

FEBRUARY 21 & 22, 2009 – SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Issue Number 297

## NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

**T**oday at 11.00 am Australians will stop to mourn the loss of over 200 hundred Australians who died in the February 7 Victorian Bushfires. The Prime Minister said that it would provide Australians with an opportunity to grieve as the nation came to terms with its worst natural disaster. The Victorian Premier, John Brumby, put it this way: "So many lives have been lost, so many people injured, houses and possessions wrecked and whole communities virtually destroyed because of these devastating fires... This memorial service is about ensuring our communities have an opportunity to mourn, to reflect and to be together." The images have been horrific. Burnt out cars, some containing charred bodies, show the effort people made to try to escape the flames. Some who escaped have no where now that they can call home.

Here at St Bernadette's last weekend we came together in shock and in sorrow to remember those who lost their lives in this tragedy. We prayed too, for the missing, their families and the emergency and welfare workers.

Our flag has been at half-mast following this disaster.

Last Sunday the priests used purple vestments, the colour of liturgical mourning. We prayed the prayers provided by the diocese for this unbelievable occasion. The eucharistic prayer for Various Needs and Occasions was a special eucharistic prayer first used in Switzerland in 1974. In that prayer we prayed last Sunday using the formula: "Be mindful of our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the peace of

Christ, and all the dead whose faith only you can know. Lead them to the fullness of the resurrection and gladden them with the light of your face."

Unable to know what to do, and still in shock, we took up a collection last Sunday for the fire victims. Parishioners contributed \$13,000 to what was not an appeal as such, but an opportunity to show solidarity with our fellow Australians in need of financial relief. We showed that we cared. That money will go to the Archbishop of Melbourne's Bush Fire Appeal. Such generosity

is singularly outstanding. Our parish primary school also raised \$2,000 during the week. The Principal, Paul Coyer will send that money to the local parish priest in one of the fire-devastated parishes for distribution to children who have lost everything. Oakhill College also raised \$9,000.

Thirteen years ago last Thursday, I

stood with Parramatta parishioners as we watched out parish church burn down. St Patrick's Cathedral was set alight by an arsonist and I came to know a little of the psychological damage that fire can cause. That afternoon I had been training altar servers. I had been explaining to them how the fire extinguishers work. An hour later the building was raised to the ground. Like the Victorian bushfires the speed with which the fire took off meant that there was nothing we could do to save that historic building. As a people, we were devastated. But at Parramatta no life was lost. There were no injuries. People still had homes to return to and employment the next day. Children could still attend school and although



**From the SMH. All that's left ... firefighter Steve Nash comforts his children Lachlan and Teagan as they stand in what remains of their Kinglake home. It burnt to the ground.**  
Photo: Angela Wylie

parish activity was difficult for some years, life eventually returned to normal. This will not be the case in Victoria.

We are conscious too, that many of our parishioners live in bushland not unlike the areas that have recently been ravaged by fire. We acknowledge their concerns.

And finally, that most difficult Christian concept we call forgiveness. Human nature being what it is, it is understandable that looters and arsonists (and maybe even Greenies) would be treated with harsh words and a wish to be treated with even harsher actions. But this is not the way of Jesus. Christians are asked to forgive. In the end, this might be the biggest challenge facing those affected by the events of Black Saturday.

Father John



**PROJECT COMPASSION** promotes peace by pursuing justice. Please take home a Project Compassion box and give generously this Lent. Your donations allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with Communities to reduce poverty and hunger around the world.

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

will be at  
6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon and 7.30pm.

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM 2009-2010

Information letters are available from the Church foyer and will be distributed to all our parish schools. All families must complete the **Faith Formation Course** prior to their child commencing preparation for the sacraments. Please note the following dates in your diary...

- **Faith Formation Course** - information evenings will be held **Mon 3 & Tue 4 August at 7:30pm in the Church.**
  - **Faith Formation Course** - commences week beginning **17 August** for 4 weeks.
- Please watch future bulletins for **Sacramental Preparation Program** enrolment information becoming available.

**THANK YOU** Care Group would like to thank *Lollies Plus, Castle Hill Charcoal Chicken* at Oakhill Village Shops, as well as *Interaction Family Boutique* and *B Seen* at Castle Hill Mall, together with the *Church Bookshop* for their wonderful support of the recent Christmas Party. It was a great party thanks to your very generous donations. Please remember these businesses when doing your shopping

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** Have you invited a friend to join you on Friday 6 March at Baulkham Hills Baptist Church, 39 Sarah Crescent, Baulkham Hills at 7.30pm. This will be a great opportunity to share with other Christian men and women in your local community, knowing that you are part of a much larger gathering of Christians in more than 170 countries worldwide. *In Christ We are Many Members, Yet One Body* is this year's theme. Come and affirm your faith and be enriched and encouraged by the faith of others.



### OAKHILL COLLEGE ENROLMENTS 2010

Applications for enrolment into Year 7 in 2010 will close on March 6 2009 and enrolment into Year 11 in 2010 will close on May 22 2009. Parents who wish to apply for enrolment of their sons and/or daughters and who have not yet submitted an Application for Enrolment are requested to contact the Registrar before the closing dates. Phone the Registrar on 9899 2288.

### Today's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 43: 18-19,21-22,24-25 Isaiah reminds the people that God does not consider the past but instead seeks new ways and new deeds.

**Second Reading** 2 Cor 1:18-22 Jesus is God's 'yes' to God's promises and we carry God's spirit in our hearts.

**Gospel** Mark 2:1-12 The scribes cannot see new possibilities for God to intervene in people's lives.

**Next week: First Sunday of Lent - Year B**  
Genesis 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

**HOLY HOUR** every Thursday from 8.00 to 9.00pm including Rosary, prayers, hymns & scripture reading. All welcome!

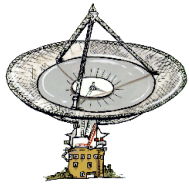
**VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL** A total of \$12,610.00 was donated last weekend to this appeal. Tax receipts will be issued directly from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

**LIFE BEGINS AT 50:** Cards/Mahjong on Friday 27 Feb in the Marian Centre at 7.30pm.



### LITURGY CORNER

This is the last Sunday of Ordinary Time until the Easter season is over! Shrove Tuesday (24th), commonly known as Pancake Day, derives its name from the ancient custom of ringing the 'shriving bell' to summon the people to the Church to be 'shriven' – that is to confess one's sins for Lent (what place does confession/reconciliation have in your life?). The pancakes came about as a special feast before the famine. People chose to give up 'luxury' items such as eggs, butter or sugar for Lent. Ash Wednesday (25th) leads us into the season of Lent. The imposition of ashes goes back at least until the 10th century. Prior to that, it was sprinkling with ashes and/or wearing sackcloth. (Biblical origins).



**LIFE BEGINS AT 50 BUS TRIP** to Parkes and the Golden West from June 1-6. \$745 pp twin share all inclusive price (\$175 single supplement). \$100 deposit. Phone Harry & Robin on 9634 3354 for details and bookings.

The Parish is seeking to appoint a full-time Youth Minister. Applications close tomorrow, Monday 23 February. This is a readvertised position and the selection committee feels that somewhere 'out there' will be a person who can fulfil the role as outlined on the parish website at 'position vacant'. It is hoped that short-listing and interviews might take place before Easter.

**REFLECTION DAY FOR WOMEN** with Fr Terry Bell and Sr Mary Louise Walsh - *'With Mary We Can Change'* on Monday 16 March at Mt Schoenstatt, Fairlight Road, Mulgoa from 9.30am to 2.00pm. BYO lunch. Cost: \$10 donation RSVP by March 12 on 4773 8338 or [www.schoenstatt.org.au](http://www.schoenstatt.org.au).

**CATECHISTS NEEDED** Part-time or full-time Catechists are urgently needed to teach half hour lessons each week at our local State schools. If you can spare some time Christine Jenneke would love to hear from you on 9484 1190 or 0433 183322.

**POSITION VACANT Casual Sacramental Co-ordinator** at Blessed John XXIII Parish, Glenwood/ Stanhope Gardens. Phone Rhonda on 9852 0580 for details.

**STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR SEPARATED & DIVORCED PEOPLE** Each month the Solo Parent Ministry provides an opportunity for those who have experienced the breakdown of their marriage relationship, to come together with others to find support and discuss ways in which they can move forward with greater hope. *Stepping Beyond* happens in the last week of each month at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, Blacktown. 6.30 pm - 9.00 pm. Tues 24th Feb: "How do you set and maintain healthy boundaries in your life?". Registrations essential: Eileen Quade: 9890 2968 or [equade@bigpond.com](mailto:equade@bigpond.com).



**OLMC PARRAMATTA OPEN DAY** Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta will be holding two Open Days on March 9 and 16 during regular school days. There will be three session times at 9.15am, 11.00am and 1.15pm. Phone 8838 1200 to reserve your place in a session.

**CARE GROUP** welcomes Douglas Gerke as the new Organist to the group. Douglas is quite new to the parish and comes to St Bernadette's with great experience. He has kindly offered to provide us with some great music at each First Friday Anointing Mass. Thank you Douglas and welcome aboard.  
Wedding

**REFLECTION MORNINGS** at Aquinas Academy, Hunters Hill. Details are on the noticeboard.



events & news for Youth & Young Adults ...

**LIFE Night:** We are pleased to announce our **Big Fat 80's wedding!!!** All those in year 9 to 12 are invited to join our celebration next weekend. Come dressed in your best 80's outfit! (BTW Check out photos and video from last week's CSI Night on St Bernadette's facebook.)



**Into LIFE** is on Monday night for anyone in Years 7 and 8 at high school. Come along from 7-8:30pm for a fun night with friends. Bring \$2 for supper.

Life Teen produces fantastic **weekly podcasts** for free to help everyone get more out of Sunday Mass. Listen to Mark 'Bible Geek' Hart give an insightful explanation and reflection on the upcoming mass readings. Download these or listen to them online. Subscribe now from [www.lifeteen.com](http://www.lifeteen.com) or search for 'lifeteen.com' at the iTunes store. An excellent resource for lectors. Plus, check out their new podcast **THE171** - for great, down to earth talks on faith!

[www.lifeteen.com](http://www.lifeteen.com) is a great website for all teens and young adults. Get more out of our Catholic faith – the real answers and facts - along with the latest music and movie reviews and even just some random facts too!

[www.lifeteenaustralia.com](http://www.lifeteenaustralia.com) – for more info on what's on for youth and young adults at St Bernadette's or contact the Parish House on 9634 2622.

**BROKEN BAY INSTITUTE** is a Christian learning community and the largest Catholic distance theological provider in Australia. Enrolments are currently being taken for 2009. Contact 9847 0030 or [info@bbi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@bbi.catholic.edu.au).

**RETIREMENT UNITS AVAILABLE** at Southern Cross Nordby Village at 15 Hill Rd, West Pennant Hills. Enquiries: Julie Andrews on 0408 220092 or [jandews@sch.org.au](mailto:jandews@sch.org.au).

**THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK FOR LENT** is a book of six-minute reflections for the 50 days leading up to Easter. Available from the Bookshop for just \$5.

**menAlive WEEKEND RETREAT: 21-22 March**  
menAlive is a Catholic ministry to men, which commences with a weekend retreat that delivers relevant talks, personal testimonies and opportunities for discussion in small groups. For men aged 18+ at Don Bosco Youth Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 8 Mamre Rd, St Marys. Cost: \$60. RSVP: 6 March. Details: [www.menalive.org.au](http://www.menalive.org.au). Bookings: Alex Pace 0400 989 002, Fr Bob Bossini SDB (02) 9623 1962, [ap@catholic.org](mailto:ap@catholic.org)

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2008-2009**

Our next session will be held on **Tue 3rd (4pm & 7:30pm) & Sat 7th (3:30pm) March** for Parents and Children, in the Parish Hall. Please continue to pray for all our parish families.

**St Bernadette's Parish Community**  
**Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154**

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au  
 Web page: http://www.stbernadette.org.au

**Parish Staff**

Fr John Boyle, Parish Priest  
 Fr Eugene Szondi, Assistant Priest  
 Fr Sunny Michael, ms, Assistant Priest  
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate  
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw, Sacramental Co-ordinator  
 Mr Ian Pomeroy, Into LIFE Youth Minister  
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager  
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)  
 Mr Michael Watson, Maintenance Co-ordinator

**Mass Times for this Week**

**Sunday** Sat 6pm  
 Sun 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am & 6pm  
 Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

**Weekdays** Mon 6.45am  
 Tue 6.45 am  
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am  
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15 am  
 First Fri 6.45am, 9.15 am  
 Sat 8am

**Mass on Public Holidays at 8am**

**Reconciliation** Sat 8.30am-9am; 4.30pm-5.30pm

**Baptisms and Marriages:** By appointment only. Contact the Parish House. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mr Paul Colyer, Principal 9634 2898

**Please pray for** Eileen Kay (funeral Monday 3pm at Macquarie Park), Bernard McShane, Ken Petherbridge, Matilda Corlick, Gaston Neira and Joe Roumanous and for the anniversaries of Miguel Fidel (Feb 18), Clare Moriarty (Feb 17), Harry Dietrich (Feb 18), Robert Towns (Feb 18), Preciosa Menezes, Allen Kennedy (Feb 21) and Mildred Taylor (Feb 28).  
 Prayers for the Sick: Joan Beach.

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – February 28 & March 1**

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS		LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
<b>VIGIL</b> Edy Kesuma S4	Kristine Murgatroyd Cheryl Braisby Jenny/Albert Agius	Carole-Anne Lunn, Annarita Mezger, Maureen & Ray Scully, Sabrina Lobo, Connie Tierney, Helen Wintle, Sr Ann Love, Joe Zammit	
<b>7.30AM</b> Michael Lopez S5	Ron Gledhill Jo Wickens Joe Menezes	Helen Karsten, Patricia Bright, Hilary Burton, Margaret Elder, Ken Short, Peter Grace	
<b>9.00AM</b> Joe Lorenzo S1	Karin Abrams Tim Abrams Cathy Richmond	Stephen Suen, Howard Woodward, Janice Bonaccorso, Marcia Bosen, Shane Robinson, Rosalind Yeo, Elizabeth Vasta, Angela Steglin, Patricia Williams	
<b>10.30AM</b> John Maker S2	Mila Mina Max Bosotti	Marion McDonald, Mila Mina, Michael Puckeridge, Claire Vella, Barbara Shannon, Tony & Wendy Smith, Wendy Stone, Barry Halpin	

**6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - March 1**

<b>Adult Servers</b> Alex Tomic Gillian Pak	<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b> Bill Clasquin Darren Edwards Ian Pomeroy James Waters		<b>Musos</b>
<b>Altar Preparation</b> Josh Becker	<b>Projectionist</b> Larissa O'Callaghan	<b>Ushers</b> Alfonso Aguilera Glen Ferry	<b>Bass</b> Erich Gracias Flor <b>Piano</b> Belinda Lee <b>Guitar</b> Daniel Ang Michael Smith <b>Horns/Strings/ Winds</b> Matthew Ashton
<b>Lectors</b> Jen Austin Raquel Lobo Stef Musgrave	<b>Gift Preparation</b>	<b>Welcomers</b> Tina Muscat Tony Muscat	<b>Singers</b> Alice Bradshaw Cassie Knezevic Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Julia Calixto Sara Ang
<b>Altar Servers</b> S3			

<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b> Joanna Delvecchio Rhonda Loftus	<b>CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING</b> Margaret Griffin, Margaret Sanders, Faye Goldsworthy, Cynthia Bartolo	<b>COUNTING (2nd Collection)</b> John Geoghegan, Kevin Johnson, Matthew Troy, Paul Moriarty, Reginald Sinha
<b>FLOWER ROSTER</b> No flowers	<b>COUNTING (1st Collection)</b> Sandra Watson Denise Hicks	<b>BOOKSHOP</b> Paula Boyd / Catherine Seddon / Jane Beard / Crystal Good / Giuli & Serge Dogulin