9 September 2018

**TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (PARISH FEAST DAY)**

**RENEWING THE CHURCH—EACH OF US HAS A PART TO PLAY!**

The occasion of our Parish Feast Day gives us good cause to be thankful for so much of the history of the parish here. It also gives us pause to reflect on the state of the world and the Church as we gather for this celebration.

In 2020 the Australian Church is holding a Plenary Council, in which we are all able to contribute.

Our recent series of conversation-homilies, led by some of our parishioners has been a small step in starting to alert us to the ways in which we can contribute to the conversations leading up to the Plenary Council.

The Archdiocesan team planning the Plenary Council have written to us asking us to reflect on the following questions:

- What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
- What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
- Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church you would like to share?

The team’s letter reminds us that: “Pope Francis has encouraged all Australians to participate in a period of patient dialogue and faith-filled discernment in a spirit of fraternal unity and missionary discipleship.”

Our understanding of the role of all baptised members of the Church has come long way since Pope Pius XI declared in 1922 that the laity play their part in the Church’s mission by participating in the mission of the hierarchy. Now we have Pope Francis telling us the each of us has the right and responsibility by virtue of our baptism to help shape the life and mission of the Church.

We do this not as isolated individuals, but in concert with each other in our parishes and dioceses, and in conversation with our Bishops and in the light of the Church’s deeper Tradition.

The Church as we know is being tested at this time here in Australia and elsewhere. Our credibility in wider society has been rocked by the sexual abuse scandals and the inadequate and often evasive response on the part of some Church leaders.

Some media outlets are having a real picnic, dining out on any Church foible they find, while giving little or no attention to the contribution the Church makes each day in so many sectors of the community.

It serves no good purpose for us to be defensive. It will do great good if each of us contributes to the conversations we need in order for healing to progress, for justice to be done, for integrity to be reclaimed. It will do great good if each of us in our daily lives, gives some expression of our faith, through our actions and attitudes. Each of us has something to offer from what we have learnt along the way. I encourage every child, young adult and adult to listen out for the ways in which we can help make the Church newly alive.

God’s Spirit is gifted to each of us for a purpose. Essential to the fulfilling of that purpose is our willingness to take hold of our gifts and use them to contribute to the life of the community. We can start in our home, our street, our parish and who knows what ripples we can create from there.

Parishioners are not passive consumers. Nor are they private individuals whose focus is exclusively on their own spiritual self. Parishioners are members of the Body of Christ, whose prayer, attitudes, words and actions help give the parish and the wider Church its character, spirit and flavour.

As we celebrate this Feast Day then, let’s renew our commitment to our life and mission together, so that the Love of God which binds us may become the gift for which we are best known.

Father Kevin  

(See Point to Ponder on p.3 for some contacts for the Plenary Council)
**What’s on?**

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARISH?**
See if anyone in your pew knows the name of this parishioner. Her name next week. Last week’s photo: Mary Flannery

**PARISH FEAST DAY MASS**
The Holy Name of Mary Feast Day Mass is on next Sunday 9 September at 10.00 am in the grounds of Villa Maria Monastery. The Mass will be followed by morning tea.

Gelato, Coffee and Sausage sizzle provided!

Please bring either blankets or picnic chairs to sit on.

Note: All other Masses except the Saturday 6.00pm Mass will be cancelled that weekend.

**BABAYN INDIGENOUS CAMP, GERRINGONG**
Once again our Social Justice Group is supporting the Baabian Community for their annual camp in November. We will be calling on parishioners to donate food and sporting goods to assist the kids to have a wonderful time and the parents to have some well needed respite. Please watch this space for ways you can help this important initiative for our indigenous brothers and sisters.

**MARIST 180 TUTORING PROGRAM FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN**
Are you interested and available to help tutor refugee school students through Marist 180?

Our parish social justice group is calling for volunteers who may be able to help with tutoring for refugee children who are being supported by Marist 180. The commitment would require you to attend on a roster basis with another volunteer about once per month, for 2 hours after school. Marist 180 will provide working with children and police checks, as well as some training before you begin. Please contact Marnie if you are interested or have any questions.

marniembutler@gmail.com

**PILGRIMAGE WALK 2018**
**Sunday 23 September**

Celebrating 200 years of the preservation of the Blessed Sacrament in Australia.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

Leaving from Holy Name of Mary Church (Hunters Hill) at 9.30 am

Seven Prayer Stops - Holy Name of Mary, Hunters Hill; St. Mark’s Drummooyne; St. Fiacre’s Leichhardt; St. James’ Forest Lodge; St. Benedict’s Broadway; St. Peter Julian’s Haymarket; St. Patrick’s Church Hill (attending late afternoon Mass at St. Patrick’s)

Option 1 ~ Walk all the way (approx. 17kms)
Option 2 ~ Start at one of the prayer stops and walk on from there
Option 3 ~ Drive between the prayer stops.

For more information or to register your participation... Email ~ pilgrimgrage2018@westnet.com.au or call Holy Name of Mary Parish office on 9817 5325

**RECONCILIATION REGISTRATION**
Please register online for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation using the Trybooking system.

In addition to personal information, you will need the following in order to complete your registration.

1. Baptism Certificate
2. Credit Card details for payment of $40.30 (The payment is to cover the cost of administration and the materials required for the preparation program.)

Bookings open 7pm 26th September and close 12am 19th October.

The link to the Trybooking is:

https://www.trybooking.com/YBBZ

Or

https://www.trybooking.com/422551

If you are unable to use this system please come to the Parish office during business hours to complete the forms and pay $40 registration fee.

**FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS TO ST MARY’S CATHEDRAL COLLEGE**
Boys currently in Year 2 are invited to audition as members of the prestigious St Mary’s Cathedral Choir to begin in 2019.

All students receive full-tuition scholarships to St Mary’s Cathedral college when placed as Cathedral Choristers. Please contact our Music Administrator to arrange an audition or for more information at music@stmariescathedral.org.au or by visiting https://cathedralchoir.sydney/about/choristers/

**OPEN DAY 9TH SEPTEMBER ST ALOYSIUS’ COLLEGE**
Invites you to attend their biennial Open Day. They will demonstrate how St Aloysius’ educates young men of conscience, competence, compassion and commitment.

This is an opportunity for you to tour their facilities and to meet their teachers and students, providing an insight into teaching and learning at St Aloysius’. A range of co-curricular activities including Sports, Drama, Music and Cadets will be on display, showcasing the well-rounded school experience the College offers. Staff and students will also be available to share with you the religious and spiritual life of the College, how we care for each student, and partner with their parents as they become “Men for Others”.

Junior School (Years 3-6) 9.30am—12pm at 29 Burton St. Milsons Point
Senior School (Years 7 to 12) : 10.30am—1pm at 47 Upper Pitt St. Milsons Point

Bookings are not required. For further information please contact:

The Registrar
Telephone 02 9936 5535

Parking is limited. The College encourages all guests to use public transport.

**FATHER WILLS BOUNCES BACK!**
Many of you have been asking about Father Wills and his welfare.

Father Wills returned home to the parish house from a time of rehab on Monday and is feeling very well. He wishes to thank you for all your prayers and concern for him.

**NEW PRESIDENTS FOR VINNIES**
Tony Adwickiewicz has been appointed as the Central Council President and Treasurer for the Sydney Archdiocese. The role of Conference President for Hunters Hill will be filled by Paul Ladd. Congratulations to both.

The good work of St V de P continues.
Well Done... CONGRATS AND THANKS ZONE

BENO & YVONNE
Former parishioner Benedict David married Yvonne Chua at HNM Church last weekend. Much joy ensued!!

CONVERSATION HOMILY LEADERS
A special thanks to the ten parishioners who shared their faith and insights so openly and generously during our recent series of conversation-homilies. As we pray a blessing on them, we pray for our whole parish that we grow more confident in expressing our faith and our vision for the Church, that we as God’s People may grow well and truly together.

POINT TO PONDER
For information on how you can participate in the preparations for the Plenary Council 2020, contact:

plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org
and:
https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/

Villa Maria Primary School
Principal: Mr. Kevin Turner
Phone: 98796100
www.vmhuntershill.catholic.edu.au

St Joseph’s College
Principal: Dr Christopher Hayes
Mark Street, Hunters Hill, NSW 2110  T +61 2 9816 0802
www.joeys.org

Marist Sisters’ College
Principal: Dr Anne Ireland
Ph: 9816 2041
www.mscw.nsw.edu.au

Grandparents Visit
Our Year 7 Students hosted a visit for Grandparents to the College this week to acknowledge their special relationship. Grandparents enjoyed a video made by students about our College and musical items. The lovely morning finished with light refreshments, provided by our Hospitality students, on Futuna Plaza.

Pray for... PRAYER ZONE

MONICA CARROLL
We make special mention of Monica this week. Monica has been in hospital these past two weeks and is likely to be needing longer-term care.
She is in good spirits but very fragile.
We keep her in our prayers at this challenging moment in her life.

I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME

PARISH DINNER
19 October

Villa Maria School 150th Celebrations
28 October

This Week... Scripture Zone

First Reading:
Isaiah 35:4-7
For the prophet Isaiah, we will know we are in the presence of God when we see the eyes of the blind opened and the ears of the deaf cleared. God’s presence is life giving, offering freedom from oppression and death.

Response
Praise the Lord, my soul! Alleluia!

Grandparents Visit

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading:
Mark 7:31-37
In the healing of a deaf man, and the restoration of his speech, the people react with wonder and amazement, and begin to recognize that they are in the presence of the One sent from God.

Next week: First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9
Second Reading: James 2: 14-18
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-35
A PARISH OF THE MARIST FATHERS

PARISH OFFICE:
3A Mary Street.
Hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm, Mon–Fri
PHONE: 9817 5325.
FAX: 9817 4615.
EMAIL: villamar@bigpond.net.au

BAPTISM:
By arrangement. Parents please contact the presbytery to book & arrange to attend the Baptism Prep Program

BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENINGS:
Tuesdays:18 Sept, 16 Oct, 13 Nov, 11 Dec, Chapter Hall @ 7.30pm

MARRIAGE:
At least six months notice must be given. The parish clergy will officiate primarily for parishioners. Others will generally need to arrange their own Priest or Deacon.

PARISH PASTORAL GROUPS AND CONTACTS

Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson: Matt Fehon
Parish Finance Committee: Michael Lindsay
Parish Youth Minister: Caitlin Story
Family Faith Educator: Marea De Angelis
Parish Sacramental Coordinator: Rosalia Foley
Parish Safeguarding Support Officers: Caitlin Pfafflin & Kathleen Lee
Parish Secretary: Sylvia Gutierrez

New or Returning Parishioners…
Please come along to the Parish Office for a warm welcome and to pick up a Parish Information Kit.

OUR PARISH PRAYER

Loving God,
you are the home for our hearts’ deepest longings.
We find our way as families and as individuals only in you, through our brother Jesus, encouraged by the breath of your Spirit.
We thank you for all the blessings we enjoy in our parish family.
May we continue to share our gifts of life and love with glad and generous hearts.
May our world be somehow more alive because we have passed this way.
May Mary our parish patron continue to inspire us as we give new birth to your Word in our turn.
We make our prayer in Jesus’ Name. Amen.