



MARCH 7 & 8, 2009 – SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR B

Issue Number 299

TROUBLE IN BRISBANE

The tragedy of the fiasco at the Catholic church of St Mary in South Brisbane is that, with the sacking of the parish's priest, the energy and vitality that is so obviously in the parish will die. This is unfortunate. As the Archbishop acknowledges, the parishioners who are now going to mass at South Brisbane will probably cease practising.

For those who don't know, the situation is that the seventy-one year old priest at South Brisbane, who has been the Administrator for 28 years, had lost the plot and was asked to move on by the Archbishop. He refused to go. The in-coming Administrator was advised by the police that it was too dangerous to celebrate Sunday mass in the parish church. The Archbishop, who could have chosen the 'Redfern Solution' and sent in the neo-catechumante priests, has tried to negotiate with the priest and parishioners, but they are not giving an inch. The case has received world-wide publicity.

The situation took on a Monty Python twist on Wednesday with the announcement that "Oodgeroo of the tribe Noonuccal, Custodian of the land Minjerribah, Peace Prosperity and Healing, Sacred Treaty Circles" has lodged a complaint with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission against Archbishop Bathersby alleging discrimination against Aboriginal people. This was the result of the Archbishop's refusal to acknowledge the validity of a treaty between Father Peter Kennedy on behalf of the St Mary's South Brisbane parish and Bejam Denis Walker on behalf of the Noonuccal and other Aboriginal people.

A Castle Hill parishioner went to Mass at St

Mary's, South Brisbane in August last year and wrote "...after a recent visit for what I thought was the Vigil Mass I have been left puzzled and shaken." Writing in the *Canberra Times*, March 2, Terry Fewtrell wrote, "In many ways Peter Kennedy is the very epitome of what Vatican II encouraged his priesthood to be. He has empowered the People of God in his parish. He has reached out to others and welcomed them in, without judging them. He has given the commu-

nity the confidence and opportunity to find God within the Catholic tradition, while expressing their journey and celebration in ways meaningful to them."

Miranda Devine took a different line in Thursday's *Herald* (February 26), writing, "The father in question is Peter Kennedy, the 70-year-old Catholic priest who is being forced out of the church he has turned into a green-leftist New Age drop-in centre... It looked more like a yoga session, with meditation and lay people taking to the pulpit to give "sermons"

which have nothing to do with the Bible.... No wonder the Socialist Alliance loves him."

If you were the bishop, how would you handle this situation? Archbishop Bathersby, the Archbishop of Brisbane, is a mild-mannered generous gospel-centred man who has been extremely patient with Father Kennedy and the parishioners who see their pastor as some kind of cult leader.

I have only ever met Archbishop Bathersby once and that was in a lift that was stuck between two floors. In that claustrophobic situation he was calm and reassured me that help would eventually arrive. I figured that he must have been used to getting stuck in lifts for he seemed not to be



Archbishop John Bathersby

fazed. The lift's emergency telephone would have made a wonderful exhibit in the Power House Museum except that it was vandalised and useless. We discussed the Broncos and, as help was not arriving, we turned to discussing Bishop Manning. (As you do.) That helped to pass the time nicely.

Miranda Devine might have been a little harsh when she wrote, "While you can feel pity for Bathersby, the mess is his own making. Having tolerated Kennedy's antics for years, and having presided over the transformation of Brisbane into the most progressive and least disciplined archdiocese in the country, he can hardly be surprised by the result." I wonder if she knows that the priests refer to their bishop using the affectionate term, "Bats".

The problem as I see it is that Archbishop Bathersby has not been able to resolve the situation. He is 72, near to the age when bishops offer their resignation to Rome. Rome is watching this debacle and will as surely as day follows night appoint someone the Congregation for Bishops considers to be strong and can bring such situations under control. In other words, a conservative. Father Kennedy by his non-compliance has unwittingly been the cause that has spelt the death knell to everything he hoped would happen in Brisbane. This is the real tragedy.

Father John

LITURGY CORNER

Last week's gospel presented a picture of Jesus in his humanity, alone in the desert and wrestling with human fear and temptation. This week, Jesus is presented in his divinity, full of God's glory (The Summit). The 'transfiguration' takes place on a mountain top (in Scripture mountains are often places where God communicates with human beings, eg Moses and Elijah) giving Jesus' three disciples a glimpse of the glory which will be revealed after he has suffered and died. At the time, the disciples couldn't understand the implications of this experience (no wonder!) and, with Jesus, had to come down from the heights of witnessing glory to the every-day-ness of life. For us, it is our closeness with Jesus which strengthens us to live in the ordinariness (sometimes the messiness) of the daily round and it is here that we give expression to the mission of Jesus – for we are the only means Jesus has of continuing his mission!

PROJECT COMPASSION As Christians we are called to walk with those in need. Water shortages, poor health, illiteracy and trafficking have compounded the vulnerability of many people. Your Project Compassion donation brings hope to families, empowering them to work together for a sustainable future. Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available from the foyer today.

LIFE BEGINS AT 50: Cards/mah-jong on Friday 13 March at 7.30pm in the Marian Centre. Sunday 15 March walk round Circular Quay & Botanical Gardens. Meet for the 10.20am Ferry at Rydalmere or at Circular Quay at 11.00am. For further information ring Howard on 98998983.



CONGRATULATIONS to Mark and Jane Beard who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary last Monday.

ROSTERS FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE CHURCH FOYER.

DRIVER NEEDED: One driver is needed in the Sunday 9.00am Mass transport team to pick up and drop off a resident once a month from the Anglican Retirement Village. If interested please ring Jim Gidlow on 0403 814427 or 9659 4782.

POSITIONS VACANT

Accounts Clerk: part time at 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

Parish Office Administrator at Glenwood/Stanhope Gardens Parish. 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Min. 3 years experience required. Contact 9852 0581 or kevin.w3@bigpond.com.au for information.

Today's Readings

First Reading Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18 Abraham responds in faith to God's call, even though he cannot fully understand it. In response, the Lord promises to bless him and his descendants..



Second Reading Romans 8:31-34 Christ died for our sake and rose from the dead. Therefore we have nothing to fear.

Gospel Mark 9:2-10 Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain with him. There they experience a moment that will deepen and sustain their faith.

Next week: Third Sunday of Lent - Year A Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42.

LECTORS PLEASE NOTE On the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent the readings from Year A (not Year B) will be used.

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

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



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2009

Since 1911 International Women's Day has been celebrated as the global day connecting all women around the world and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. This day is an opportunity to reflect on the dignity and role of all women; in the family, society and the Church. The Letter of Pope John Paul II to women reminds us that Jesus Christ provides a wonderful example of treating women:

When it comes to setting women free from every kind of exploitation and domination, the Gospel contains an ever relevant message which goes back to the attitude of Jesus Christ himself. Transcending the established norms of his own culture, Jesus treated women with openness, respect, acceptance and tenderness. In this way he honoured the dignity which women have always possessed according to God's plan and in his love. (n.3)

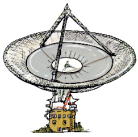


SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM 09/10

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:

- **Faith Formation Course** - information evenings to be held **Mon 3 & Tue 4 Aug 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.



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.

OAKHILL COLLEGE REUNION: A reunion has been planned for former Oakhill College students "Class of 1984" to be held in the Centenary Sports Centre, Oakhill College, Old Northern Road, Castle Hill. NSW 2154 at 7pm on 4th April, 2009. Inquires to Kerrie O'Leary on koleary@oakhill.nsw.edu.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.

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.

menAlive WEEKEND RETREAT: 21-22 March For men aged 18+ at Don Bosco Youth Centre, 1st Flr, 8 Mamre Rd, St Marys. Cost: \$60. RSVP: 13 March. Details: www.menalive.org.au. Bookings: Alex Pace 0400 989 002, Fr Bob Bossini 9623 1962, ap@catholic.org.



events & news for Youth & Young Adults ...

LIFE Night: The **WIPEOUT LIFE** Night is coming to you live **NEXT SUNDAY**. It's all about the challenges... Have **YOU** got what it takes? If you're in Years 9 to 12, join us after the youth mass next weekend from 7:30-8:30pm for the ultimate challenge.

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.

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!



GILROY COLLEGE OPEN DAY on Tuesday 10 March with school tours at 5.30pm and 7.00pm only. Principal's Address at 6.30pm in Brother Damien Harvey hall. Enrolment packages will be available after march 10 from the College office. Enquiries to the Enrolment Registrar on 8853 8200.

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.

TRIVIA NIGHT St Bernadette's P&F invites all in the Parish to the annual Trivia Night on **Saturday 28th March** in the hall for a night of fun and laughter. Starts at 7pm for 7.30 start. The theme is **SPORTS** so please dress your table and yourself in favourite sporting gear!! Please call Vanessa Wadih if you have any questions (0438393536).



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2008-2009

Our next session will be held on **Tue 10th (4pm & 7:30pm) & Sat 14th (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
 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]

Sacramental Preparation Program 2010: Information night for families seeking First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion is 3 & 4 August, 2009.

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

Please pray for Brian McGee, Eileen May Fleming, Eileen Kay, John Raferty, Greg Henricks and Ken Petherbridge and for the anniversaries of Ruby Boody (Feb 11), Gladys Parmenter (Feb 11), Marie Parmenter (Feb 26), Lorenzo See Seng (Mar 6), Marie Gatt (Mar 7), Margaret Hagerty (Mar 6) and Moises Frez (Mar 5).
 Prayers for the Sick: Jim Tye and Sr Annunciata (Sr Sheila, former principal of St Bernadette's Primary).

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – March 14 & 15

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS		LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL	John Stone S3	Caroline/Paul Dumapit Brian Mooney John Abernethy	Felicity Carvalho, Lourice Asmar, Patrick Bowie, Rod Boyd, Adeline Chong, Ignatius/Natalia Chui, Lynne Myers, Barbara Ortlepp, Mary McMahan
7.30AM	Michael Wilson S4	Anne Parker Colleen Baines Matthew Troy	Rose & Peter Huby, Gerard & Geraldine Kearney, Carmel Moriarty, Joyan Fife
9.00AM	Zeno Hong S5	David Green Von Lulan Mike Lulan	Christine Kelly, Rodney Jilek, John Hogan, Marilyn Ryan-Linnane, Hilary Fong, Joan Claxton, Gi Zenere, Mike Reidy, Joan Ghisla
10.30AM	Joe Josue S1	Bill Gleeson Elizabeth Fogolin Michael Puckeridge	Tim Abrams, Coney & Charlie Lau, Letty & Robert Yu, Ollie Nguy, Susana Lorenzo, Adel Boudib, Dawn Wickramasinghe

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - March 15

Adult Servers Andrew Tomic James Madry	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Ashley Adams Maria-Alicia Jul Martin Collins		Musos	
Altar Preparation Josh Becker	Projectionist Josh Becker	Ushers Phillip Smith Paul Musgrave	Bass Daniel Ang	Singers Alison Wong
Lectors Josh Chaney Mystique Nelis Nicci Heidegger			Guitar Michael Smith	Annabel Irawan Cassie Knezevic Julia Calixto Monique O'Callaghan
Altar Servers S2	Gift Preparation Laura Wilson	Welcomers Ingrid & Jana Fizely Sean Finucane	Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton	

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Niamh Holt Rosalind Yeo	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Andrea Tomic, Ivonne Purnomo, Eva Mustapic Krystyna Graczyk, Janice Bonaccorso,	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Brian Iles, Joe Harney, David & Kaylene Hollis
FLOWER ROSTER No flowers	COUNTING (1st Collection) John Faehrmann Len Goldsworthy	BOOKSHOP Carmel Adams / Carmel Moriarty / Bernadette Logue / Dora Saleh / Patricia Smith