



## “HERE I STAND. I CAN DO NO OTHER”

**M**y interest in last Sunday's National Day of Mourning for the Victims of the Victoria Bush Fires was also professional because public mourning rituals like Princess Diana's funeral and Slim Dusty's memorial service influence Catholic's expectations about how a funeral should be run.

Parishioners may recall that Lady Di's brother, Earl Spencer, in his eulogy in 1997, took the opportunity, with millions watching, to attack the Royal Family rather than focusing on what Diana had achieved during her life. The cathedral setting was used to legitimise his lack of graciousness on that occasion. Having set the template, it is now okay at funerals to use even the parish church to hit out at in-laws and publically denounce them for their inadequacies.

At St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, in September, 2003, the Dean of Sydney, Phillip Jensen, astounded the congregation in the middle of his eulogy by leading them in a verse of *The Pub with No Beer*.

Last Sunday, the Rod Laver Arena was turned into a faux cathedral and the token religious hymn was Leonard Cohen's, *Hallelujah*. I don't know what David's seduction of Bathsheba three thousand years ago had to do with the Victorian bush fire victims. A letter writer to the Herald put it more succinctly on Tuesday, "The last time I heard it, Leonard Cohen's song *Hallelujah* was about the transcendent joy of sex." It might have been there because it was sung by Leonard Cohen a week before in that very place and it was well known as the sound track for the 2001 animated film *Shrek*. Regardless, I couldn't understand the lyrics. Music is hugely important at such services but organisers have strange priorities when it

comes to choosing music in liturgical settings. What most people remember about Lady Di's funeral is not that she went to her grave with her hands entwined in a pair of rosary beads given to her by Mother Teresa who died the same week, but Elton John's re-jiggered version of *Candle in the Wind*, a song initially dedicated to Marilyn Monroe. Even with the retrofitted verses, I don't know how it got into a funeral service.

Priests helping grieving relatives with funeral preparations have to be sensitive to the needs of the family, but music of the *Candle in the Wind* genre are out of place in Catholic liturgy.

One part of the Prime Minister's address took me back to my school days. "Courage is a fire fighter standing before the gates of hell", he said, "– unflinching, and unyielding and with eyes of steel saying this: 'Here I stand, I can do not other'." It was not the first time those words were used.

Probably, like me, Kevin Rudd first heard those words in a history class at school. You see, Kevin Rudd and I are both sprung from the same loins. We were both taught by the Marist Brothers. Only last week one of my altar servers disconcerted me when he told me I sounded like Kevin Rudd. I felt sympathy for Kevin for the first time. The Prime Minister was a boarder at Queensland's Marist flagship at Ashgrove from 1969 to 1971. One of his better subjects was Religious Studies, so he was probably aware of Martin Luther's defiant stand against Rome. Standing up for right against all odds and following one's conscience is a great Marist tradition.

Martin Luther was summoned to appear before the Diet of Worms in 1521. (No, this Diet is not



Martin Luther

German Lenten fare.) This Augustinian priest had been excommunicated the previous year and this general assembly, presided over by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, met in the small town of Worms on the River Rhine, in modern day Germany. Earlier, Luther had nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg where he was a lecturer in theology. His writings were critical of the pope in Rome, the sacrament of penance, indulgences and purgatory. In appearing before the emperor and his court, various canon lawyers, a papal legate, and many dignitaries, it could have been said that he was standing before the gates of hell. Despite the assurances of Prince Frederick III, the Elector of Saxony, who had promised him safe passage from the trial, he knew he could be burnt at the stake as heretics before him had been. But unflinching and unyielding and with eyes of steel, he said, "Unless I am convinced by the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures or evident reason (for I believe neither in the Pope nor councils alone, since it has been established that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures adduced by me, and my conscience has been taken captive by the Word of God, and I am neither able nor willing to recant, since it is neither safe nor right to act against conscience." Tradition has him then concluding, "Here I stand, I can do no other".

In my youth, this was a great anti-Catholic rallying call, so it was interesting that it found its way into a speech by the Prime Minister.

By the way, you shouldn't be reading this during the homily.

*Father John*

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### Today's Readings



**First Reading** Genesis 9:8-15 God's covenant after the flood is not only with Noah and humankind, but with all living creatures; and its sign is the rainbow.

**Second Reading** 1 Peter 3:18-22 Peter sees a comparison between the cleansing waters of the flood and the waters of baptism.

**Gospel** Mark 1:12-15 Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness with the wild animals to prepare for his public ministry.

**Next week: Second Sunday of Lent - Year B**  
Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

**LECTORS PLEASE NOTE** On the 4th, 5th and 6th Sundays of Lent the readings from Year A (not Year B) will be used.

### LITURGY CORNER

On this first Sunday of Lent the Catholic Parishes of our diocese, who are fortunate enough to have people wanting to join them, will hold a Rite of Sending prior to their RCIA catechumens (non baptised) and candidates (previously baptised) attending a celebration in the Cathedral. The purpose of this Rite is to present our 'new' people to the community (in this instance the 10.30am mass go-ers will represent our community of faith), affirm their readiness to celebrate the Easter sacraments and send them to the Rite of Election of Catechumens and The Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates for Reception. Even for those of us who have already fully embraced the Catholic faith, Lent offers us a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon our journey and to continue to be open to conversion. While Lent contains an element of self-denial, it also contains the call to consider our relationship with God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and asks that we intentionally seek to 'grow' it, thus it is a call to our ongoing conversion! Lent is a *great season of grace, God's gift to us to renew us in spirit.*  
(Preface for Lent II).

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** this Friday following 6.45am Mass until 9.15 and following 9.15 Mass until 11.45am.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK** will be celebrated this Friday, March 6 at 12 noon followed by a light lunch in the Marian Centre. All welcome. If you can help with transport (drivers needed) or by providing sandwiches, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Marion Heron on 9859 9385.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will take place on Friday evenings at 7.30pm during Lent.



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

**ROSTERS FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST** are available for collection today from the church foyer.



**PROJECT COMPASSION** The good news of the Gospel challenges us to change ourselves and our world for the better. Money you donate through Caritas Australia supports subsistence farmers, allowing them to gain skills to increase their household food security and offers hope for a healthier future. Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available from the church foyer.

**VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL** Extra donations have been received bringing the total for the appeal to \$16,875.00. Tax receipts will be issued directly from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

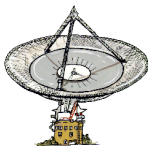
## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM 2009-2010

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.

**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.



**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).

### **POSITION VACANT Accounts Clerk: part time**

St Patrick's Parish, Blacktown, seeks an experienced and competent accounts clerk to manage the accounts for a very busy office. Duties include: accounts payable & receivables, banking, preparation of quarterly BAS statements, payroll. Applications close at 5pm on Thursday 12 March. Details under "Employment" at: [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** This week many Christians around the world will meet and share in the World Day of Prayer service prepared by Christians in Papua New Guinea. Join with others at the local service on Friday 6 March at Baulkham Hills Baptist Church, 39 Sarah Crescent, Baulkham Hills at 7.30pm. *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.

**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, commencing 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, 1st 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 9623 1962, [ap@catholic.org](mailto:ap@catholic.org).



events & news for Youth & Young Adults ...

**LIFE Night:** Everyone in year 9 to 12 is invited to join in the celebration of Stacey and Jimmy's **BIG FAT 80's WEDDING**. The party gets started **tonight** after 6pm mass in the Hall. Come dressed in your best 80's outfit!

**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.

**Passion Play 2009:** Any high-school youth or young adults who would like to participate in this year's passion play, please contact us at the parish office on 9634 2622 or [sacraments@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au).

**Can you sew?** We need more costumes for our Passion Play. If you can help, please contact Helen Tarlington on 9634 3658.

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** 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** 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 some random facts!



### **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.

**OLMC PARRAMATTA OPEN DAY** Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta will hold 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.

**PARRAMATTA CYO REUNION** On St Patrick's Day (17 March) there will be a reunion of the Parramatta CYO at St Patrick's Cathedral, commencing with Mass at 12.30pm. Lunch provided. Cost \$15. Bookings: Brian McFadden 9871 2818; Jack/ June Barrett 9630 5065; Alan Halligan 9893 8286.

### **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 12 noon  
 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 May Fleming (funeral Wednesday at 10.30am), Eileen Kay, John Raferty, Irena Barglik and Ken Petherbridge and for the anniversaries of Charles Davis Jr, Audrey Kilby, Thecla Hatson, Jane Cassab, Ruby Boody (Feb 11), Gladys Parmenter (Feb 11) and Marie Parmenter (Feb 26) and in remembrance of Margaret Davis and all who died in the Victorian fires.  
 Prayers for the Sick: Brian McGee (St Vincents Hospital) and Jim Tye (Westmead Hospital).

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – March 7 & 8**

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
<b>VIGIL</b> Stephen MacMahon S9	Vanessa D'Emanuele Martin Collins Clare Budge	Jessica Fearnside, Rebecca Barrett, Moira Mitchell, Marjorie, Dominic & Natasha Orioles, Harry & Robyn Reyden, John Geoghegan
<b>7.30AM</b> Philip Myers S10	Catherine Seddon Paul Hennessey Peter Ferguson	John O'Dea, Annemarie & Daryl Hill, Jennifer Wakeling, Matthew Troy, Fran Mulcahy
<b>9.00AM</b> Melvyn Myers S6	John Obeid Katrina Obeid Lina Josue	David/Bettina Green, Sally Healey, John & Lois Donnelly, Aida Pereira, Von & Mike Lulan, Brian & Katrina Fitzalan
<b>10.30AM</b> Terry O'Mara S7	Michael Abrahams Kerry Myers Anthea Hannan	Buds Custodia, Campion, Rani & Cherani Fernando, Kerry Myers, Natalie Parmenter, Sandra & Johan Nelis, Rosary Roco

**6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - March 8**

<b>Adult Servers</b> Julia Calixto Michael Smith	<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b> Alfonso Aguilera Belinda Lee Maria Aguilera		<b>Musos</b>  <b>Bass</b> Erich Gracias Flor  <b>Piano</b> Alice Bradshaw  <b>Guitar</b> Daniel Ang  <b>Horns/Strings/Winds</b>
<b>Altar Preparation</b> Josh Becker		<b>Singers</b> Alison Wong Annabel Irawan Darian Jessup-Lonsdale Monique O'Callaghan Sara Ang Veronica Sahabu	
<b>Lectors</b> Gillian Pak Greg Kinkade Mitchell Waters	<b>Projectionist</b> Matthew Ashton Dean Street	<b>Ushers</b> Alfonso Aguilera Glen Ferry	
<b>Altar Servers</b> S8	<b>Gift Preparation</b> Cassie Knezevic	<b>Welcomers</b> Darren Edwards Monica O'Callaghan	

<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b> Shane Robinson Lisa Biasucci	<b>CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING</b> Maria Mochnik, Katrina Habek, Ronald & Adelina Tabila, Caroline Dharmadi	<b>COUNTING (2nd Collection)</b> Howard Woodward, Helen Wilson, John Giorgiutti, Joseph Boudib
<b>FLOWER ROSTER</b> No flowers	<b>COUNTING (1st Collection)</b> Barbara Ingram Marie Sammut	<b>BOOKSHOP</b> Joanne Barrett / Heather Woods / Bernadette Navarra / Barbara Halpin / Natasha Orioles