



MARCH 28 & 29, 2009 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Issue Number 302

ABOUT THE TRUTH: THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

Forget the fact that he was not wearing a seatbelt to court, forget that his constant story with his nine traffic violations over four years was that he was not the driver of the car speeding, running red lights or parking in bus stops, or that he continued to deny any wrongdoing up until the hearing before Supreme Court Justice Bruce James. Concentrate on his answer to the relentless probing of Sarah Ferguson on Four Corners: *"No, I'm not dishonest, no... I don't think I'm the slightest bit dishonest. I just made a mistake."* Therein lays the problem. It is the inability of Marcus Einfeld to own his own mistakes and see reality for what it is. We are all flawed individuals and make mistakes, but this series of 'mistakes', as he calls them, is something else.

On Monday night, before a television audience of more than 800,000 viewers, he said, *"I lied. I can't say it any simpler than that. I told a lie, which was a disgraceful thing to do and for which I have been paying ever since."* Even that is not truthful. There was not one lie, there were many lies. Supporters say that that should be enough for us to hear and accept it for what it is: a sincere remorse and clear apology.

But wait, there's more. Marcus Einfeld seems to be a serial false statutory declaration offender and other claims have now surfaced such as he said he did pro bono work for Vivian Solon when in fact he charged the Federal Government \$72,783.33. Justice Bruce James said Einfeld engaged in "deliberate, premeditated perjury" and "calculating criminality".

Allowing for his being a victim of Tall Poppy Syndrome and his brisling at Sarah Ferguson's insightful questioning, eliciting the comment, "That's a bit offensive and I don't think I'm in the slightest bit dishonest...", Marcus Einfeld represents a section of the population that will lie

to get away with it if they can.

It is not dissimilar to Bill Clinton's Australia Day, 1998 statement to the press: "But I want to say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me. I'm going to say this again: I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie, not a single time; never. These allegations are false, and I need to go back to work for the American people. Thank you." Said with utter conviction and a straight face, Clinton thought he could get away with lying. As President of the United States, holding high public office, people expected that their President would tell the truth, even if telling the truth was inconvenient and brought with it some undesirable consequences. Einfeld's lie is serious because he committed perjury. Because he was part of the legal gentocracy and had genuinely done so much for the community, and was a national living



treasure, he approached traffic offences with a sense of entitlement expecting that he should not have to pay a \$77 traffic fine and lose three demerit points like the rest of us. Unlike the rest of us, he understands the legal system and this makes the gravity of his offence even more serious.

There are always consequences to lying. Some consequences are not so significant, some, however, are horrendous.

Take the case of the mess we are in as a result of the War on Terror. To see the need for honesty and honest information, you need go no further than the question of Iraq. The fact that Australia joined the Coalition of the Willing in a war that has been responsible for thousands of deaths, and that we entered that war because of a lie about 'weapons of mass destruction' has consequences that now are all too apparent.

People become mistrustful of authority

figures and society can't work if people don't tell the truth. When governments and government instrumentalities 'cry wolf', people become sceptical and this can lead to mistrust, disillusionment and often, bitterness.

Remembering the Eighth Commandment, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour", the Catechism says in number 2476, "When it is made publicly, a statement contrary to the truth takes on a particular gravity. In court it becomes false witness. When it is under oath, it is perjury. Acts such as these contribute to condemnation of the innocent, exoneration of the guilty, or the increased punishment of the accused. They gravely compromise the exercise of justice and the fairness of judicial decisions. The Catechism goes on in 2477 to talk of the respect for the reputation of persons. "A person becomes guilty of rash judgement when he/she, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbour. (It is ironic that Sarah Ferguson and Marcus Einfeld are neighbours.) A person is guilty of detraction when, without objectively valid reason, a person discloses another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them. A person is guilty of calumny when, by remarks contrary to the truth, a person harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them." These are all offences against the Eighth Commandment.

Over the last weeks we have been preparing children for their first reconciliation which took place on Friday and Saturday. We talked about the need for truthfulness. These children know that a lie consists in speaking a falsehood with the intention of deceiving. The Catechism says, "Lying is the most direct offense against the truth. To lie is to speak or act against the truth in order to lead into error someone who has the right to know the truth." [2482]

The so-called 'white lie' is a problem. What do you say to your wife who asks, "do you like my new orange dress?" Do you tell a lie and say, "darling, you look wonderful in that new orange dress." Or do you say what you truly believe, "I don't like it. The orange clashes with your blotchy red skin". Remembering that the Catechism says, "to lie is to speak or act against the truth in order to lead into error someone who has the right to know the truth."

Family politics makes truth-telling problematic. With parish politics the issues assume a different level of responsibility. At any given time the question of truthfulness is an issue. With the decline in the number of penitents

LITURGY CORNER

In today's Gospel (John 11:1-45) we again find a great image for those who are to be baptised at the Easter Vigil (also a reminder for all who will renew the baptismal promises probably made on their behalf). When Jesus calls Lazarus from the tomb – from the darkness of death, he restores his life; he draws him into the light/Light of life. This is the symbolism of baptism of which water is the visible sign of the invisible grace bestowed. Today the Elect will be presented with a copy of *The Lord's Prayer*. Of this prayer two of the church fathers have said *It is truly the summary of the whole gospel* (Tertullian) and *It is the most perfect of prayers* (St Thomas Aquinas). The Catechism tells us that *It is called the 'Lord's Prayer' because it comes to us from the Lord Jesus, the master and model of our prayer* (2774, 2775). This prayer is one we know by heart, but do we **say it by rote**, or **pray it from the heart**?

attending the sacrament of reconciliation, the loss of an honest and adequate examination of conscience becomes apparent. There is no ritual opportunity to see ourselves as we really are and own our own mistakes. We can avoid the sacramental process of telling another human being (the priest) where we have gone wrong. We do not have to be humble and ask for forgiveness with a firm amendment to refrain from such activity in the future. This is a pity as our Church limps along without adequate use of one of the seven sacraments, the one that makes us look at ourselves.

We see the Einfeld Syndrome alive and well in the parish carpark where parishioners with a sense of entitlement and no regard for others, park where it is convenient for them. We see a variation in the ES when people write emails naming parishioners and engaging in the odd bit of calumny and detraction and when they are confronted announce "they have moved on". It is the same with the self-righteous serial letter writer who writes to the Catholic Education Office (or the bishop) with a letter of complaint. Such letters are not filled with lies so much as deceitful 'embellishments' and/or 'exaggerations' attempting to character-assassinate the teacher (or priest), but make the complainant look like a botoxed Mother Teresa. Such Christians should think before they engage in calumny and detraction to get even.

As Marcus Einfeld spends the next two years in prison, he might give some consideration to the need for an alternative to prison. That he be punished is appropriate. But jail? Prisons are inhumane places. There has to be an alternative, not just for a man suffering from depression and prostate cancer, but aborigines and many others.

Father John.

Today's Readings

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14. The Lord gives new life to his people through his spirit living in them.

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11. The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is living in us and giving us life.

Gospel John 11:1-45. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, proclaiming himself as the resurrection and the life.

Next week: Passion Sunday - Year B Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15,47.

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

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place this Friday evening at 7.30pm.



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

FIRST FRIDAY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place this Friday, April 3 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 9659 9385.

EASTER LITURGIES

Holy Thursday	7.30pm
Good Friday Stations of the Cross	9.30am & 12noon
Good Friday Afternoon Liturgy	3.00pm
Easter Vigil Mass	6.00pm
Easter Sunday Mass	7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm
Reconciliation (2nd Rite) is Tuesday 7 April at 7.30pm	

JESUS & MEN MEETING in the Parish Hall, April 4, 2009, 8.45am – 11.45am. Francis Voon (Parish Support Unit of the Diocese of Broken Bay) will be speaking on *'Gifts of the Holy Spirit'*. Please join with the men of the parish for a morning of learning, sharing and fellowship. Enquiries & Registration: Steve Decker on 9688 6226.

OAKHILL COLLEGE ART & CRAFT SHOW TODAY

at Old Northern Road, Castle Hill - 10am to 4pm
*art * craft * jewellery * glassware * ceramics * metal sculpture * gourmet foodstuffs * music * café*

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP recommences on Wednesday 29 April at 10.00am in the Marian Centre. The Gospel of Mark will be studied. Newcomers most welcome. Please ring the parish office before 18 April so books can be ordered.



events & news for Youth & Young Adults ...

LIFE Nights will be back after Easter. Stay posted for details about upcoming nights. Join our Facebook group for photos, updates and news about LIFE Nights! (There is no LIFE Night tonight or next Sunday due to Passion Play Rehearsals).

Into LIFE Leaders: There is a leaders training for ALL Into LIFE Leaders next Monday 6th April starting at 5:30pm in the Hall. Snacks will be provided! It is really important that all Leaders attend training.

Are you interested in becoming involved in one of the various ministries at our Life Teen Youth Mass on Sunday evenings? We are in need of more people to answer this call to be **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Adult Servers and Welcomers**. For more information about these ministries or if you would like to become involved, please see Belinda after the Youth Mass or email youth@stbernadette.org.au



BLANKETS FOR THE NEEDY. It's time to restart blanket making for our St. Vincent de Paul Society. There will be a morning tea this Wednesday 1st April 2009 at 10.00am in the Marian Centre to welcome new and continuing knitters/crocheters and anyone else who would like to become involved with this ministry. Transport available if needed. RSVP to Jo 9634 5961 or Hilary 9894 5913.

KINDERGARTEN 2010 AT ST BERNADETTE'S Enrolment packs will be available from St Bernadette's Primary School Office between Tuesday 28 April and Friday 29 May. An Open Day will be held on Thursday 14 May from 9am to 2pm.

OCTOBER TURKEY TOUR Father Wim Hoekstra is leading a tour to Turkey with the theme of "St Paul's World" from 3 to 19 October 2009 (school holidays). Places visited include Ephesus (Mass at Mary's House), Cappadocia, Istanbul and Gallipoli. For further information please contact Fr Wim on 8839 8420 or visit www.stpatscathedral.com.au and click on the Tour to Turkey link.

POSITIONS VACANT - Cleaner, Seminary of the Good Shepherd The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has 2 full-time positions vacant for the role of Cleaner based at Homebush. Applications to anthony.spata@ado.syd.catholic.org.au or Anthony Spata, Polding Centre, Level 5, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000. See www.catholicjobsonline.com.au for a position description. Applications close 5 April.

FREE GAS HEATER The school has a gas heater in excellent condition (town gas) going free to a good home. Phone the school office on 9634 2898.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to all the children who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this weekend. (You are reminded to mark the date for the Sacramental Camp on Wed 22 April in your diary now.)

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]

Sacramental Preparation Program 2010: Information nights 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 Zena Bentley, Mona Cook, Frank Trunfio, Fr David Nies, Br Michael Naughtin fms and Thomas Fitzgerald who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Clinton Ingold (Mar 23), Januario Fernandes (Mar 26) and Enrique Y. Castillo Sr (Mar 30).

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – April 4 & 5

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	
VIGIL Terry O'Mara S7	Special Roster	Carole-Anne Lunn, Annarita Mezger, Sabrina Lobo, Maureen & Ray Scully, Connie Tierney, Helen Wintle, Ros Knezevic, Joe Zammit	
7.30AM John Stone S8	Special Roster	Joan Ghisla, Patricia Bright, Hilary Burton, Margaret Elder, Ken Short, Peter Grace	
9.00AM Michael Wilson S9	Special Roster	Stephen Suen, Howard Woodward, Janice Bonaccorso, Marcia Bosen, Shane Robinson, Rosalind Yeo, Elizabeth Vasta, Angela Stenglin, Patricia Williams	
10.30AM Zeno Hong S10	Special Roster	Marion McDonald, Mila Mina, Michael Puckeridge, Florina Vanderwaals, Barbara Shannon, Tony & Wendy Smith, Wendy Stone, Barry Halpin	
6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - April 5			
Adult Servers Marc Clasquin Gillian Pak	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Adam Chioatto Darren Edwards Ian Pomeroy Belinda Lee		Musos Bass Erich Gracias Flor Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Michael Smith Daniel Ang Horns/Strings/Winds Matthew Ashton Ashley Adams
Altar Preparation Josh Becker	Projectionist Larissa O'Callaghan	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera	
Lectors Jen Austin Stef Musgrave Raquel Lobo		Welcomers Tony & Tina Muscat	
Altar Servers S6	Gift Preparation Michael Piggott		
CHILDREN'S LITURGY	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING	COUNTING (2nd Collection)	
Lisa Biasucci Jan Penerson	Pat Kenna, Francesca Menezes, Moira Mitchell Maree McDermott, Margaret Sinha	Adrian Franks, David Tye, Cosimo Miccoli, Vincent Traynor	
FLOWER ROSTER No flowers	COUNTING (1st Collection) Barry Halpin Gladys Tsang	BOOKSHOP TBA	