

TODAY: Nehemiah:2-6,8-10;Psalm18:8-10,15;Corinthians12:12-30;Luke1:1-4,4:14-21
NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah1:4-5,17-19;Psalm70:1-6,15,17;Corinthians12:31-13:13;Luke4:21-30

PURIFIERS: 27th January: Lisa Harris
3rd February: Jennifer Keely

RECENTLY DECEASED: Jack Donohue, Nell Augustine, Carmen Fuentes, Maureen McKenzie, Marjorie Stent.

ANNIVERSARIES: Marly Jara, Mary Andrews, Elda Broggi, Teresa Viotto, Agostino Sofo, Leslie Cudd, Lionel D’Cruze, Alfred and Marie Ayoub, Salwa Dib.

ARE YOU NEW TO OLA PARISH? Please take a copy of our Welcome Kit which includes a copy of our Parish History, then tell us about yourself by completing our new parish census card with all relevant details.
PLEASE FILL IN THE FAMILY BOOK: You are invited to write in the names of those you would like us to include in our prayers. When entering names of deceased loved ones we ask parishioners to please **PRINT**, and add your name and phone number even if the deceased is not a family member.

BAPTISMS/WEDDINGS: Baptisms are celebrated at 12.15 pm most Sundays of the year with 4/5 weeks’ notice required for bookings. Any Catholic is very welcome to use OLA Church for their marriage celebration. 95836161.

BAPTISM WELCOME:
11.00am: Talia Harrison, daughter of Catherine and Sam.

We, the people of OLA, acknowledge and pay respect to the Boonworong people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. May we walk gently here.

PSALM REFLECTION:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Which “words”, “decrees”, “laws” of the Lord most guide your life?

Liturgy times

Monday Jan 28

9.15 am Communion Service

Tuesday Jan 29

6.00 pm Mass

Wednesday Jan 30

9.15 am Mass

Thursday Jan 31

9.15 am Mass

Friday Feb 1

10.15 am Healing Mass

Saturday Feb 2

9.00 am Mass

6.30 pm Mass
(4th Sunday Ord Time)

Sunday Feb 3

9.00 am Mass

11.00 am Mass

CONFESSIONS:

Wednesday 9.45am

Saturday: 9.30am & 6.00pm

Dear God,

We rejoice and give thanks for earthworms,
bees, ladybirds and broody hens;

for humans tending their gardens, talking to
animals,

cleaning their homes and singing to
themselves;

for rising of the sap, the fragrance of growth,
the invention of the wheelbarrow and the
existence of the teapot,
we give thanks.

We celebrate and give thanks.

Amen.



Michael Leunig



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham
Parish House:9583 6161 Parish School:9584 9488

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au
www.olacheltenham.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Matheson

Pastoral Associates: Frances North and Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C – 27th January 2019

There were two bits of news concerning Australia that we picked up in the Middle East. One was about the record heat wave affecting Eastern Australia. The other was the sad news of the murder of the young Palestinian Israeli exchange student, Aiiia Maasarwe, here in Melbourne. While some of us were enjoying the hospitality of the Palestinian people especially in places like Bethlehem it was doubly sad to hear of Aiiia’s shocking murder.

My thoughts today may fill a couple of pages in our bulletin. The gospel today is Luke’s version of the formal beginning of Jesus’ public ministry which began in the synagogue in Nazareth: “The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight.” While his own people could not accept him, he was received in other synagogues in northern Galilee, in Capernaum, and Magdala, and Cana. It was our blessing over the last couple of weeks during our Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands of Jordan, Israel and Palestine, to stand in many of these places that have been revealed by archaeologists in recent years. It has been said that tourists travel through the land, but pilgrims let the land travel through them.

I had highlights being able to celebrate the Eucharist for our group in many special places and let those places travel through me. There was the first on Mt Nebo in Jordan where Moses looked out over the Promised Land at the end of their 40-year trek from Egypt. The second Mass the next morning was down at the edge of the Jordan River at Bethany across the Jordan where they believe Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist. The third was at the tomb where the dead body of Jesus lay awaiting the resurrection. The fourth Mass, the next day (Sunday) was in the section of the cave where Jesus was born in Bethlehem that Jerome was to use 400 years later to translate the Hebrew and Greek scriptures into Latin, the language of the people at that time. The fifth Mass was in the chapel of “Dominus Fleuit” on the side of the Mount of Olives where Jesus wept over his beloved Jerusalem knowing the destruction that awaited it. The sixth Mass was in Bethany, where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived, all of whom Jesus loved. We used a small stone chapel built by the Crusaders in the 13th century. The final Mass last Sunday was not in a sacred place. It was in a meeting room in our hotel in Petra down in ancient Nabatean and Edomite territory in the south of Jordan. There we reflected on everything we had experienced before flying home.

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But there were three encounters with modern tragic Palestinian life that deeply affected us. One was a meeting with two "brothers" – a Jewish man and a Palestinian man. Both had lost lovely daughters to senseless violence, one to a suicide bomber and the other shot by an Israeli soldier. They are two of a growing group of bereaved parents who have lost children to violence who are coming together to work, not for revenge but for reconciliation and peace and brother and sisterhood. This parent circle wants to give the blind new sight.

The second encounter was a visit to the Holy Child School near the Shepherds' Field on the edge of Bethlehem. There a staff of 13 are helping educate 33 children between the ages of 6 and 14 that can't be helped by any other school because of the trauma and mental anguish that has affected their capacity to learn. The school relies totally on donations to keep going. Their love for those kids was so moving.

The third encounter was a visit to Bethlehem University run by the De La Salle Brothers since 1973. After all we were a Lasallian Pilgrimage group. The university is an oasis of peace for the 3300 students from many parts of the West Bank (75% Moslem and 25% Christian). The thousands who have graduated over the years have been trained and formed in many disciplines to be the ready-made leaders to help build a new nation when hopefully the opportunity may one day come. Br Peter Bray is a New Zealander, and the other brother is Br Denis Loft, an Aussie who after teaching in Malvern volunteered to work in South Sudan with Br Bill Firman. He then came a couple of years ago to this oasis of peace. Another moving mission to proclaim liberty to captives! All in our group, including our own parishioner pilgrims, were all deeply affected by what we experienced there in modern Bethlehem and the nearby Shepherds' Field. So we pilgrims have come home to Australia but those lands are still travelling through us.

Our prayers and sympathies are with the families of Nell Augustine and Jack Donohue who have died in the last week. Nell's funeral was on Friday in that 44-degree heat, and Jack's will be next Tuesday at noon.

The Grades 1 to 6 children at our parish school return to classes next Friday (Feb 1). The new Preps begin the following Monday. *Fr. Peter*

POPE FRANCIS has declared 8th February to be the World Day of Prayer Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking for the Universal Church. He chose this day because it is the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of Sudan and of Trafficked People. A vigil Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th February 2019 in St. Patrick's Cathedral. ALL are MOST WELCOME Find out more at: <http://acrath.org.au/world-day-of-prayer/> or www.cam.org.au/justice

PARISH MISSION 16th – 22nd February

Home Gatherings: An opportunity to meet with other parishioners in an informal setting and consider the topics for our upcoming Mission:

- Session 1: Family and How We Communicate
- 2: Grief, loss and the mystery of human suffering
- 3: Sharing Faith with our Children
- 4: Prayer and Spirituality
- 5: Reconciliation and Eucharist

Thank you to all who have volunteered to host/lead a gathering. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer, offering a variety of dates and venues. These are not discussion groups, rather an opportunity to share.

COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES:

The parish provides free short term counselling to members of the OLA community (parish and school) and their families. Counselling is provided by AnneMaree Eddy, Psychologist. Please contact the parish office for appointments.

ST BEDES OPEN DAY:

For current Year 5 students who will be entering Year 7 in 2021 or anyone interested in viewing the College. Date: Wednesday 6 March 2019 Bookings are available by visiting the college website: www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au
P: 03 9582 5999 F: 03 9582 5757 E: stbedes@stbedes.catholic.edu.au



Palms Australia

Following their recent Orientation Course which prepared ten new volunteers for mission, Palms is recruiting again to fill the many more requests from overseas [communities](#) and improve their opportunities. This March, they are holding a special Info Session in Melbourne as follows- **Palms Info Session**, Saturday 2 March 2019, 10:30 am, Ross House, Jenny Florence Room, 247-251 Flinders Lane MELBOURNE. The session will provide insights from the field experience of Palms volunteers, and how parishioners too can contribute their own professional skills to a mission of just, peaceful development.

REMINDER:Rosters for Readers, Commentators, Ministers of the Eucharist and PowerPoint Operators are in the church foyer for collection. Thank you again for your continued support of the parish and these important ministries.

NEEDED: Drivers to take parishioners to 9.00am. If you could assist, please contact Christine at the parish office. 95836161



Thanks to Splash 12-16-1997
OH, "SPLIT THE RED SEA" ... I THOUGHT YOU SAID "SPLIT PEA"