

Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 18 February 2024

First Sunday of Lent, Year B



Reflections

Mk 1:12-15

Among the wild beasts

The story of the temptation is a wonderful portrait of physical and spiritual realities in juxtaposition. On one side is the desert: dry, hot, harsh, and tangible. On the other side is the Spirit, driving Jesus inward to encounter Satan for a contest over authority. In the end, we find Jesus in the company of wild beasts and angels, in perfect harmony, as if heaven and earth were finally made whole. The lion lies down with the lamb, and an angel protects them both.

Jesus struggles over temptations that appeal as much to the body as to the spirit. Both his physical and spiritual natures must be surrendered to God's will, and it is that surrender which marks the beginning and end of his work on earth. "Into your hands I commit my spirit," Jesus whispers from the cross. His body is already committed.

The image of Jesus with beasts and angels reminds us of humanity's ideal: to be at peace with this world and the next. So long as we neglect our responsibilities to one or the other, we won't know lasting peace.

Used with permission from **GPBS**

From Temptation to Transfiguration

Our great Lenten journey has begun! It's a journey which begins in ash and ends in water. Fire is a profound part of our experience. We know its power to destroy, blacken and reduce to ash.

We know that evil can do the same - destroy our wholeness of spirit, blacken our lives and reduce the beauty of human life to so much dust.

We begin Lent in the ash of acknowledging our own part in harbouring, creating and doing evil - those places in our hearts where the fire of anger, bitterness, selfishness or narrowness of mind and heart has left nothing but cold ash.

The ash is a reminder that our true life is not found in mortal things which eventually turn to dust, but in eternal things. We also know that out of ash new life can bud, grow strong, bloom into fullness - that's the Easter miracle.

As always, the Gospels of the first two Sundays in Lent provide a road map for our Lenten journey from temptation (this Sunday) to transfiguration (next Sunday).

We allow ourselves to be tempted out of the ash of selfishness and narrowness of heart and into a life of openhearted goodness. We celebrate God's graciousness to us by sharing what we have with those in need whether it be food, wealth, time, love, friendship or compassion. That's what it means to 'repent and believe the Good News'.

In these days when we are so conscious of the impact of human life on God's creation, perhaps we could think about some permanent fasting from our excessive consumption of power, food and petrol in order to allow our earth to heal, to breathe and to continue to be a source of nourishment and life for the whole human family.

From Carmelites.org.au

Parish News

Getting to Know You Dinner

Oh What a feeling! Oh What a night!

By all accounts, the *Getting to Know You Dinner*, last Friday, was a resounding success with 180 guests attending the event. The food, catered for by Buddy Catering Services, was beautifully presented, fresh, tasty and plentiful. The entertainment was excellent and the atmosphere was electric. All feedback has been enthusiastically positive and very encouraging.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and energy to make this such an overwhelmingly successful event!

We take this opportunity to thank our sponsors: Wentworthville Leagues Club, Office Works, Woolworths and Pendle Hill Meat Market.

We also thank those who generously donated money towards the event, and thanks also to Charlie Camilleri, the entertainer on the night, for donating his services at no cost. Thanks also to Jay Dass who has displayed a beautiful selection of his photography in the Parish Centre from that evening.

The night provided almost \$7,000 to the Parish to be used to replace the broken glass at the front of the church.

Thank you all!

Funeral Notices

The funeral of **Charmaine Kelberg** will be celebrated at **11am on Tuesday 20 February.**

The funeral of Charmaine's mother, **Jennifer Kelberg**, will be celebrated at **11am on Wednesday 21 February**.

Daughter and Mother passed away within days of each other. They are lovingly remembered by an abundance of family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Stations of the Cross

You are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent. Dates and times are as follows:

Friday 23 February: after the 9:15am Mass AND at 7pm. **Friday 1 March:** after 9am Mass AND at 7pm. We will still celebrate the Anointing at Mass on this day but - as part of our penance - we will not have a shared Morning Tea. **Friday 8, 15 and 22 March:** after 9am Mass AND at 7pm.

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 every Monday from 7:15 - 8:30 pm in the church through to Easter. Previous experience and/or training are not required.

For more information, contact Robert at olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact.

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 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.

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 olmcwenty.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.

Project Compassion

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world 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.

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

Planned Giving (cash): \$ 863 Planned Giving (credit cards): \$ 100 Loose cash: \$ 755

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 Maria Concetta Cassar, Dennis D'Souza, Evelyn Jean Knight, Joe Calleja, Bill Calleja, Joseph Blanco, Fenech & Zammit families, Rosemary Marsh, Geralyn Moore, Vimmela Bendall, Lucy & Rosine, Regina & Same, Mo Chinh, Vimmela Bendall, Clivin family, Anthony, Monica & Catherine Kong, Charlie Zammit, Charlie Sultana, Carmel, Joyce, Tony & Antonia Cini, Joseph, Louis, Mary & Frank Teuma, Doreen, Mary & Frank Camilleri, Charlie Sultana, Joe & Maria Vella, Rosa Titan, Sonia Spittle, Jesse & Kevin McManus, Holy Souls in Purgatory and in honour of St Anthony.

Names published with permission from families.

Coming events

22 February: The Chair of St Peter, Apostle

19 February: Choir Practice with Robert from 7:15 – 8:30pm

20 February: World Day of Social Justice 22 February: The Chair of St Peter, Apostle 22 February: Church cleaning after 9am Mass 25 February: Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

Rosters for 24 and 25 February 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm (Vigil)	Reader Commentator Communion	Angela Carlino Volunteer needed Anne-Marie Torrens
8am	Reader Commentator Communion	Jeremy Angelo Joshua Angelo David Rodrigues (Assembly) Cecilia Cotter
10am	Reader Commentator Communion	Basli Sathi Jay Dass Skip Fernandes (Assembly) David Touma
6pm	Reader Commentator Communion	Bimy Baby Nelissa Almeida Fran Sharpe

Next week's readings

17 and 18 February - Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

First Reading: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Second Reading: Rom 8:31-34 Gospel: Mk 9:2-10

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

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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. 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.