

Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 11 February 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



Reflections

Mk 1:40-45

A dwelling apart

Here's something curious: the leper and Jesus trade places in this story. At first, it's the leper who's forced into the wild by communal dread of his disease. In the end, it's Jesus who must retreat to the desert to avoid the crush of crowds brought on by publicity.

Biblical desert is a land of many facets. Literally, it's a place where life is challenging and death is near. Theologically, it's the domain of the devil, where temptation roams free. Both physical and spiritual realities of the desert made it a place to avoid when possible. To be sentenced to live there, with lepers and other outlaws, was a lonely and dangerous existence.

Yet Jesus, we know, often chose the desert. The Spirit first drove him there to test himself against the devil. Later, Jesus often returned there to pray and gather strength. Because he tamed the desert at the start of his journey, it was no longer a land of danger for Jesus, but a refuge. In the same way, we can surrender the desert terrain of our lives to the Spirit's authority, and let it be transformed into a sacred place.

Used with permission from **GPBS**

Parish News

Welcome to our community

This weekend, we welcome Krysten into the community of the Faithful by way of the sacrament of Baptism. Welcome also to her parents, Sheila and Dustin.

Ash Wednesday Masses

All are invited to begin the Lenten Season with the Ash Wednesday Masses here at Our Lady of Mt Carmel at 9am or 7:30pm on Wednesday 14 February.

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 olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact.

Parish Social Profile

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have now published a Parish Social Profile for every parish in Australia. The data is based on the 2021 Australian Census. To view our parish profile, <u>please click on this link</u> to visit our website and download your copy.

Carmelite Fathers update

Thank you for welcoming Fr Albi to our Carmelite Community last weekend. Fr Albi has now been appointed the Assistant Priest of the parish and is very much looking forward to seeing you each week.

Fr Anthony has settled nicely back into Wentworthville. A few modifications were needed around the priory to accommodate him better but - fortunately, for us - our resident Carmelite carpenter was up to the task!

Project Compassion

This week is the beginning of Project Compassion 2024. Ware asked 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 vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

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 or by calling 1800 024 413.

Ash Wednesday reflection

It is curious that this year Ash Wednesday happens to fall on the same day as St Valentine's Day. This doesn't happen very often. St Valentine's Day is a great occasion for florists and restaurants. Some people get carried away and arrange to propose marriage in hot air balloons and beside beautiful waterfalls. This is all great fun, and it is delightful to see people dizzy with love.

We all know that real love is about more than the good times. It is a commitment to grow together and encounter each other more and more deeply, even when the going is tough. There are legends about St Valentine but it's not clear who he may have been. The chances are, however, that he was a martyr in the early period of the Christian story. He knew that love meant sacrifice. Love lays down its own life to give life to others.

Ash Wednesday is the perfect day to think about love. We don't see flowers in church today and we are asked to eat modestly. Today, we begin our journey towards our observance and celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The cross of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of how profoundly God loves the world.

Lent is a time when we are also asked to consider how authentically we make God's love visible to others. The reading today from St Paul reminds us that 'we are ambassadors for Christ.' This means taking risks and reaching beyond our comfort zones to share a message with a world that is often indifferent and doesn't want to hear it.

Each year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia offers us a significant opportunity to become ambassadors for Christ. The prophet Joel says, 'Why should it be said among nations, "where is their God?" In other words, we must try to live the message of Jesus, which is one of justice, compassion, inclusion and extravagant love.

Today's Psalm is a reminder that God speaks through us:

Give me again the joy of your help, With a spirit of fervour sustain me, O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall declare your praise.

- Written by Michael McGirr, Caritas Australia

Refreshments after 10am Mass

For years now, Annette and Ian Craddy have been providing a refreshing snack for those wishing to enjoy some fellowship after the 10am Mass on Sunday. We would like all parishioners to enjoy this time and space safely, especially our youngest parishioners. Would you please leave this area well clear so that Annette and Ian can first serve children cold drinks from one side of the window, and then serve hot drinks to adults from the other side.

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 using this link. If you would prefer to use a manual form, please email the parish office at ocarmswenty@gmail.com. For further information, please visit our website olarwenty.org.au and select Sacraments for Children within the Grow in Faith option.

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.

Incident Reporting

As part of our commitment to keep parishioners, visitors, contractors and staff safe and compliant, we have created an Incident Report form that will be kept in the newsstand in the Parish Centre.

If you witness an incident where someone is hurt or could potentially be hurt, please fill out this form and return to the Parish Office. You can be as brief as you like.

The rationale for this form is so that we have a good understanding of which areas of concern we need to keep an eye on. So, for example, if there are several incidents of people slipping on the tiles on the parish centre steps, then it's an issue we need to address quickly. It may seem insignificant at the time, and maybe no one was hurt (which is great!), but if these little incidents are not reported, then we can't mend it.

Ideally, the reporting would include your name and contact number but, if you would prefer to remain anonymous, that's ok. This is not an opportunity to raise general grievances, but a serious attempt at addressing any patterns of risk in our parish.

Thank you for your generosity

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

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 ocarmswentyaccts@gmail.com 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, Jennifer Kelberg, Charmaine Kelberg, Baby Egan, Rachael Sumagaui, Matthew Spiteri, Tony Campton, Thea Flynn, Robert Howe, Joanne Tabone, Charlie Bonnici, Duyen Tran.

Our special intentions, especially Czeslawa Godfrey, Duyen Tran, Rita Fenech, Zammit & Fenech families, Mr & Mrs Cesar Domingo & family, Valda Cox, Jason Daep, Carmelita Perez, Mr & Mrs Edoardo Perez & family, Ferdinand Perez & family, 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

13 February: SRE meeting at 5:30 in the Parish Centre

14 February: Ash Wednesday

15 February: SVdP meeting at 10am in the Parish Centre **15 February:** Liturgy Committee meeting at 7pm in the

Parish Centre

18 February: 1st Sunday of Lent, Year B

Rosters for 17 and 18 February 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm (Vigil)	Reader Commentator Communion	Janine Hanna Bob Hanna Bob Hanna (Assembly) Elena Fernandes
8am	Reader Commentator Communion	David Rodrigues Michelle Rodrigues Ron Aquilina (Assembly) Pauline Cassar
10am	Reader Commentator Communion	Shayna Peter Moira Peter Moira Peter (Assembly) Marina Peter
6pm	Reader Commentator Communion	Volunteer needed Mark Attwood Isa Urbano

Next week's readings

17 and 18 February - 1st Sunday of Lent, Year B

First Reading: Gen 9:8-15
Second Reading: 1 Pet 3:18-22
Gospel: Mk 1:12-15

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

Mount Schoenstatt Young Women's Lenten Reflection Day

The Mount Schoenstatt Girls and Young Women ministry invite young women to a Lenten Reflection Day from 10:30am to 8:30pm on Sunday 25 February ay the Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Cost is \$25 including afternoon tea and dinner. BYO lunch. Register before Thursday 15 February to Sr M Rita on 0493 026 628 or srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

EL SHADDAI CATERING

Specialising in Biryani, Muncharian and Kheer.
Ask about our Family Size Bucket Biryani.
We offer catering services for 15 people and above.
Basli Sathi
Daphne Dominic
0418 277 354
0420 800 484



LICENSED PLUMBER

DRAINER

GASFITTER

GAS AND ELECTRIC
LEAKING TAPS
NEW GAS SERVICE
BLOCKED DRAINS
SEWER RENEWALS
CLEANING GUTTERS
RAINWATER TANKS



HOT WATER HEATERS
LEAKING TOILETS
GAS LEAKS
BURST PIPES
GUTTERING
ROOF VENTILATION
WATER SAVING DEVICES

E. MAGRI PLUMBING SERVICES P/L

STEPHEN MAGRILicence No L 11703

Mobile: 0412 926 185
ABN 83 111 970 024

e.magriplumbing@bigpond.com Ph/Fax:(02) 9625 3353



Located in Toongabbie by appointment

0413 193 283

Maltese Spoken and Specialising in:
Property Purchases and Sales
Commercial Leasing and Business Transfers
Wills, Probates and Estates
Power of Attorneys & Enduring Guardianships

ELECTRO FUSION®
ABN 39 606 954 465 License No: 287743C



Tony Roukos Director

0414 822 086

nelectrofusion@optusnet.com.au

PO BOX 5228 Greystanes NSW 2145

Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Electrical Services



in the care of the Carmelite Friars

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. Albino Dos Santos, 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.