

ST PATRICK'S PARISH MORTLAKE

33 Gale St. Mortlake 2137 Telephone (02) 9743 1017 Fax: (02) 9739 6474

E-mail: parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au

Parish Website: www.stpatsmortlake.org.au

Parish Priest: Mons. John Usher

NOTE: WEDNESDAY NEXT, 14TH FEBRUARY 2018 IS ASH WEDNESDAY. OUR MASSES ON ASH WEDNESDAY WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES, WILL BE AT 8.00AM AND 7.30PM

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK: *Monday:* St Eulalia (304- Patron of Barcelona); *Tuesday:* St Catherine De Ricci (1589); *Wednesday: Ash Wednesday* and St Valentine (269 – Patron of lovers); *Thursday:* St Faustinus & St Jovita (121); *Friday:* St Onesimus (95); *Saturday:* Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (1233).

MESSAGE FROM MONS JOHN: It is not an uncommon experience sometimes for us to feel like we are an “outsider”. In some groups of people we can have a sense that we are not welcome or we don’t belong. Of course, depending on who we are; or on our ethnic origins; or on our social standing in the community; or on our level of education; or on the colour of our skin etc, our sense of sometimes feeling like an “outsider” can be exacerbated.

It seems that our contemporary society is built on the ideology of discrimination. The press constantly makes distinctions between certain human beings; “boat people” are distinguished from “immigrants”. People of a “middle eastern appearance” are distinguished from the rest of us: In some sense these distinctions are understandable. In another sense such distinctions perpetuate the ideology that some human beings have a greater right to be treated with dignity than others.

In today’s Gospel story, Jesus meets a man suffering from leprosy. People had unrealistic fears about leprosy in Jesus’ time. These fears led to the ostracism of such people. Lepers were forced to live apart from everyone else; generally on the outskirts of the village or town. Offshore processing of asylum seekers is a contemporary example of ostracism of people who are different to the rest of us.

Today’s story about the cure of a leper by Jesus is, in fact, more about confronting the ideology of ostracism than it is about healing. When the leper says to Jesus, “If you want to, you can cure me”, Jesus says “Of course I want to”.

In spite of the norms of our contemporary society, we also “want to” treat all people as dignified human beings. As followers of Jesus we do not want to exclude or ostracise people because they are considered to be “different” to the rest of society. It does take a fair amount of courage to be accepting of all people and it does involve some risk. We are told, in today’s Gospel, that Jesus had the courage and was prepared to take a risk to respond positively to the leper. It seems that it warrants serious consideration.

THE SEASON OF LENT AND LENTEN PENANCE: We are asked to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This only applies to Catholics over 14 years of age. We are also asked to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This is an invitation to eat and drink less on these days. This applies to Catholics between the ages of 19 and 60!

On all Fridays, especially during Lent, the extra penance suggest is as follows: Extra prayers or; self-denial or; Helping people with special needs. Lent last form Ash Wednesday (14th February) until the evening of Holy Thursday (29th March). The Archbishops statement about Lenten Penance is on the Parish Notice Boards and copies are available to take home.

SVDP: The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th February at 6.00 in the Parish Office.

DIRECTOR OF CARE SERVICES ROSARY VILLAGE: Rosary Village at Yennora is seeking a full time Director of Care Services. For More information contact Anthony Spata on 0402 210 055.

DAVID PARKES – INTERNATIONAL SINGER: David Parkes is returning to Australia and will be performing at St Charles Parish Church on Saturday 24th February 2018 at 4.00pm Cost is by donation.

CATECHIST: At all our Masses last week-end our Catechists spoke to us about their special ministry at Mortlake Public Primary School. Maybe you might like to become a catechist. It involves only a few hours of your time on a Wednesday morning. Training and support are provided to all catechists. **Do think about it!** All enquiries please contact Bob Mayor on 9736 1161 or at mayor@leasing.net.au

OUR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS: The theme of this year’s Lenten Discussions is “BLESSED AND BROKEN”. Every year these discussions are very popular and a good way to enhance our devotions and prayers during Lent. This year we will reflect on the words of Dr Anthony Pizzey of the Australia Catholic University; Fr Dom Orih from Brisbane; Bishop Anthony Randazzo of Sydney; and Fr Rob Galea from Sandhurst.

The discussions will take place on Wednesday evening in the Parish Hall from 7.30pm until 9.00pm. They will commence on 21st February and conclude on Wednesday 21st March. Everyone is welcome but it would be helpful if you could write your name on the sheet at the back of the church today or next week-end. This will help to ensure that we have an adequate number of resource books. **ALL WELCOME**

MEETINGS WITH BISHOP RICHARD UMBERS: The Bishop’s Blend: Looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? Then join the Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on **Tuesday, 27th February 2018 at 7:00am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** for The Bishop’s Blend, a quarterly breakfast series for young professionals. Online booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://thebishopsblendthirdedition.eventbrite.com> or contact us at bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org

CATHOLIC CARE – PARENT SUPPORT: Parents sometimes face difficulties as their children grown up. If you need any professional advice call 13 18 19 to speak to a parenting specialist at Catholic Care.

DIARY DATES	
<i>Monday</i>	10.00am BINGO in the Parish Hall – <i>Come along and have some fun</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	11.00am Christian Meditation in the Lady Chapel – <i>All Welcome</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	Ash Wednesday – Mass at 8.00am and 7.30pm – Distribution of Ashes

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Peter Neville; Sabastiano Luci (Italy); Margaret Howland; Kevin Sheedy; Gerry Gleeson; Enrico Antonio Di Carlo.

ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Camillo & Maria Zappa; Pietro Archetti; Riccardo Sommaro; Francesco D’Elia; Brian Smith; Loretta Ricchiuti; Michael Abdallah; Brigid Harris; Douglas Craig; Warren Lane; Laurence Worne; Ellen Hocking; Muriel Garde; Robert Patton; Kathleen Power; Mary McInerney; Catherine Stone; Frank Silvestri; Mary Weir; Mary McKeough.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY: Join the Prayer Group after Sunday’s 9am Mass to say one decade of the Rosary and the Memorare for petitions received: Warren Skinner; Tony; Brian; Robert Northey; Herrera Family; Nina McNamara; Kane Petersen; Devon; Albert; Marisa; Christine; John Coulson;; Margaret Love; Domenica; Dannie; Diane. **To have your own petitions included, please see one of the group, or phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718 or See Mons John**

NEXT WEEK 17 & 18 FEBRUARY 2018 – WEEK THREE			
	Sat. 6.00 pm	Sun. 9.00 am	Sun. 6.00 pm
Readers	Michelle McCabe Howard Brown	Helen O’Neill Michelle Sraih	Sybille Morelli Charissa Puglisi
Acolytes	Kevin Nelson- Smith	Eric Kent	Alex Duck
Communion at Mass	Nerina Briganti Max Briganti Tony Brown	Betty Flynn Connie Lasorsa	Diane Carolan Rita Kolibac Michele Couch
Communion to the Sick	Kevin Casey and Frank O’Young		
Children’s Liturgy	Leonie and Rebecca		
Altar Society	No Flowers During Lent		
Money Counters	Sandra & Stephen Ryan and Philomena & Michael Turley		
Altar Servers	Please see Mons John		

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE BY PURCHASING A CATHOLIC WEEKLY TODAY FOR ONLY \$2.00 – MANY THANKS