

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

Vol 35, No 7
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT....

Do you know that Lent is the Old English word for spring, the season of the year during which it falls. This is something unique to English and in almost all other languages its name is a derivative of the Latin term *Quadragesima*, or forty days. Lent is forty days long because it is a traditional number of discipline, devotion and preparation in the Bible. Moses stayed on the Mountain of God for forty days (*Exodus 24:18*) Elijah travelled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (*1Kings 19:8*), Nineveh was given forty days to repent (*Jonah 3:4*), and most importantly, prior to undertaking his ministry, Jesus spent forty days in wilderness praying and fasting (*Mathew 4:2*)

Someone jokingly asked me this question. “*Is there such a thing as denying ourselves too many pleasures?*” The answer is yes, most definitely.

Firstly, God made human life contingent on certain goods, such as food and to refuse to enjoy enough of them has harmful consequences. For example, if we do not eat enough food on a regular basis, it can cause physical damage. Just as there is a balance between eating too much and not eating enough, there should be a balance involved in what we eat.

Secondly, if we do not strike the right balance and deny ourselves goods that God meant for us to have then it can generate resentment toward God, which is a spiritual sin just as much as those engaged in excesses of good things. Thus one can be led into sin either by excess or by defect in the enjoyment of good things.

Thirdly, it can decrease our effectiveness in ministering to others.

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DAY	SAINTS JOHN & PAUL CHURCH SCHEDULE 22–28 FEBRUARY 2010 FIRST WEEK OF LENT
MONDAY	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, APOSTLE 9.00am Mass
TUESDAY	9.00am Mass
WEDNESDAY	9.00am Mass 7.00pm Mass
THURSDAY	9.00am Mass
FRIDAY	12.00noon Mass 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY	9.00am Mass 9.30am Reconciliation (till 10.00am) 5.30pm Reconciliation (till 6.00pm) SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) 6.30pm Vigil Mass
SUNDAY	7.30am Mass 9.00am Mass 10.30am Mass

MINISTRY TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr Thai Vu (pp@johnpaulwilletton.org.au)
Assistant Priest: Fr Anand Reddy (ap@johnpaulwilletton.org.au)
Pastoral Workers: Sr Monica (9310 4072); Sr Veronica (9443 1036)
Rosa Pasquale (9332 3813)

Secretary/Bursar: Rossana Terpolilli
R.E. Co-ordinator: Mildred Rego (9450 4573)
John Paul Care
Co-ordinator: Betty Thompson (9457 4991)



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

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Finally, it constitutes the sin of ingratitude by refusing to enjoy everything God wanted us to have because he loves us. If a child refused every gift his parents gave him, it would displease the parents, and if we refuse gifts from God, it displeases God because he loves us and wants us to have them. Have a happy and holy Lenten Season. **FR THAI VU**

Messages from Orana....

We have had a wonderful start to the year at Orana. Both teachers and students have come back refreshed and full of energy. We have also welcomed many new families to the school community. We have had to hit the ground running, as already the weeks are busy with events such as parent information evenings and the start of swimming training. On Ash Wednesday the older children celebrated Mass with the Parish while the junior classes held their own lovely children's liturgy at Orana. This also marks the start of our fundraising focus for the term as the classes strive to collect funds for Project Compassion. The children will be encouraged to donate some of their pocket money or to do jobs at home to earn some money that they can then donate. We will have two major fundraising days throughout the term.

On St Patrick's Day the children can wear green for the cost of a gold coin donation and on 11th March we will be having a mini-fete during lunch-time and each class will be responsible for organising food to sell or games to play.

Enrolments at Orana.... There are several places available in Upper Primary if there are any families wishing to enrol their older children at Orana. Enrolments for children wishing to start Kindergarten in 2012 are now being taken. These children must have a date of birth between 01/07/2007-30/06/2008. Applications should be submitted prior to the family interviews commencing in April 2010. In addition, Orana also operates a 3 year old programme onsite, two half days a week, which is available to children after their third birthday. Application forms for both programmes are available by contacting the school between 8.30am-4.00pm weekly.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND—SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (C)....

1st Reading: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18
2nd Reading: Phil 3:17—4:1
Gospel Reading: Lk 9:28-36

THE CATHOLIC GUY LENTEN MISSION.... Join Bruce Downes and "The Catholic Guy" team for a 5 night event in preparation for Easter. The Catholic Guy team is known for presenting a weekly Catholic television program as well as numerous events at parishes around Australia and overseas.

Each night of The Catholic Guy Lenten Mission will include talks, music, multimedia and an opportunity for prayer, reflection and spiritual growth. This event is guaranteed to be an excellent experience for both regular parishioners and those whom you may wish to bring with you. No matter your age, young or old, you're guaranteed to enjoy this experience. This is a great opportunity to come together as a parish and explore our faith and reconnect to God as a truly Eucharistic community.

DATES: 15 to 19 March 2010 inclusive. **TIMES:** 7.30pm-9.30pm each night (with supper). **MORE DETAILS:** Flyers available in the Church foyer.

In order to make it a really successful event we will need assistance over the 5 evenings and would like to request volunteers to help in the following areas: platters of savoury food for the supper (2 platters per night); volunteers to serve the supper; child-minding for the creche (activities are provided by the Catholic Guy organisation); assistance with setting up and cleaning up.

If you can assist in any of these ways please phone the parish office or **Betty 9457 4991** so that a roster can be drawn up.

MARLENE CESAREO, RIP

The sincere sympathy of the parish community is extended to husband, Randolph, and family on the loss of Marlene on 12 February 2010. Marlene's Funeral was held on 19 February.



PROCLAIMERS WORKSHOP EVERY MONDAY, 7.30PM (See "What's On" for Venue).

The coming weekend's rostered Proclaimers who are to attend are:

Saturday, 27 February 2010

6.30pm Shannon Ziegelhaar, Rod Marsh

Sunday, 28 February 2010

7.30am Neil Smith, Joan Smith

9.00am Sr Monica Kirby, Angela Sharpe

10.30am Dunstan Elloy, Russel Godsall

Facilitator: Mildred Rego—9450 4573

JOHN PAUL CARE

This parish pastoral organisation offers, through its volunteers, short term (up to 3 months) emergency care to anyone who lives within the parish. Assistance is offered in the areas of bereavement/grief support, visiting the sick and the elderly, mental health, support for parents, cooking, transport, gardening and handyman. To enquire about these services, please contact the following:

- Parish Office (Mon-Fri from 9am-4pm) 9332 5992
- FAMILY SUPPORT: Betty 9457 4991
- MEALS: Mary 9310 2426
- MENTAL HEALTH: Bob 9332 3528
(Information only)
- GARDENING: Greg 9456 1747
- BEREAVEMENT: Geraldine 9456 2985
(or Betty: 9457 4991)
- TRANSPORT: Reena 9310 4173

The John Paul Care brochure is available in the foyer of the Church. It offers the opportunity to volunteer or to request assistance. **Please feel free to take one home. CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURED AT ALL TIMES**

LOSING A LOVED ONE may be the most difficult time in your life, but you need not be alone. The **JOHN PAUL CARE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** welcomes you to our meetings which are conducted in a friendly, relaxed and confidential setting. Meetings are held on the **1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.**

WHAT'S ON

22 FEBRUARY 2010:

7.00pm Personal Advocacy Integrated Group—John Paul Centre
7.30pm SVDP—Meeting Room 2
7.30pm Proclaimers' Preparation Session—John Paul Church

23 FEBRUARY 2010:

7.30pm RCIA—Large Meeting Room—John Paul Centre

24 FEBRUARY 2010:

9.30am Craft Circle—Large Meeting Room—John Paul Centre
9.30am-11.00am Exposition of the BS—John Paul Church
2.00pm Legion of Mary—Meeting Room 2—John Paul Centre
7.30pm JP Prayer Ministry Fellowship—JP Centre—All welcome

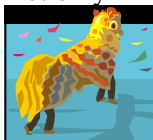
25 FEBRUARY 2010:

11.00am-12.00noon Divine Mercy Devotions—JP Church
7.00pm Personal Advocacy Advocate Preparation—JP Centre

26 FEBRUARY 2010:

10.00am Parish Team—Meeting Room 2
10.30am Growing Vine—Large Meeting Room—JP Centre

A LION DANCE PERFORMANCE.... will be held at Saints John & Paul Church grounds on **Saturday, 27 February 2010 at 7.30pm** after the normal Saturday, 6.30pm Mass. Everyone is invited to attend (it is not only for the Chinese community). You won't be able to resist the aroma of the tempting, **FREE** sausage sizzle for all after mass. See you there!



WEEKLY LENTEN REFLECTION

SHEETS designed for individual or small groups are available in the church foyer.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

1. JPYM COMMISSIONING MASS—THIS WEEKEND!!

2. A DATE WITH JESUS??

JPYM will be running an 8 week course called "INTRODUCING GOD" starting straight after the Vigil Mass this weekend (20th Feb). The course will be very beneficial to all youth as the message focuses on the importance of having a solid relationship with Jesus. The course will be conducted in a CAFE style and all youth aged 16 and above are welcome. Come discover something wonderful this LENT! For more information, please contact Joel (0450 903 606) or Kathleen (0421 755 731).

3. THE JPYM BAND is always delighted to welcome new talent - plays every 3rd Saturday for Masses. If interested, contact Joel or Kathleen.

St Vincent de Paul.... The holidays are over and the Willetton conference of St Vincent de Paul is back in full swing delivering Emergency Relief to the people within our region. The conference consists of 15 members helped out regularly by a number of Auxiliary members. Kevin Walsh has been a member for the past 8 years, serving as President for the last 3. He has recently accepted a new government position in the Pilbara. On behalf of all St Vincent de Paul members and the Sts John & Paul Parish community, I wish Kevin well and thank him for his tireless efforts for the needy within our community. I hope I can follow Kevin's example to lead this strong St Vincent de Paul conference. **Brendan McKernan—President: 9332 3636**

PROJECT COMPASSION—FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT...

The good news of the Gospel challenges us to change ourselves and our world for the better. This week's story takes us to rural Cambodia where Samon lives with his family. Life here is often a daily struggle. Caritas Australia is supporting 22 Cambodian communities, including Samon's, with practical training in micro credit to increase families' food production and livelihoods. Your generous donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion allow subsistence farmer families to gain skills to increase their household food security and offers hope for a healthier future.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE

(Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13)

Let me during this Lenten period deepen my desire to accept God's will in my life. Lord, help me as I struggle with the temptations on my journey, to overcome the darkness and head towards the light.