

Weekend of :	17/18 Feb 2024	Week 3		
Ministry	Sat 5 pm	Sun 8am	Sun 10am	Sun 5 pm
Music Groups	Congregation	Congregation	Congregation	Congregation
Heralds	Callan	Bianca	Valentina	Teresa
Readers	Helen /Immanuel	Mabel/ Christopher	Vera/Raphael	Maria/Mckenzie
Acolytes	Mick G	Peter/Victor	Yuve / Vincent	Mick M/ Surya
Altar Servers	Abed/Sophia/ Cameron	-	Patrick/Bryan/ Philip/Caitlyn	Mica/Hannah/ Taylor

Weekend of :	24/25 Feb 2024	Week 4		
Ministry	Sat 5pm	Sun 8am	Sun 10am	Sun 5 pm
Music Groups	Children's Choir	Sacred Heart	STJ Multicultural	Sts Joachim & Anne
Heralds	Stella	Jasmine/ Madeline	Blake/Rachel	Ryan
Readers	Irene/Hannah	Rhonda/Kaitlyn	Trish/Philip	Theresia/Ruby
Acolytes	Mick G/ Victor	Peter	Yuve/Vincent	Mick M/Surya
Altar Servers	Cameron	Bianca/ Christopher	Patrick/Gabby/ Bryan/Caitlin	Hannah/Taylor/ Kiomi/Naomi

Weekend Collection Report
Weekend 10/11 Feb 2024

1st Collection (Pastoral) - \$1902.00 &
2nd Collection (Church) - "Loose" \$1411.00 &
Envelopes - \$921.00

Thank you for your generosity - Fr Epeli -

Newman Group - February meeting

Our Young Professionals Group (25-40yo) will be meeting on:
4th Feb @ 6pm. Topic: Blessings – what are they and how do they fit into the life of the Church?
18th Feb@ 6pm. Topic: Romans 6 and Baptism - Fr Bijoy -

Lent

St Ambrose, Concord West

St Joachim's Catholic Parish

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RE Co-ordinator: Hannah Elliott

Parish Pastoral Council: Geoff Barrett

Finance Committee: Vladimir Lesic

Safeguarding Officer: Olivia Plan
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CCD Co-ordinators:
Lidcombe - Teresa Azzi
Newington - Daniel Boland

Sacramental Co-ord: Patricia Balatbat
sacraments@stjoachimsparish.org

WE COME TOGETHER TO ENCOUNTER GOD, WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER JOYFULLY IN ACTIVE SERVICE

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, & THURSDAY only 09:30am to 03:30pm PLEASE RING or EMAIL the Parish Office for anything ...
Mass Intentions—drop in the mailbox or collection baskets. Weddings: minimum 6 months notice.
Baptisms: held only on 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. Canberra Nursing Home - 4th Friday @ 11am
If anyone needs Holy Communion /Home Visits please contact the office to make arrangements.

Parish Values - Presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, Love of Work & In the way of Mary

1st Sunday of Lent - Yr B **18 February 2024**

This Week at St Joachim		SILENCE is to be observed at all times (before, during and after Mass) in the church
Sun 18/02	8:00am Mass 10:00am Catechists Mass 11:30am Morning Tea (hosted by our children) 5:00pm Mass	<p>REFLECTION - Fr Epeli -</p> <p>We all know the famous poem "Footprints in the sand." In the poem, we read about two pairs of footprints along a sandy beach but only one pair of footprints appears during stormy weather and rough seas. Lent is a time for us to look ahead to where Jesus' footprint is leading us. He leads us into the desert where God is to be found. In this we will also look behind, and we will see the distance travelled through the love and mercy of Jesus.</p> <p>When we look through the Old Testament, we see God's footprint with his peoples'. The Covenants are God's footprints with his people. We will hear about the first of these in the First Reading. The rainbow is the first of God's many signs of his covenantal relationship with his people. It will be helpful for us to reflect on the biblical meaning of this ancient symbol of God's covenantal sign which still appears <i>unchanged</i> in the sky.</p> <p>The word 'rainbow' comes from the Hebrew word – Qeshet. While modern culture has proposed subjective representations of it, it's ancient and true meaning is quite the opposite and remains unchanged. Qeshet means a 'war bow' that is used for battle. What battle is being referred to here? It is the fight against sin. So, the biblical 'rainbow' is firstly God's reminder to himself about his promise to never flood the earth again. The great flood was not about destroying people and creation. It was God's fight against sin. Man sinned and creation paid the price. But the Rainbow shows that God has promised he will never deal with sin like he did through the flood. This implies that God will deal with sin in another way.</p> <p>The first Covenantal Sign between God and Noah, the Rainbow (war-bow), directs our gaze towards heaven. The covenants are transcendental signs that help us turn towards God. They help us come from darkness into light, from sin to holiness, from death to life. They transcend time and place and leads us towards fullness of life and communion with God. Lent is a journey of transformation and conversion that leads us to embrace the Cross of Jesus and live his life and tell his story.</p> <p>The Church Fathers taught that the rainbow points to the Cross – the ultimate war-bow which destroys sin once and for all. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)." The Cross is the sign of the new and eternal covenant. Jesus offered his body and poured his precious blood on the Cross. The Cross of Jesus is the promised of God fulfilled!</p> <p>As the journey of Lent begins, we will see many footprints along the journey of faith and the way we have been living our lives. But let us not fret nor become discouraged. At times a gush of wind might blur our view of the path ahead. But we follow Jesus not on our merits, but by His promise, His love and His truth.</p>
Mon 19/02	9:00am Mass/Rosary	
Tue 20/02	9:00am Mass / Rosary	
Wed 21/02	6:00pm Adoration /Novena 7:00pm Mass	
Thurs 22/02	9:00am Mass / Rosary 3:00pm Holy Hour for Vocations 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 7:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	
Fri 23/02	9:00am Mass / Rosary 6:30pm Stations of the Cross	
Sat 24/02	12:00pm Wedding 2:00pm Wedding 4:00pm Confessions 5:00pm Vigil Mass	

Morning Tea hosted by our children in the hall on Sunday @11.30am

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS—Thursday 22 Feb @ 3pm

Everyone is invited to join in the Holy Hour for Vocations on Thursday 22 Feb @3pm to pray for our priests and those men who are experiencing the call to the priesthood. The Holy Hour will consist of:

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament;
- Reflection by the priest;
- Time for contemplation;
- Prayers for Vocations;
- Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Every Friday during Lent @6.30pm
All welcome to attend

STATIONS of the CROSS

2024 Grace & Silence SILENT RETREAT DAY* FOR YOUNG WOMEN

For Single Young Women 20-40 years discerning a vocation to Marriage and Family, Single Life or Consecrated Life

Sundays 9.30am to 4.30pm
Part 1 March 3 Part 2 April 7
Part 3 May 5 Part 4 June 2

*A four part retreat series where attendance of all four retreats is highly recommended. Punctual start and full attendance of each day required.

Venue: 'Bethany' 301 Fairlight Road Mulgoa
Cost \$25 per day OR \$90 full series
For catering purposes registrations close a WEEK PRIOR to each event!!!

FOR DETAILS Contact Hannah 0433443384

schoenstatt.org.au s-ms.org

LET US PRAY FOR:

Recently Returned to the Father: Rosa Nunez, Gary Clark,

Death Anniversary: Ignacio "Jun" Juanitez, Frederick J Delaney, Rodolfo A Pariñas, Joseph Horvat, Juana De Leon

In Loving Memory of: deceased members of the Keating family, Ivan Stefanac, Philip Ba-Tuoc Lam, Cong Tro Mai, Joseph CT Nguyen, Robert, Mathilda, Ralph, Milton & Leslie Hewett, Melville, Lucy, Trevor & Frank Rodrigues, Ivan Rendulic & Joseph Jurcic, Felix Jr Romero, Giovanni & Giuseppa Maiolo, Rocco & Giuseppina Macri, Sabestiano & Santina Luci, all souls in purgatory

NB: Please let the Parish Office know when circumstances change

Sick & Infirm: Madeleine Mitchell, Adam Irga, Jenny Hennessy, Frances Read, Angela Clancy, Enriqueta Navarro, Lorenza Talisayon, Annette Pillai, Bernadette Driessen, Rosa Corbo, Sue Joseph, Sue Morris, Michael Joseph, Lucy Zivkovic

Thanksgiving/Birthdays: Maria Hennessy, Gabriel L T Ching
Special Intentions of: Mateo Quines Tran

A Message from the Safeguarding Office - Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

Evening meditations followed by Stations of the Cross

FEBRUARY 18 | 7:00PM
"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"
Fr Benjamin Soliba

FEBRUARY 23 | 7:00PM
"Today you will be with me in paradise"
Fr Peter Prusakiewicz

MARCH 1 | 7:00PM
"Woman, behold your son. Behold your mother!"
Fr Epeli Qimaqima

MARCH 8 | 7:00PM
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
Fr Anthony Bernard

MARCH 15 | 7:00PM
"I thirst"
Fr Dominic Nguyen

MARCH 22 | 7:00PM
"It is finished"
Fr Bijoy Joseph

MARCH 29 | 7:00PM
"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."
Fr Chaminada Wariwasena

Didasko Adult Faith Formation
We cannot love what we do not know (St Augustine)

God is forever revealing Himself to us. Have you ever been curious to find out more? Join Chris Wolter online for a thought-provoking short course titled God the Beautiful: An Introduction to Theology that will make learning about God both enjoyable and accessible.

Special offer for parishes: Make the most of this opportunity by gathering a group in-person and sharing the learning experience with others.

DATES: Mondays 4, 11 and 18 March 2024
TIME: 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm
MODE: Online via Zoom
COST PER COURSE: \$35 for individuals or \$100 per Parish Group for an in-person gathering (+ booking fees).

To find out more and to register, visit <https://gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko/>

GOSPEL

Mk 1: 12-15

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.*He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**HOMILY****PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED***Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST***After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:***R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

P. Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.**PREFACE OF THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT***After the Preface, we sing or say:***All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.****Heaven and earth are full of your glory.****Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he****who comes in the name of the Lord.****Hosanna in the highest.****THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,**and profess your Resurrection****until you come again.****COMMUNION RITE**

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the**glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace***LAMB OF GOD****All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.****INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy**that you should enter under my roof,****but only say the word****and my soul shall be healed.****COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Mt 4: 4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P. Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.**BREAKING OPEN THE WORD****LENT: SPRINGTIME FOR ALL GOD'S CREATION**

In the southern hemisphere we miss the signs of nature linked in the northern hemisphere to Lent, namely the coming of spring. The word "Lent," is derived from the Old English "lenctern" meaning spring. This poses a challenge for us in Australia's autumn, as we seek to unfold the springtime in our soul. In our scriptural journey into Lent, we are greeted with the sign of God's covenant with Noah: a rainbow. This covenant is not just with Noah and all descendants but with every living creature, everything that lives on the earth. A rainbow may well grace our southern skies in autumn, enabling us to experience ourselves in the embrace of God's covenant with the whole ecological world in which we live.

In the Gospel, the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness for forty days along with the wild beasts. Satan the tempter, and the angels who minister to Jesus. These ministering angels, like the rainbow, are a sign of God's ever-presence. As Jesus emerges from his forty days, we hear him begin his ministry in Galilee with "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near." Evocatively we have entered our forty days of Lent in a wilderness of ecological crisis. Unseasonal extremes of temperature, floods, fires and all manner of tempests call for us to take heed of the earth in which we dwell. In this time, we can reflect, ecologically and spiritually, to change our hearts and believe the Good News, knowing well God's promise through the rainbow and through the gift of his son.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / B

18 FEBRUARY 2024

DRIVEN INTO THE WILDERNESS. The Spirit of God, who descended on Jesus at his baptism, drove him into the wilderness. In the Jewish Scriptures the wilderness is both the place where Israel meets God and the place where it is tempted to worship idols made of stone. The season of Lent is a good time to examine whether we are responding to the Spirit of God in our lives or succumbing to the allurements of false idols.

INTRODUCTORY RITES**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 90: 15-16**When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.****GREETING**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.**PENITENTIAL ACT**

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. **All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.*The Gloria is not said during Lent.***COLLECT**

P. Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.**LITURGY OF THE WORD****FIRST READING**

Gen 9: 8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

I will recall the covenant between myself and you ... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.**RESP PSALM**

Ps 24: 4-9. R. cf. v. 10

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**3. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path; / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.****SECOND READING**

1 Pet 3: 18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominions and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Mt 4: 4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**No one lives on bread alone,****but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.****Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**