



# Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Sunday, 11th February 2024

## MODERN LEPERS...WHO ARE THEY? WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

*Martin was a young soldier in the Roman army. Elegantly dressed, he was mounted on his horse one day when he was accosted by a leper begging for alms. The sight and the stench of rotting flesh was so repulsive to the sensitivities of young Martin that his first instincts were to ride off on his horse. But something inside him made him walk up to the beggar. Since all he had was his military coat, he cut it in two and gave half to the leper while he wrapped himself with the other half. It was a very cold winter day. That night in his dream he saw Christ clothed in a half coat saying to the angels around his throne, "Martin has clothed me with his garment."*

This event was the turning point in the life of him who was to become St Martin of Tours. The natural revulsion of Martin before leprosy is nothing compared with the ancient Hebrew attitude to leprosy. Leprosy was treated not only as a dreadful disease but also as a divine punishment. Lepers were numbered among the living dead. They were social outcasts, an embarrassment to their families and to the community.



But Jesus eradicated such a dehumanizing idea from the minds and hearts of the people. Both the leper and Jesus violate the traditional laws here. Ignoring the law that requires him to keep away from people, he got close to Jesus and knelt before him. Instead of shouting "Unclean! Unclean!" he said to him,

"If it is your will, you can make me clean" (Mark 1:40). According to ancient Hebrew belief, physical contact with lepers rendered a person unclean. Holy people in particular, were expected to keep a safe distance from lepers. Against this background the gesture of Jesus stretching out his hand and physically touching the leper becomes unthinkable. When Jesus touched the leper, he crossed those boundaries and accepted 'unclean' people into the community. He wanted the people to understand that God wants all people to be healthy and happy.

He incorporated outcasts, sinners, and the so-called unclean in his new community. Thus, Jesus challenged and redefined the traditional views of holiness and unholiness. Jesus was challenging traditional superstitions and prejudices that certain people are impure by the conditions of their health, social status or birth. He healed the leper and brought him back to the community.

This story teaches us, his followers to reach out and embrace the dehumanized and the outcasts among us. A deed of solidarity with the dehumanized does not dehumanize the doer; rather it restores full humanity to the dehumanized.

"  
HEALING YOURSELF IS  
CONNECTED WITH  
HEALING OTHERS.  
— YOKO ONO

Today there is a tendency to see some diseases as divine punishment and to ostracize those who suffer from them. Is this not how many of us still see people with HIV-AIDS? Have you not heard tele-evangelists who teach that AIDS is divine punishment for sin? Some people even go to the extent of labelling poverty, or sub-standard life situations as a divine chastisement.

Jesus challenges us today to abandon such dehumanizing beliefs and reach out in solidarity with these modern-day lepers among us, just as he himself did in his own days. Mother Theresa once said, "The worst disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, its being unwanted, its being left out, its being forgotten". These include homosexuals, AIDS victims, alcoholics, drug addicts and other marginalized groups including the divorced, unmarried single mothers, migrant workers and the mentally ill. These are the modern lepers... who in your life, is a 'leper'? Are we ready to be healed and heal others? (sources duly acknowledged)

**God's blessings**  
**Fr. Vince**

Give God your *weakness*  
and He'll give you His *strength*



# This Sunday's Readings



## Entrance Antiphon:

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

## First Reading: *Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46*

*The unclean man must live outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

## Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 31(32):1-2,5,11*

*R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. *R.*

But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. *R.*

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. *R.*

## Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1*

*Take me for your model, as I take Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel: *Mark 1:40-45*

*The leprosy left the man at once, and he was cured*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

## Communion Antiphon:

God so loved the world  
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,  
so that all who believe in him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life.

# PARISH ROSTERS

17/18 February 2024

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Thomas Russo	Lynette Rodrigues Maddison Boulous			Lawrence Tsang Frank Camilleri	Thomas & Sophie Russo	Therese Ball Lily Hon
Sun 8.00am	Anthony Wong	Anne Marie Lyons Gail Dick					
Sun 10.00am	Vartguess Markarian	Danny Yu Julia Tapiador					

24/25 February 2024

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Lynette Rodrigues	Eli Ogrizek Sr Maureen	Judah M Matilda S	Diane O'Shea Kathy Saad	Lawrence Tsang Dominic Rodrigues Lynnette Rodrigues	Marthe Nalletamby Jing Tapiador	Barbara Rosario Lynette Rodrigues
Sun 8.00am	Naom Younis	Helen Wong Ron Della Vedova		Helen Wong Barbara Rosario			
Sun 10.00am	Glenys Oxlee	Samuel Yu Lorna Argal	Amandi D Angelina B	Sheila Tapiador Elaine Gade			

Let us pray for ...

*Sick*

Maree Buttenshaw,  
Robert Power

*Recently Deceased*

Noelene Wilkinson, Jaime Pablacio,  
Fr Kevin Bates SM,  
Deryk Anthony Rodrigues, Ilias Atie,  
Mary Hanna, Sergio Montano Sanchez

*Anniversaries*

William (Bill) Meehan, Denis Lyons,  
Joseph Rachmat, Ferdinand Loekito

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



**Mass Times:**  
**9.15am and 7pm**

**MET FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course: Tuesday Evenings 13, 20, 27 February**

Looking to learn more about the Bible? Wanting expert guidance on interpreting Scripture for life & faith? Interested in the theme of women in the Bible through the Gospel of Matthew? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Scripture short course with Dr Debra Snoddy on Tuesday evenings 13, 20 and 27 February! Registration and more dates and details via <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=faithlife> OR get in touch with the team via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)



*Enrolment Form for Sacrament of  
Penance – Reconciliation 2024  
And  
First Holy Communion 2024  
Forms are located at the back of  
the church.*

**Celebrating Holy Week: Formation for Ministers of the Altar**

The Office for Worship presents 'Celebrating Holy Week' a workshop for current Acolytes & Ministers at the Altar. To be held Saturday **9 March 9:30am to 3pm** at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To register or for more information, please contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or call (02) 8838 3456 by 5 March 2024.

**Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day: 18 February**

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day on Sunday 18 February from 10am to around 3pm at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia. There will be an introduction to Christian Meditation for newcomers with periods of meditation for ongoing meditators, presentations and prayer with the monks. Mass will be celebrated in the afternoon. Morning tea will be provided, but please bring your own picnic lunch. Donations are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Ann Lomas on [atlomas@bigpond.com](mailto:atlomas@bigpond.com) or call 0437 340 250. Accommodation enquiries can be addressed to Fr Michael Kelly on 0455 329 607

**Mount Schoenstatt Shrine Time Holy Hour for Youth and Young Adults**

The Mount Schoenstatt community invite young and young adults for Holy Hour every fourth Sunday of the month from 7pm to 8pm at the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa, followed by a social gathering afterwards. There will be opportunities for praise and worship, prayer, reflection, confession and benediction. For more information, please contact Sr M Rita on 0493 026 628 or [srrita@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:srrita@schoenstatt.org.au)



# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

## Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 25 February

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, on **Sunday 25 February for 6pm** Mass. For more information, please contact Laura on [laura@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:laura@stbernadette.org.au)

### Diocesan Lent & Holy Week Scripture Reflection Evening: 20 March

Looking for a way to reflect on your experience of Lent as we enter Holy Week? Interested in praying with the Scripture readings for Holy Week? Register for the Diocesan Lent & Holy Week Scripture Reflection Evening **Wednesday 20 March 2024 – 6:30PM to 8:30pm**. RSVP with the team via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### ZUMBA

PLEASE JOIN OUR ZUMBA CLASS AT ST. MARY'S HALL (OPPOSITE THE CHURCH). THE SESSION IS EVERY THURSDAY. REGISTRATION FROM 6:45PM, FOR 7PM SHARP START. COST: \$10 PER CLASS. CONTACT RUTH 0412 341 112 FOR INFORMATION

### Project Compassion Sunday 10 & 11 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations.



With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling **1800 024 413**.



*Interested parishioners are most welcome as we are desperately short of members, come and help us bring comfort and assistance to our needy brothers and sisters.*

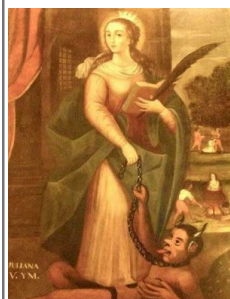
### Saints of the Week

13th February Shrove Tuesday

14th February Ash Wednesday

day of fasting & abstinence

16th February St Juliana



St Juliana of Nicomedia suffered martyrdom for her love of Christ when she refused to marry the Eleusius, a Roman senator.

Eleusius was resentful of the fact Juliana would not marry him, and he had her tortured. Despite being tortured, Juliana was determined to remain a virgin out of her devotion to Christ. The

tortures she suffered included flogging, being hung by her hair, placed in front of a boiling cauldron of flames & eventually being beheaded. She was only 18 years old at the time of her beheading. Her perseverance, love for God and true courage remain an inspiration today.

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue - Wed - Thu - Fri - Sat 9:15 am

### SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday (Vigil) 5:30 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am

### ADORATION (EXPOSITION)

Saturday 8:30 am

### RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 8:30 am - 9:00 am

### BAPTISM:

1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month 11:30 am

## PARISH TEAM

**Fr. Vincent Savarimuthu**

Parish Priest

**Jodie MacGregor**

Parish Secretary

Tue / Wed / Fri  
10am to 5pm

**Susie Lee**

Finance Secretary

Thur  
10am to 2pm

**Sacramental Coordinator**

**Childrens Liturgy Coordinator**

**Lectors Coordinator**

**Senior Server Coordinator**

**Finance Chairman**

**St Vincent De Paul President**

**Rydalmen Coordinator**

Diane O'Shea

Allison Markarian

Glenys Oxlee

Anton Massillamany

Ron Della Vedova

Ron Della Vedova

Shane Young

## PARISH SCHOOLS

**St. Mary's Primary School**

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Ph: (02) 8844 5700

Email: [StMarysRydal@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:StMarysRydal@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Richard Blissenden

**St. Patrick's Marist College**

171 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117

Ph: (02) 8841 7900

Email: [stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Paul Ryan