

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Exodus3:1-8,13-15;Psm102:1-4,6-8,11;Corinthians10:1-6,10-12;Luke13:1-9

NEXT WEEK: Joshua5:9-12; Psalm33:2-7; Corinthians5:17-21; Luke15:1-3,11-32.

PURIFIERS: 24th March: Margaret Mulhall, 31st March: Masrgie Beltrano

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fucile Carmelo, Isabelle Teresa Borg, B.Cancian.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Frank Patterson, Pasquale Sotille, Mary Haggarty, Ken Holloway, Mary McGannon, Nell Cleal, Frank Anile, Rosemarie Crozier, Enrico Alba, Peter Treadwell, Andrea Attilia Anna Zucche, Karen Doherty, Michael Campion, John Evangelista.

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 12.15pm most Sundays of the year with 4/5 weeks' notice required. Any Catholic is very welcome to use OLA Church for their marriage celebration. 95836161.

BAPTISM WELCOME:

11.00am: Zian Torres, son of Max and Veronica.

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

PSALM REFLECTION:

The Lord is kind and merciful

What do these words from the psalm evoke for you?
...holy.....blessings.....mercy...
...compassionate...

Liturgy times

Monday Mar 25

10.30 am Mass (Feast of Annunciation)

Tuesday Mar 26

6.00 pm Mass

Wednesday Mar 27

9.15 am Mass

Thursday Mar 28

9.15 am Mass

Friday Mar 29

9.15 am Mass

Saturday Mar 30

9.00 am Mass

6.30 pm Mass (4th Sunday of Lent)

Sunday Mar 31

9.00 am Mass (4th Sunday of Lent)

11.00 am Mass (4th Sunday of Lent)

CONFESSIONS:

Wednesday: 9.45am

Saturday: 9.30am & 6.00pm

The path to your door

Is the path within,
Is made by animals,
Is lined by thorns,
Is stained with wine,
Is lit by the lamp of sorrowful dreams,
Is washed with joy,
Is swept by grief,
Is blessed by the lonely traffic of art,
Is known by heart,
Is known by prayer,
Is lost and found,
Is always strange,

The path to your door.

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

24th March 2019

Third Sunday of

Lent Year C

There was a sense at the time of Jesus that afflictions that happened to people (blindness, epilepsy, even death) were caused because they had committed serious sins. Yet Jesus often said that the disabilities that people suffered had nothing to do with their personal sin. Today's readings focus on different aspects of this theme. The whole creation was still groaning in its birthing pangs. The fullness of peace, perfection, and health would only come in the resurrection. The journey through the wilderness continues towards the fullness of life and light.

The people tragically killed in the mosques at Christchurch last week did not die because of any personal sin on their part. They were killed by the evil in the heart of another man. In the gospel Jesus speaks of the people who were killed when a tower fell on them at Siloam. They were victims of a natural disaster, possibly man made with poor materials and poor craftsmanship. They were not victims of their own sinfulness. In Israel back in January we walked through Hezekiah's tunnel one afternoon to the pool of Siloam at the other end. It was Hezekiah's tunnel that carried fresh water from a spring outside the city of Jerusalem to the pool within its walls. With that fresh water the city was able to withstand many a siege. But we remember too the blind man Jesus cured. He put mud on his eyes and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. From the mud of life, we come to the light.

Fig trees on the property next to Bracken Hall are rich with figs at the moment. Jesus tells another parable in the gospel about a fig tree. For three years it has not produced a crop. Do you cut it down, or give it another chance? Manure it, water it, encourage it. So while the whole of creation is still in birth pangs and struggling in different ways, so are we! We embrace the wilderness in our own hearts. Many in NZ are saying "we are not like that" referring to the evil man that killed so many innocent Muslims at prayer. Yet as Leunig succinctly pointed out in one of his cartoons this week "we are like that." We all struggle to produce good fruit.

In the wilderness Moses encountered God in the burning bush. We have part of that history changing momentous encounter told in the first reading today. Moses is challenged by God to lead his people out of slavery into a new freedom. God will help bring them to a land "rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow." But wherever we walk on earth we are to remember the message of the burning bush that we stand on holy ground. God is always with us in the struggle.

Fr. Peter

OUR JANUARY PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL: I have been asked by the school staff to reflect on our pilgrimage last January to Israel. So next Wednesday I will be sharing that reflection with them in a PowerPoint presentation. It will take place in the church from 3.30 to 4.30 pm. I will repeat it for our catechumens in the church at 7.30 pm. Anyone interested is welcome to come along to either session. The staff won't mind if others pop in with them, and neither will our two catechumens and the RCIA team. "Tourists travel through the lands. Pilgrims let the land travel through them."

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: As mentioned last week Templestowe parish are organising a general meeting to discuss what should be on the agenda of the Plenary Council. They have invited us to be key players in this discussion. They have also extended the invitation to a number of other parishes. Their email this week contained this message: "the parishes of Cheltenham, Grovedale, Kilmore, Parkville and Templestowe are writing to invite you to work with us and other parishes towards a joint statement. We plan to begin this at a meeting to be held at Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, from 2-4pm on Saturday 13th April 2019. This meeting is open to one or two representatives from each parish. The initial agenda of the meeting will be as follows: - i. Identify the main themes to be highlighted in the proposed statement. ii. Agree to a process for drafting the statement. iii. Agree on a process for deciding the final draft and for gaining parish approval. We look forward to one or two members of your Parish (team) joining us in the process on 13th April." Would anyone interested in this meeting please contact the parish office.

A MESSAGE FROM ACRATH (AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMANS): *We cannot ignore the fact that there is as much slavery in the world today, as there was before, or perhaps more – said Pope Francis last month. Can't find slavery-free Easter eggs in your supermarket?*

Ten years ago there was almost no slavery-free chocolate in our supermarkets in Australia. Now, because of public pressure and consumer demands, most supermarkets will sell some. Thank you for contributing to the demand for slavery-free chocolate, but we have a long way to go. **Good news:** There is now slavery-free chocolate available in so many places. It tastes delicious and is no more expensive than other chocolate. Try ALDI, Haighs, OXFAM and leading supermarkets.

The Catholic Archdiocese Melbourne is also converting to slavery-free tea and coffee. Get on board! **Action:** When you go to your local supermarket, look for chocolate that has one of these three symbols. If you can't find any, ask the manager if they stock any. <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter/> for information and resources.



LENTEN TALKS 2019: All lectures will begin at 7.30pm and will take place at the Sacred Heart Parish, 13 Fernhill Road Nth, Sandringham.

Tuesday, March 26th "**Being with God in Nature**" Mr Peter Saunders

Tuesday, April 2nd "**Holy Smoke Batman! Film as a Spiritual Practice**" Ms Anna Box

Tuesday, April 9th "**Where does the Church go from here?**" Fr Frank O'Loughlin

SR. MARGARET KENNY mss: will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee (60) on the 25th March, also we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. Mass will be at 10.30am, and please join us after mass for morning tea to say thank you to such a wonderful and caring person. ALL WELCOME to join in the celebrations.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL : Journey with St. Paul as you relive the Acts of the Apostles and the various letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece and Greek islands in this 14-day pilgrimage lead by Catholic Priests that features Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Thessaloniki, Philippi and Meteora for an all-inclusive price of \$5990. The group departs on 1st October 2019. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + 4 day cruise with Lunch + All Breakfast & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides + Entrances as per itinerary and more. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300721561 or email pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au.

ST JAMES COLLEGE: Applications for Year 7 2020 & 2021 are now open. See the College in Action: Open Mornings 9.15am-10.30am Tuesday 30th April, Monday 20th May, Friday 7th June and Wednesday 26th June. Bookings essential. Call 95758119 or email registrar@sicbe.catholic.edu.au to make a booking.

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.

ANGLICAN OP-SHOP: The Anglican Opportunity Shop needs volunteers at their Cheltenham location. If you are able to assist, please contact Glenys on 9583 2993 or 0409850016.

KNITTING: The next knitting day will be on the 2nd April at 1pm. Please join the group in the Church Meeting Room. ALL WELCOME. The Knitting Stall will be held on the 5th and 6th April with Easter goodies to purchase. and remember..'*Housework is for those who don't know how to knot!!*



SOON BEFORE PONTIUS JONES CHANGED HIS NAME TO PONTIUS PILOT