

## **Carmel Bulletin**

**Sunday 28 January 2024** 

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



## Reflections

Mk 1:21-28

## **Hard Hearts**

In the Gospel Jesus teaches "as one having authority." Are we afraid of him too? I suppose the answer is yes. He drove out devils, and they became violently afraid, no joke about it They heard God's voice very clearly, maybe with more clarity than you or I do. They hardened their hearts like stone. "What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

There is plenty to be afraid of, and our fear is often warranted. But turning our hearts to stone is not warranted.

We need to trust that God will remain with us no matter what, and that Christ's gentle heart will banish our fear.

That is how we can say, along with the psalm, *If today you hear God's voice*, *harden not your heart*.

John Foley, SJ // <u>The Sunday Website</u>

## **Parish News**

### **Parish Sacramental Process 2024**

Parents, if you feel you are ready to assist your children to celebrate the sacraments, you are invited to apply online from Sunday 28 January 2024 <u>using this link</u>. If you would prefer to use a manual form, please email the parish office at <u>ocarmswenty@gmail.com</u>. For further information, please visit our website <u>olmcwenty.org.au</u> and select *Sacraments for Children* within the *Grow in Faith* option.

In the meantime, here are some dates that may interest you:

#### **CONFIRMATION:**

Applications close Friday 26 April.

Confirmation names & sponsors names due Friday 3 May. Confirmation practice at 3:30pm & 6pm on Thursday 23 May. Confirmation celebration at 6pm (Trinity Sunday Vigil) Mass on Saturday 25 May.

#### **FIRST RECONCILIATION:**

Applications close Friday 19 July. Celebrations at 6pm on Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 July.

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Applications close Friday 27 September

Taste & See sessions at 3:30pm & 7pm on Thursday 10 October

Practice sessions at 3:30pm & 6pm on Thursday 17 October Celebrations at 11am on Saturday 19 and 26 October.

# Return branches for Ash Wednesday by next weekend

Traditionally, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made from burning the branches from the last Palm Sunday. If you still have your branch from Palm Sunday last year, please bring it to church and place it in the basket in the parish centre. The branches will be burned and used for our Ash Wednesday celebrations.

# Help our community sing at our Easter Triduum Celebrations

If you would like to assist with leading our community's sung prayer at our Holy Thursday Mass, Good Friday Liturgy and Easter Vigil Mass, then we invite you to join the choir that will sing at these celebrations.

Practice will be on Mondays from 7:15 - 8:30 pm in the church, starting Monday 19 February through to Easter. Previous experience and/or training are not required.

For more information, contact Robert at <u>olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact</u>.

## **Getting to know you Parish Dinner**

The *Getting-to-Know-You Parish Dinner* is a near sell-out! Great effort from everyone, and it's great to see so many parishioners and others joining us at 7pm on Friday 9 February.

Be prepared for a few surprises and don't forget to bring your own drinks. Water is provided.

There will be a raffle on the night as well as lucky door prizes, so hold on to your tickets for your chance to win.

See you all there!

### **Farewell Fr Christian**

While Fr Christian has returned from the Philippines, it is with sadness that we inform you that he will be on extended leave from 27 January 2024. Fr Christian will return to the Philippines for further discernment.

We thank Fr Christian for his friendship and contributions to this parish, and for his time with us.

We will keep him in our prayers and wish him all the best for his future happiness.

## **Thank you from St Vinnies**

St Vinnies would like to thank everyone for contributing so generously over Christmas.

With your help, they were able to raise \$850 worth of vouchers and \$4400 for the Christmas Appeal. These donations were a great support to 25 families within our parish during Christmas.

## Thank you

I'm sure you've noticed how well the gardens and lawns around our church are maintained. It is no coincidence that these gardens look so beautiful. They do so thanks to the major effort that our volunteer, Andrew Gauci, puts into maintaining these facilities.

The other day we couldn't help but notice and admire Andrew cutting the lawns in 35°C temperature and on a day when humidity hit close to 100%, the highest on record! His clothes were soaking wet from top to bottom.

Thank you, Andrew. Your contribution is much appreciated.

## **Parish Finance Committee Report**

**Dear Parishioners** 

We are pleased to present the financial report for the six months period ended 31 December 2023. The Parish achieved a small surplus of \$956 for the period compared to a surplus of \$8,830 for the corresponding 6 months in the previous year.

previous year.	6 Months to 31-12-23	6 months to 31-12-23
REVENUE	Actual (\$)	Budget (\$)
Planned Giving	65,568	66,286
Loose	26,449	18,248
Donations	5,600	5,000
Christmas Raffle	3,481	-
Other	4,323	3,355
Total Revenue	103,421	92,889
EXPENSES		
Wages & Related Costs	37,954	44,950
Administration	8,319	8,158
Interest on Loan	8,451	11,208
Insurance	10,469	11,000
Maintenance	4,037	7,938
Catholic Foundation	20,370	-
Other	12,865	25,420
Total Expenses	102,465	108,674
Surplus/Deficiency	956	(15,785)

The main contributing factors affecting this result were the increase in loose change collections (not Planned Giving), donations from weddings and funerals, proceeds from the Christmas Raffle and savings in the non-purchase of a replacement vehicle even though it was provided for in the budget. The Parish also paid \$20,370 towards the Catholic Foundation, being part of the arrears of \$40,784 which was outstanding as at 30 June 2023.

The Planned Giving continues its downward trend. This is a worrying sign as some former parishioners have not yet returned to church on a regular basis since the start of the pandemic. However, it is pleasing to note that more parishioners are making use of the Tap & Go Electronic system. This is a more efficient way of contributing to the running of the church.

The Parish is still servicing a loan which was raised to fund the renovations undertaken in 2017. The balance of the loan stood at \$346,459 as at the 31 December 2023.

We thank all parishioners for their continued support.

Janu Pinto O.Carm John Cassar
Parish Priest Chair, Finance Committee

## Thank you for your generosity

Last week's donation to the Parish: \$3445

Planned Giving (cash): \$ 764
Planned Giving (credit cards): \$ 100
Loose cash: \$ 900
Direct Deposits: \$ 1226
Tap & Go: \$ 455

**Parish Online Banking:** If you would like to pay fees or are able to make a donation, our online banking details are:

**BSB:** 067 950

**Account Number: 00602** 

**Account Name:** Wentworthville Catholic Church **Reference:** [YourSurname]DONATION NAME

## **Fees for special Services**

Please see below, a simplified guide to our fees for special

Services:

Wedding: \$700 Funeral: \$700

**Baptism:** \$50 **Memorial service:** \$400

## What is Planned Giving?

Planned Giving is a pledge you make to assist the parish with their finances. Your contributions would go toward staff salaries, insurance, maintenance, loan repayments, liturgical resources, etc. You can choose to set-up an automated deposit from your bank account with the amount and frequency you would like to donate. Just make sure to use the banking details above. Planned Giving is a very convenient and practical method of contributing to the parish, even if it's just \$5 a week.

If you would like to receive a receipt for your Planned Giving please contact Gennie, our Finance Officer, on <a href="mailto:ocarmswentyaccts@gmail.com">ocarmswentyaccts@gmail.com</a> as soon as possible.

## Please pray for

**Those who are sick,** especially Rita Ientile, Vivian Sultana, Roseline Fernandez, Yolanda Gonzales, Edwin Macwan, Sharon Dolan.

**Recently deceased,** Baby Egan, Rachael Sumagaui, Matthew Spiteri, Tony Campton, Thea Flynn, Robert Howe, Joanne Tabone, Charlie Bonnici, Duyen Tran.

Our special intentions, especially Rizalino & Jonjon Butuhan, Julia & Lorenzo Butuhan, Sebastian, Lauren & Tim Egan, Mary Delores Vella, Lewis Anthony & Marie Olga Gabrielle, Valda Cox, Gwendoline Weatherall, Hannah Fernandez, Clivin family, Anthony, Monica & Catherine Kong, Charlie Zammit, Mary, Joyce, Tony & Antonia Cini, Mary & Frank Teuma, Lawrence Dias, Charlie Sultana, Holy Souls in Purgatory and in honour of St Anthony.

Names published with permission from families.

## **Coming events**

**30 January:** Start of School Term 1 **31 January:** St John Bosco SDB

1-7 February: World Interfaith Harmony Week1 February: SVdP meeting in Red Room at 10am2 February: Anointing at 9am Mass followed by shared

Morning Tea.

**2 February:** The Presentation of the Lord **4 February:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Rosters for 3 and 4 February 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER	
6pm (Vigil)	Reader Commentator Communion	Volunteer needed Angela Carlino Antoinette Zammit	
8am	Reader Commentator Communion	Isabella Dias Coretta Dias Colleen Weatherall (Assembly) Cat Paulo	
10am	Reader Commentator Communion	Youth Ministers Youth Ministers David Touma (Assembly) Skip Fernandes	
6pm	Reader Commentator Communion	Mark Attwood Bimy Baby Fran Sharpe	

## Next week's readings

3 and 4 February - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

 First Reading:
 Job 7:1-4, 6-7

 Second Reading:
 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

**Gospel:** Mk 1:29-39

## **Around the Diocese and beyond**

#### **Maltese Cultural Association**

Singers from Malta, Ludwig Galea & Jasmine Abela, will be performing with a theatrical group at 1pm on Sunday 3rd March at Wentworthville Leagues Club, Smith Street Wentworthville. Tickets are \$30. Children with parents go free. For bookings, please contact 01421662298, 0414859386, 0421345325.

- Mary Ramundi PRO

## **NEW Diocesan website launched**

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

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## Connect with us

Online at www.olmcwenty.org.au
On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @olmcwenty
Email ocarmswenty@gmail.com

#### **Parish Office**

Open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm Parish Office is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday Phone 9631 8302

Parish Priest: Fr. Januario Pinto, O.Carm Assistant Priest: Fr. Christian Marave, O.Carm In Community: Fr. Anthony Scerri, O.Carm, Fr. Paul Gurr, O.Carm (Carmelite Prior), Fr. Wayne Stanhope, O.Carm (at Jamberoo), Fr. John Powell, O.Carm (in Aged Care)

**Parish Secretary:** Paola Yévenes **Finance Officer:** Gennie Cosgrove

### **Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School**

Principal: Olimpia Pirovic

Phone: 8832 1100

## **Liturgy times**

### **Sunday Masses**

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil) Sunday: 8am, 10am, 6pm

#### **Weekday Masses**

Monday - Thursday and Saturday: 9am

Friday: 9:15am (except on the first Friday of the month)

#### Reconciliation

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

#### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Saturday: 8am Rosary Group

Monday - Friday: 8am

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

#### **Anointing within Mass**

First Friday of the month at 9am Mass followed by a shared Morning Tea

## **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

On request

We acknowledge the Darug people as the original custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders; past, present and emerging.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, together with the Diocese of Parramatta and the Carmelite Friars, are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and ensuring that they feel and are safe.