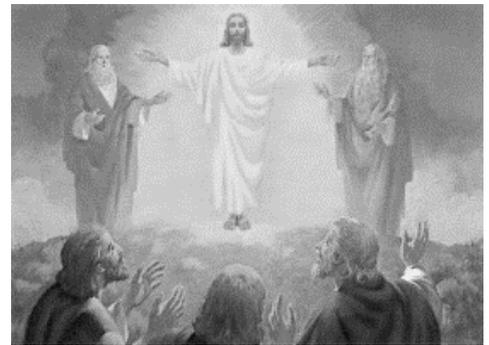


## Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week's gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples' experience of the



transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus' power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus' identity to the disciples, but still they don't really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition – one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop.

Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the 'high' of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God's love and mercy.

## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### Monday 26 February

- 10.00am Dominican Laity – Library
- 6.00pm SVDP – AQ Room
- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group – Church

#### Tuesday 27 February

- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area
- 9.30am Scripture Group - Library
- 7.00pm Parent Meeting Confirmation - Church

#### Wednesday 28 February

- 4.00pm Reco. Session 1/1 – Church

#### Thursday 1 March

- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area

#### Friday 2 March

- 11.00am World Day of Prayer - Church
- 7.00pm Stations of the Cross – Church
- 7.30am 500 Card Group – AQ Room

#### Saturday 3 March

- **8.30am Mass (Changed from 8am)**
- 10.00am Legion of Mary - Library
- 6.00pm AA Meeting – Library

#### Sunday 4 March

- 12.00pm Baptism – Church
- 2.00pm Reco Session 1/2 – Church

*Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Marie Callow, Gregory Ross, Angelo Marinucci, Peg Perkins, Don (Dat) Reay and the recently deceased Olive Griffin, Margaret Boyle, Nery Woodhed, Winnie Henry, Sam Privitera, Ron Simmons and Anthon Phan Van Duc*

### Sacramental Program 2018

**Confirmation 2018** - On Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February at 7pm, we will be holding a Parent meeting for those who would like to enroll their children into the Sacramental Program and receive their Confirmation this year. Those enrolling are generally turning 8 in 2018, or older. If you would like any more information on the Sacramental Program, please contact our Pastoral Associate, Shelly via email at [sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au) or you can call on 3398 2977.

### Notice to Saturday 8am Mass attendees

On **Saturday 3 March 2018**, we will be having the Parish Leadership Development Day 2018 in the Dominic centre at St Martin's. Therefore, at the request of Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Mass will change from 8am to 8.30am and please note that there will be **NO Reconciliation in the morning**. Thank you for patience and understanding.

### World Day of Prayer at OLOG

This year, Our Lady of Graces will be hosting the World Day of Prayer on Friday 2 March at 11am. It is a time to pray with our neighbouring Christians about our care for all of God's creation. Sandwiches, fruit, tea and coffee are provided after the service. If you would like to bring a small plate to share that would be lovely. All welcome.

### Parish 500 Card Group

Meets on Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm in the Aquinas Room. New members are most welcome. Contact Josephine 33982411.

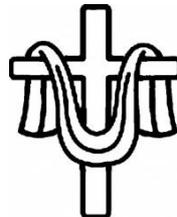


### Palm Fronds and Cyprus Pine branches – Palm Sunday

We are currently putting a call out for anyone who have either palm fronds (that we can tie to the pews) or small Cyprus pine cuttings. If there is anyone who could kindly donate a few branches from their tree/s that would be wonderful. We would need them on the Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of March but not earlier as we need them to be as lively as possible. If you are able to assist please call the parish office.



### Lent and Easter



The seasons of Lent and Easter are rich in Catholic symbolism. We begin the season of Lent with the receiving of ashes on our foreheads as a sign of repentance and turning back to God. The ashes themselves impart nothing to us, but point to the meaning of the season in which we are entering. During the season of Lent in this parish, we do not have a recessional hymn, but rather depart in silence with a sense of recollection. A large cross has been placed in the sanctuary dressed in purple, again of themselves, simply pieces of wood and fabric, but in our catholic minds the sign of our victory over death and a sign of gods out pouring of love for us.

Around the church, we have placed images of the way of the cross, along tradition church of accompanying Jesus on his way to Calvary. The stations, started by St Francis of Assisi, were a way for people who could not make the arduous pilgrimage to Jerusalem, to participate in the way of the cross. The tradition has grown up of making the stations on Friday's and especially of those of Lent to remind us of that love that God has for us in the suffering death and resurrection of Jesus.

### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday of Lent starting at 7pm and will continue through to Good Friday. All are welcome to attend.



## Sacramental Program Confusion – your questions answered

The Sacramental Program is in a transitional stage with changes to the timing of some sacraments, particularly Penance. This has caused a trickle down of confusion, to families preparing to celebrate First Holy Communion. Some common questions which may help cut the confusion are answered below:

### 1. What sacraments does the program cover?

This parish has a 3-year program in which children receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the 1<sup>st</sup> year, First Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> year) and Penance: First Rite of Reconciliation (3<sup>rd</sup> year).

### 2. Didn't my child make their Reconciliation before First Holy Communion?

Penance or Reconciliation is a two-step process. In preparation for First Holy Communion (FHC) your child will make their Second Rite of Reconciliation. This rite is a communal form, and although children have experienced Reconciliation with a Priest, it is in an open setting. This is the first step of the process.

The second step is Penance: First Rite of Reconciliation. This sacrament concludes with children making their reconciliation, usually in a private confessional. The timing and preparation acknowledge a child's growing ability to examine their conscience, reflect on choices and the need for reconciliation with God and others.

### 3. Do I need to enroll my child for Reconciliation preparation before they make their First Holy Communion?

No. The second rite is part of FHC preparation and will be covered in the sessions.

### 4. When should I enroll my child in the program?

The program is open to children who are in grade three. One enrolment form covers the whole Sacramental Program. This is usually provided to parents at the Parent Discernment Meeting prior to Confirmation Preparation. If your child has begun their Sacramental journey at another parish and you wish for them to continue it at this parish, please contact the Pastoral Associate.

### 5. My child is in year 3 and I haven't heard anything about Confirmation. What should I do?

Come to the Parent Discernment meeting Tuesday, 27 February, 7pm).

Further questions? Please contact Shelly Stone, Pastoral Associate on 3398 2977 or you can email her at [sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au).

## CARITAS – PROJECT COMPASSION 2018

### Second Sunday of Lent



Rattanak is a skilled young barber, living an independent life in rural Cambodia. But it wasn't always that way. As a child he contracted polio and also became deaf. Like many people who are deaf or hard of hearing, Rattanak faced isolation, with a lack of opportunity to escape poverty. After joining the Deaf Development Program run by Caritas Australia's partner, Maryknoll Cambodia, his life was transformed and he is now supporting himself, his wife and baby.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help deaf youth in Cambodia to build a just future, and live in communities that uphold everyone's dignity. A Just Future starts with your support!**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).

### YEAR OF YOUTH 2018 & WYD 2019

"I pray that all young people will walk together along the path of freedom, working to overcome all conflicts between races and peoples, to carry the liberating messa of the Gospel everywhere."  
– Saint Pope John Paul II WYD, Poland 19

### A Message from the Brisbane Pilgrimage WYD19 Coordinator

Expressions of Interest are now open for pilgrims 18–35 years old to join us for a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Panama in January 2019! Contact Melissa to find out more information on 3324 3448 or 0438 226 194

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!



Marriage Encounter is a weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones—and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can make!

**Date:** 3rd to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**Where:** Santa Teresa Spiritual Centre, Ormiston QLD

**Email:** [dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au)

**Phone:** 07 3342 1456

**Become a part of the parish Planned Giving Program to help your Parish grow.**

*We thank, sincerely, all Parishioners who contribute to Planned Giving. Your ongoing commitment and contribution assists the parish to budget for operating expenses (wages, rates, electricity, phones, maintenance etc) as well as parish pastoral planning (faith education, sacramental preparation, resources etc). To obtain Planned Giving Envelopes or to contribute by direct debit, complete this form and place on the plate, or contact the Parish Office. Planned Giving contributions are not Tax Deductable.*

**Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Given names** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **P/code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_