiste Son Dinh Phan, Serafina Tusa, Diogo Anthony D'Souza, Noela Bambridge, Amalia Gangemi, Oscar Baretto, Jessie Marceline D'Souza, Rubin Daly, Denis Waller, Rudolf Quinless, Maxime Lan Yan On, Carmelo Incatasciato, Jessie D'Souza, Charles Joseph Daly, Avelino Bellio, Jane Njane, Tertuliano Espinoza, Rosario Bungaroo, Younan Issaak, John Skinner, Madalena Soares, Clotilde Martins, Palmira Santos, Mateus Agusta, Alma Goldman, Leocadio Guinto, Antonio Guinto, Roberto Larché, Margaret Hill, Joe Schembri, Eliza Bungaroo, Josephine Percy, Antonio Savian, Lucia Celiz

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
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 24th-25th February 2018 (4th Sunday) | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| | 6pm | 9am | 11am | 6pm |
| Welcome | Carmeline Don Paul Denise Richie, Trevor Saldanha | Anne Peters, Danny & Rose Sugunasekera | Anabela Costa Yvonne Sherwin | Julian Disanayake with volunteers |
| Sacristan | Lien Phan | Volunteers | Yvonne Sherwin | Volunteers |
| Readers & Commtrrs | Mark Rolfe Liz Flood Nick Dimitrakas | Milroy Martyn, Patricia Shaw-Dennis | Florence Madeira Meagan O'Connor | Marg Keating |
| Gifts | Christine Cachia Inez Caruana | Glenn & Romaine Todd, Sharni Denham | Dilinger Family | |
| Communion | 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 |
| Servers | Jocelyn, Christopher, Avinda, Brodie | Ashvika, Tara, Joyen | Calvin, Cassandra, Joaquin, Kiara | Lakni Adrian |

| Roster for next weekend 3rd—4th March 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 & Commtrrs | 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, Christopher. | Mark Harper, Joyen | Calvin, Cassandra, Joaquin, Kiara | Lakni Schron Adrian |
| Cuppa | Val & Chris De Zilva, John & Rosemarie Fernandes | McGuire Family Dilly Jayasuriya | Josephine Koshaba | |
| Flowers <i>No Flower during LENT</i> | Church Prep Team 2 S. Stone | Communion to the sick (after 9am Mass) Errie Gunawan | View Hills: - Friday 2nd March Communion Service Ging Calixto, Florence Madeira 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