

**SCRIPTURE:**

Isaiah43:16-21; Psalm125;Philipians3:8-14; John8:1-11

**NEXT WEEK:**

Isaiah50:4-7;Ps21:8-0,17-20,23-24;Philippians2:6-11;Luke23:1-49

**PURIFIERS:**

7th April: Maria Bracchi  
14th April: Helen Brennan

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**

John Green, Esther Cauchi, Ivor Neeham, Julie Miller, Kenneth Davis, Maureen Wines.

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Paul Grima, William Smith, Filomena Perotti, Thomas James, Elsie Longmuir, Bruce Longmuir.

**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, six mths notice or longer would be appreciated. For all enquires on both sacraments please contact the parish office on 95836161.

**We, the people of OLA, acknowledge and pay respect to the Boonwuring 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 has done great things for us; we are filled with joy**  
Have you experience times of 'weeping' that turned into a 'song of joy'? A silver lining maybe? How did you experience God in those times?

**Liturgy Times:**

<b>Monday Apr 8</b>	9.15 am	Communion Service
<b>Tuesday Apr 9</b>	6.00 pm	Mass
<b>Wednesday Apr 10</b>	9.15 am	Communion Service
<b>Thursday Apr 11</b>	9.15 am	Mass
<b>Friday Apr 12</b>	9.15 am	Mass
<b>Saturday Apr 13</b>	9.00 am	Mass
<b>Saturday Apr 13</b>	6.30 pm	Mass (Palm Sunday)
<b>Sunday Apr 14</b>	9.00 am	Mass (Palm Sunday)
<b>Sunday Apr 14</b>	11.00 am	Mass (Palm Sunday)

**Confessions:**

Wednesday	9.40am
Saturday	9.30am & 6.00pm

**HOLY WEEK LITURGIES:**

Communal Celebration of

**RECONCILIATION:**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm. ALL WELCOME

Theme: FREEDOM

**HOLY THURSDAY:**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's supper

**GOOD FRIDAY:**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 3.00pm

**EASTER VIGIL:**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm

**EASTER SUNDAY:**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 9am & 11am

**LENTEN TALKS 2019:**

**The last in a series of lectures at the Sacred Heart Parish, 13 Fernhill Road Nth, Sandringham, starting at 7.30pm.**

Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> **"Where does the Church go from here?"** presented by Fr Frank O'Loughlin

**WON'T YOU JOIN US!** A great time to get to know other parishioners. Refreshments will be served after 9am and 11am masses this weekend.

**PLODDERS PRAYER**

God give me a quiet week,  
Nothing too amazing,  
Nothing too far up the creek,  
I need to do some grazing.

God please let me simply plod  
A path that's not too rough.  
Being me is very odd  
And that is quite enough.



**We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our Parish.**



**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 & Christine Dunne  
**Psychologist:** AnneMaree Eddy  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lent Apr 7, 2019**

The school Easter holidays have begun, but Easter is still two weeks away. We wish all of you who will enjoy some holidays with your families over the next two weeks a happy and safe time for growing your family bonds more deeply and strongly. Every funeral we celebrate here at OLA is a key family event in one way or another. They are always sad because a loved daughter or son, a mother or father, a wife or husband, is no longer with us. Sometimes the sadness is softened because of the number of years we have enjoyed their company. Sometimes the sadness is overwhelming because they have died too soon, and too tragically. Again this week we ask you to remember some families in your prayers, particularly the Jacobs and Moller families, after funerals this past week, and also the Wines and Davis families with funerals to come.

Federal elections are in the air. By the time you read these words we may already know when the next general election will be held. Certainly, the budget that came down last Tuesday evening is a pre-election budget aimed at getting votes for the Government. The reaction from Catholic Social Services to the budget has been less than complimentary. The St Vincent de Paul national president, Claire Victory, declared, "The Treasurer says a strong economy is the key to delivering better government services. Yet instead of investing in essential social security payments, social housing, and community services, this budget squanders an opportunity to balance the benefits of lifting household income delivered through tax cuts against giving a hand up to our most disadvantaged citizens who continue to be excluded from participation in the life of their community due to lack of money in their pockets." Stinging words! Fr Frank Brennan, CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia, noted the \$5 million to be spent over four years to address the endemic situation of Aboriginal suicide is lamentable compared to the billions of dollars going elsewhere.

Like many stories in the gospels this weekend we encounter the poor and very disadvantaged people who lived at the time of Jesus. From compassion for the unfruitful fig tree (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent), to the forgiving father of the Prodigal Son (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent), we continue with the theme of a loving forgiving God in the readings of the liturgy this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. The gospel is the story of the woman who was caught in adultery being dragged before Jesus. It is a beautiful story of the immense mercy of Jesus towards this poor woman, trapped perhaps in domestic violence, and most probably trapped in poverty.

The Scriptures deemed to be canonical by the church are those connected to the first Latin edition of the Bible. It dates back to around the year 400 when St Jerome completed his massive work of translating the Hebrew and Greek scriptures (basically the Old and the New Testaments). Jerome did most of his epic work in the cave in Bethlehem that doubled before him as a stable and the birthplace of Jesus. Jerome had at his disposal many different manuscripts circulating at the time which were held to be precious documents of God's story with his people. The story of the woman caught in adultery is ancient, but was not part of many of the early manuscripts of John's gospel. It seems that the easy way in which Jesus forgave this poor woman did not match with the strict demands of the early Church for holiness and the story was quietly put aside. But it still circulated in some manuscripts. By 400 CE the capacity of the Church to forgive serious sin was being acknowledged and Jerome placed this story into the gospel of John. In language and style it could easily have belonged to the tradition of Luke, whose gospel has such great human stories as the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and the story of Zacchaeus. The scribes and Pharisees set the snare for Jesus, rather than for the woman. They may have had a circle of stones ready, but if he does not let them stone her, then he has broken the Law of Moses. That is their first step in condemning him to death. Sin will triumph, and Jesus will be crucified. But in turn the risen Lord will conquer sin and death.

As a people already blessed by the Easter Lord, we are also to be a people of mercy and forgiveness. St Augustine, a contemporary of Jerome, and bishop of Hippo in modern day Algeria, a long way from Bethlehem, was aware of this gospel tradition, and named it the meeting of "misery with mercy." The liturgy times this week are listed elsewhere in the Bulletin along with details of our Holy Week liturgies. On Wednesday this coming week the Archbishop has called a meeting of all Melbourne priests at Moonee Valley. It commences at 10.00 am and hence there will be a communion service on Wednesday instead of Mass.

**Fr Peter**

## CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME (LAUDATO SI')

### PARISH UPDATE—APRIL 2019

We have come to the last chapter of Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si'* ("praise be (to you Lord God)"), a letter he wrote to "every person on the planet" because of his concern for how humans are treating the earth we live on. In previous chapters, Francis reminded us that pollution and a 'throwaway culture' are creating mountains of filth. Over-production and over-consumption are driving rapid climate change. Food and drinking water for vast numbers of people and creatures are being destroyed, with many species driven to extinction. God made humans responsible to 'care for and cultivate the earth', not to destroy it. Francis calls each of us to a profound interior conversion—to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world. How we treat the poor among us, and whether we leave an inhabitable planet to future generations, is up to each one of us. In the final chapter, Francis tells us the world needs to take hold of its shared human origins and move forward in a great spiritual renewal (LS202). He hopes our age will be remembered as one where we found new reverence for the earth and the poor. We must show respect for all life, for the proper use of things, to turn from greed to generosity. All people are bound together as brothers and sisters, as children of God (LS229). If the whole world can become a civilisation of love, a more humane society will emerge with a will to protect the earth. The Eucharist is our profound expression of the closeness of God with us and all of nature, the Holy Trinity is the community of love from which creation flows. (LS238). The world is a web of relationships as we, with all creation, move towards God. Finally, The Pope asks Mary to help us see the world with wisdom, wonder and love, and Joseph to show us how to care for each other and the earth (LS242). You can read the encyclical at <https://laudatosi.com> **Now it's up to us** ....Over the past 12 months we have reviewed the Pope's letter, and his earnest exhortation to each one of us to reflect upon how we treat the earth and its creatures, how we treat the poor who live among us and to how live simpler, less consuming lives. Every one of us can do our part in responding to the Pope's call, making changes in our own consumption and care for the environment, encouraging our family members and friends to become more caring for the earth, leaving an inhabitable, thriving planet to our children and grandchildren.

## WHAT WILL WE DO?



Image courtesy of Michael Leunig

### "What the economy really needs more of: trees"

Our cities are getting hotter, more crowded and noisier, while climate change is bringing more heatwaves. Planting trees in parks, gardens or streets has many benefits, helping to cool cities, slowing stormwater run-off, filtering air pollution, providing habitat for some animals, making people happier and encouraging walking. Street trees can lower surrounding temperatures by up to 6 degrees. Being connected to nature is a *traditional* source of relief from anxiety: gardening, bushwalking, strolling in a park. "Grass time" – running on it, rolling in it, throwing and catching a ball across it – is vital for the health and wellbeing of children. (Ross Gittens, Sydney Morning Herald, 1 January 2019). **What our Parish is doing?** Our Parish Laudato Si' group is looking forward to a great year working with Parish members, and students and teachers of OLA Primary School. We are looking forward to presentations from religious and environmental leaders in May and July and to a Parish Expo early next year, including talks and demonstrations on Care for our Common Home, the environment, and services available. We will let you know of these events in the parish bulletin. **What we can do?** Plant flowers and shrubs to encourage more bees and birds into our gardens. Encourage our children and grandchildren to see the world around us through Pope Francis' eyes, through eyes of love and protection. We would love to hear from you! Now that we've completed our review of the Pope's letter, what should we do next?

Contact Adrian Foley via the parish on 9583 6161 [ade.foley@gmail.com](mailto:ade.foley@gmail.com)

**Quote from the Saints:** "It helped me to look at fields, at water or at flowers. In these things, I found a remembrance of the Creator"

St Teresa of Avila (1515 -1582)

**BECOMING A CATHOLIC:** Each year Our Lady of the Assumption Parish commences a "journey to Easter" for adults seeking to become part of the Catholic community. This year, Sam Stirling and Ying Shao are making the journey with our OLA RCIA team (full title *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*). It is open to anyone who wishes to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church. During 2019, several past catechumens are telling their story of why and how they became a Catholic, and what difference it has made to them. Here Simone Charleston tells her story: "As a child I remember going to Mass with my cousins when we would stay at their holiday house in Ocean Grove and I loved it, particularly the "Peace be with you" shaking of hands. I felt the warmth in the Parish community and certainly felt drawn to this place of peace. My Father was brought up in a Catholic Family but chose not to baptize my brother, sister or I and wanted to keep us away from Catholicism for his own reasons. He said nothing negative to us, he just said we could make up our own minds when we grew up. Fast forward a number of years and I married a Catholic. Once we had our daughters, we chose to have them baptized Catholic and I was very pleased with this. I had always felt this was missing from my life. Then I lost a close school friend to skin cancer and I started feeling that I needed to be baptized. I approached Father Frank Martin, who at that time was the Parish Priest at OLA. He agreed to help me. Unfortunately, this preparation was cut short by a move to Adelaide. However, when we came back to Melbourne to have my younger daughter baptized, I was baptized at the same time. I still couldn't take communion though. Experiencing my eldest daughter Victoria receive her first communion at OLA with Fr Peter was very moving and inspired me to do the same. An RCIA group had just started and so I was able to join in. It felt like the right time to continue furthering my faith journey and develop a closer relationship to God. The RCIA team were amazing and very generous with the sharing of their time and knowledge and with the prayers and well-wishes of the OLA community; it was an honour to be part of such an enriching experience. I really did feel differently afterwards. I felt that I already had a strong foundation, but it felt stronger after the beautiful Easter service. I always feel such a sense of peace coming to Mass and the warmth from the community I felt as a child. I managed to get my father to Mass a few times and he was impressed with the changes and particularly seeing women as special ministers. When he was ill, he had a very good chat with a Priest in hospital who changed his mind and he took communion for the first time in 40 years and told me on his deathbed he would be happy to have a funeral Mass at OLA. So that was special, for me to be able to organize that for him with Fr Peter. It felt like things had come full circle".

## WALK FOR JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES

On Palm Sunday (14th April) please join the Melbourne Catholic community in prayer and reflection for those seeking asylum and a short workshop before together joining the 'Walk for Justice for Refugees'. This prayer and reflection will be held at: Cardinal Knox Centre Cathedral Room, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne (Enter via the Lansdowne St Car Park). Light refreshments from 12.30pm and the prayer and reflection to begin at 1pm. We will join the Walk for Justice for Refugee at 2pm at the State Library of Victoria.

**COMMUNION VISITS:** If you know of any parishioner who cannot attend mass but requires communion, please contact Christine Dunne via the Parish Office on 95836161.

**EXERCISE AND TAI CHI:** will recommence 1st May.

**O.L.A SOCIAL GOLF** - Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Twilight Golf & Dinner- More Players Needed & Non-golfers Also Welcome for Dinner. See Entry sheet on table in foyer-3.30pm start. Enquiries: via the parish on 95836161.

**THE KNITTING STALL** will be held this weekend after all masses. Get ready for winter, plus there will be Easter goodies to purchase too. Help support these wonderful people. All money raised will go to the St Vincent De Paul Cheltenham Conference. *'This weekend's forecast is mostly knitting, with a chance of conversation!'*

## 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 Anne-Maree Eddy, Psychologist. Please contact the parish office for appointments.

