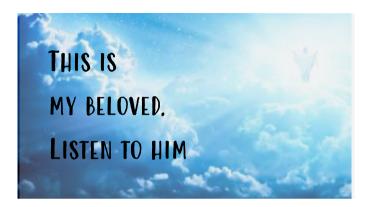


Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 25 February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent, Year B



Reflections

Mk 1:12-15

Among the wild beasts

The film *Dead Man Walking* tells the story of a nun (Sr. Helen Prejean) as she accompanies a man (Robert) during the months leading up to his execution in the United States. Noticing how Robert tried to win the confidence of one of the wardens, who was a kind and fatherly figure, Sister Helen reflected:

Robert never really had a father. His father spent 27 of his 53 years in prison. It makes me think of my own father. It has to be one of life's most precious feelings to know that your dad is proud of you. I was my daddy's scholar, his scribe who kept the travel diary on family holidays. He always had a special tone in his voice when he introduced me to friends and colleagues. "And this is my daughter, Helen." In the presence of strangers I would fall silent, standing close to him, my hand holding on tightly to his. Afterwards, I would squeeze his hand tighter than ever and delight once more with chatter and questions. A child can sail to the moon with that feeling of security from a father.

This may help us to understand something of what the Tabor experience meant for Jesus. It came at a very difficult time in his life, a time of uncertainty and fear of the future. He was headed for Jerusalem, where he sensed that the same fate awaited him as befell all the prophets – a violent death. Naturally he recoiled from such a fate. In order to reflect on it and pray about it, he climbed to the top of Mount Tabor.

We don't know exactly what happened on the mountain. But it seems that he had an intense experience of the presence of God. He heard those marvellous words: "You are my beloved Son." On Tabor Jesus felt himself comforted and affirmed. He knew that God was pleased with him, and would give him the strength to face a dark and threatening future. With God on his side, he could face anything.

At times life can become dark for all of us. There are a lot of voices which say to us: "You're good, but only if you're popular." But there is a still small voice which whispers to us in our hearts: "You are my beloved son/daughter." This is the voice we need to pay attention to. We must recognise that we are God's beloved children, and try to live our lives by the light of this truth.

To ponder: There's a hidden glory deep in the heart of things. We glimpse it in flowers and in sunshine, but also in shadowy places and ominous trails we fear to travel. Glory is concealed in our losses; glory awaits behind every glory. You can't see Easter from Good Friday. But that doesn't mean it's not there. In a world given over to cynicism, make hope a habit. Short-circuit doubt and negativity with prayer. Living hopefully is one way to put faith into practice.

Used with permission from **GPBS**

Parish News

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 1 March: after 9:15am 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 9:15am Mass AND at 7pm.

Can you help at our Easter Triduum celebrations?

We need volunteers for a range of roles, including liturgical ministries and setting up the church at different times for celebrations. If you would like to help, visit olmcwentyliturgy.org/triduum-volunteers and sign up now. If you do not have an email address but still want to help, please call the parish office.

Music for our Easter Triduum Celebrations

Choir practice for the Holy Thursday Mass, Good Friday Liturgy and Easter Vigil Mass is on Mondays, 7:15 - 8:30 pm in the church. If you would like to assist with leading our community's sung prayer at these celebrations, then please come along. For more information, contact Robert at olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact.

Palm Sunday

Once again on Palm Sunday, we invite you to bring your own cutting of a branch, from any tree or plant, to use as we commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We would also greatly appreciate it if you can cut and bring some palms or some other branches for people who don't have any. As always, there will be baskets in the parish centre before Mass where you can drop off or collect cuttings.

We're also looking for help with setting up the church on Saturday 1 April from 10:00 am, and with the set up and guidance of the Palm Sunday procession at 10:00 am Mass on 2 April. Please sign up now at

olmcwentyliturgy.org/triduum-volunteers.





Project Compassion

After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

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.

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.

Join the Parish Sacramental Team

The Parish Sacramental Team is looking for new members!

If you would like to assist with workshops, planning, celebrating, or even if you're just interested in learning about the sacraments, please email ocarmswenty@gmail.com.

This would be especially interesting for parents whose children are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and/or Confirmation.

Parish Key Audit

Our parish is constantly working towards maintaining our Risk and Compliance standards as high as possible. The security of our parishioners, staff and volunteers is of paramount importance. It's also important to keep our buildings (and belongings) safe so that they continue to be the beautiful, safe, sacred spaces that we enjoy.

To that end, we need to do a parish key audit. That is, we need to account for all keys that we use in and around the parish.

Please note that we don't want to take away your key, we just need to know that you have one. Please <u>click on this link</u> to fill out a quick form, or email <u>ocarmswenty@gmail.com</u> and let us know how many keys you have, and which doors they open. This would help us *immensely* at remaining compliant with the Diocesan Risk Assessment.

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's donation to the Parish: \$4080

Planned Giving (cash): \$ 725 Planned Giving (credit cards): \$ 100 Loose cash: \$ 1020 Direct Deposits: \$ 1140 Tap & Go: \$ 1095

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 Lucy & Rosine, 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 Jasmin Fernando, Vimmela Bendall, Fenech & Zammit families, Paul Sultana, Ron Butuhan, John Miranda, Nga Tran, Rita Parnis, Mary Delores Vella, Anthony Dass, Sathi & Kantha, Alan McNamara, Jacinta Luisa Ortiz, Emaan Fatima, Clivin family, Anthony, Monica & Catherine Kong, Charlie Zammit, Charlie Sultana, Joyce, Tony & Antonia Cini, Mary & Frank Teuma, Holy Souls in Purgatory and in honour of St Anthony.

Names published with permission from families.

Coming events

26 February: Choir practice with Robert from 7:15 – 8:30pm 29 February: SVdP meeting in the Parish Centre at 10am 1 March: Anointing at 9am Mass (no Morning Tea due to

Stations of the Cross)

3 March: Third Sunday of Lent

Rosters for 2 and 3 March 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm (Vigil)	Reader Commentator Communion	Anne-Marie Torrens Trish Maldigri Charlie Felice
8am	Reader Commentator Communion	Coretta Dias Isabella Dias Eric Dias (Assembly) Michelle Rodrigues
10am	Reader Commentator Communion	Youth Ministers Youth Ministers Mary Vijila (Assembly) Rosemary Chung
6pm	Reader Commentator Communion	Eugene Urbano Isa Urbano Jovan Titus

Next week's readings

2 and 3 March - Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

First Reading: Ex 20:1-17
Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:22-25
Gospel: Jn 2:13-25

Around the Diocese and beyond

Positions Vacant: Parish Cook (part-time) - St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta - Applications close 4 March. More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

Synod 2023 Update: Decree issued and Development of Diocesan Plan Begins

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church will launch at the Diocesan Gathering on Saturday 10 August. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod

Catholic Youth Parramatta 2024 LIFTED Launch

LIFTED Launch 2024 is here! Join young people from across our Diocese for an evening of faith, live music, formation, and announcements. Learn about ways you can meet, connect and 'walk with' other young people | West HQ Rooty Hill, 29 February 2024, 7pm to 9:30pm. Register www.parracatholic.org/liftedlaunch

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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.