



JUNE 27 & 28, 2009 – THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B

Issue Number 315

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

Last week I was having dinner with some parishioners and discovered that one dinner party guest designs crematoria. An interesting profession. The conversation turned naturally to cremations and how it all works. We spoke about some interesting things I had never thought of like what happens to the metal parts of the coffin and how long does it take to cool the ashes of one's Loved One before you can pick them up. And then, what actually happens to the ashes from that point on.

Until 1963 Catholics were not allowed to be cremated and in some Catholic quarters there is still a stigma attached to cremation. I can't ever remember a priest being cremated for instance. Catholics are practical people and on hot days and rainy days, cremation is an excellent option. In our parish we would do 50-50 cremations and burials. The ritual we use, although printed in 1989, does not envisage cremation and the priest has to adapt the rite to fit a cremation. Some do it better than others. The rite says, "we commit his/her body to the earth". Without wanting to go too much into it, changing the words at a cremation to, "We commit the body to the flames" just doesn't have the same ring about it. Adapting the right words to the situation is an occupational hazard. It is best at a cremation to leave out the blessing of the grave, although some priests still slavishly follow the ritual and bless some imaginary grave.

On the lectern used by the priest is a series of buttons. They turn down the music and close the inner curtain and outer curtain. The theatre created by inner and outer curtains seems a drama favoured by mourners, so the priest goes along with it. Unless this is electronically controlled, closing the thick outer curtain is the signal for the men behind the firewall to bring the casket

through an opening which looks like a dumbwaiter into the furnace. Some crematoria are very sophisticated and have all the mod-cons. At Palmdale, on the Central Coast, there are no curtains. The priest pushes the curtain button and a glass surround slides into place, encasing the coffin. Thirty seconds later, the glass suddenly goes opaque, like when your windscreen shatters in a car accident, but doesn't break. It has much the same affect on the mourners as a shattered windscreen for it seems to happen so quickly – one minute you can see the casket, then the glass through modern technology and an automatic time delay, goes opaque - a signal that it's all over. I was told it is the modern American way to bring about closure. In the new Mother of Mercy Chapel at Rookwood, the casket is placed on a black granite slab with stainless steel doors that open inwards and downwards like the wheel housing on an Airbus A380 which sucks in the wheels when the aircraft is airborne. When the casket is lowered into the bowels of the granite catafalque, it is removed by conveyer belt to one of the two cremators located at the back of the chapel.

Even the old fashioned close-the-curtain with the press of a button is fraught with difficulty. When saying the prayers, being conscious of the time limits allotted for cremation ceremonies and sensitive to grieving relatives and friends, the priest has to adjust the ritual to the changed circumstances of cremation rather than burial. He must have the fine motor skills to turn down the music, close the inner then the outer curtain and bring the ceremony to an end. This is an acquired skill involving eye-touch coordination, and not every priest is good at it.

I have a recovered memory where I was doing a funeral for a parishioner. The crematorium



CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate these young people who will receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time during Masses this weekend.

6.00pm Vigil

Isabelle Acharya
Kryzl Baello
Angelica Bocanegra
Matthew Caruana
Alyssa Coleiro
Kalem Dempsey
Kalvin Fernandez
Luke Gardoni
Solenne Gibson
Kristen Hanna
Joseph Harb
Alisha Joseph
Benjamin Keatinge
Chloe Matthews
Chelsea McEntee
Jacob Natividad
Ellessia Rinaldi
Martin Sheridan
Paloma Sheridan
Jill Tengco
Talia Weston
Lachlan Williams

9.00am

Alexandra Baguley
Daisy Batty
Hannah Grace
Dominic Jones
Simon Jones
Fred Maher
Georgia McDonald
Tilen Nekrep
Cameron Robinson
Chantal Ryan-Linnane
Benjamin Tulinsky
Delaney Wright

10.30am

John Aguilar
Taylor Ashkar
Belinda Bonaccorso
Chiara Carlo-Stella
Jessica Ceh
Celine De Zilva
Natalia De Souza
Eugenia Gunawan
Thomas Johnson
Alexandra Lu
Britanny Maggs
Bennet McKertich
Dylan Ngu
Adrian Oguz
Naomi Sakr
Sarah Sakr
Kirsten Tole
Claire Ward
Benjamin Winiarski



chapel was new to me. The funeral director explained the buttons, “this one turns down the music, this one closes the inner curtain, this one tells the men to egress the coffin etc”. “Egress the coffin” I asked, “yes, it tells the men out the back to start the conveyer belt. It’s like the roundelay at the airport.” There were a lot of buttons on the lectern. Juggling the words in the ritual and solemnly sending the deceased off to the elements, I pressed one button to close the inner curtain, but the deceased’s favourite CD came on very loudly. It was Vera Lynn singing, “We’ll Meet Again”.

It was a difficult funeral where the deceased had two families that had not met, or for that matter even knew of each other’s existence, until the day of the funeral. It was a surprise for all of us, so some sensitivity was called for. The families were on different sides of the chapel, sobbing, although I noticed that the two ‘wives’ were eyeing each other off through sodden Kleenex.

I managed to turn off Vera Lynn and at the same time tried to locate the inner curtain button, praying solemnly from the ritual all the time.

With the next button that I pressed, we were blasted out of our seats with the Last Post. And the deceased was not a returned man. I managed to pray continuously until I found the ‘hold’ button after only five bars of the Last Post. With

the prayers nearly ended and bidding our last farewell, I pushed the outer curtain button instead of the inner curtain button. I could see through the corner of my eye, the casket making its way slowly through the dumbwaiter doors. So I pressed what I thought was the outer curtain button saying the “may the angels lead you into paradise” bit. When the outer curtain did not close immediately, I panicked. I pressed the button a couple more times. There is no ‘undo’ on the crematorium lectern, so I kept my hand on the button. This would have confused the men the other side of the firewall. The epistle-side family started to get the giggles and I couldn’t see why until I looked to see the sliding doors open like they do in “This is Your Life”. The casket reappeared, coming back at us on its stainless steal ball bearings. The roundelay had reversed.

I picked up the holy water, the ritual and the funeral stipend and left. There was a slight embarrassment. I asked to be excused from the wake.

Parishioners can avoid these fumbles by farewelling the deceased at the church. This is an option that is being used more and more. All the mourners stand in solidarity with the close relatives and say goodbye together as the hearse leaves the church grounds for either cremation or burial. Mourners retire to the Marian Centre for a cup of tea or the RSL for a more formal wake.

Father John.

LITURGY CORNER

In the incidents to which Mark refers in the Gospel reading for the 13th Sunday, faith is again an important issue. Both the 'healings' Jesus performs take place amongst gatherings of people who believe in him. In both miracles a person is made well. Behind these miracles lie questions for us. Have we faith enough to trust Jesus, no matter what the circumstances and the outcome? What do we understand by 'healing'? It could well be said that death is the ultimate healing for then we move into the presence of God in a way we cannot while alive in this present world.

Today's Readings



First Reading: Wisdom: 1:13-15, 2:23-24
Death was not God's doing, but was brought into the world by the devil's envy.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15
Paul exhorts the church at Corinth to be generous. He says they don't have to endure hardship but balance their surplus against the present need of the poor.

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43
Two stories of faith rewarded: Jesus cures the woman who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years, and raises Jairus' daughter from the dead.

Next week: 14th Week in Ordinary Time - Year B

Ezekiel 2:2-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

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

Feast Days this Week

Ss Peter & Paul - Monday, 29 June

St Thomas - Friday, 3 July

FIRST FRIDAY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place this Friday, July 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.

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

LIFE BEGINS AT 50: Visit to the ABC studios - lunch and then attend a production of the "New Inventors". Friday 10 July. Cost \$6.50 and lunch at your expense. Tour commences 10.00am and the show ends approx 3.30pm. Numbers limited. Numbers and money to Howard by June 30.

ACOLYTES AND ALTAR SERVERS Please collect your new rosters from the priests' sacristy and altar servers' room respectively.



Life Teen: 1999-2009.

Celebrating 10 years of 'Leading Teens Closer to Christ' at St Bernadette's.

events & news for Youth & Young Adults ...

LIFE Nights - 'Judge Jesus!' is on TONIGHT. Jesus' divinity is put to the test. Join us for a fun-filled night with special guest St Luke. The night starts in the Hall straight after the 6pm Youth Mass and finishes at 8:30pm.



Into LIFE is on Monday night for anyone in Years 7 and 8. Join us tomorrow (Monday) from 7 to 8:30pm in the Hall for a fun evening of games and activities! Bring \$2 for supper.

Life Teen Winter Camps 2009...

LIFE Nights - Alpha & Omega:

Friday 10th July to Sunday 12th July for anyone in Years 9 to 12.

Into LIFE - The I in Team:

Monday 13th July to Wednesday 15th July for anyone in Years 7 & 8.

Both camps will be held at Crosslands Youth and Convention Centre and are run by a fantastic team of Life Teen Leaders and Parent Couples.

Information and registration forms for the camps are now available in the foyer of the church and on our website www.lifeteenaustralia.com

The Matt Maher Experience: The Friday concert is SOLD OUT! Don't miss out on your chance to see Matt Maher and his band on Saturday 4 July. Concert tickets are \$10 and will be on sale after the youth Mass tonight - please see Alice or Sean.

Music and Liturgy Workshop - run by Matt will be held 3-5pm on July 4. \$10 per person. Contact Alice (sacraments@stbernadette.org.au or 9634 2622) or email vincent@cys.org.au or 0410442171 to book.

With the end of the Financial Year upon us, would you please bring your contributions up-to-date, and notify the Parish Office if you have changed your address or any other details.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS: Thank you for your support so far. We will finish selling these books at the end of July. If you have not bought your new edition yet - DON'T MISS OUT! Books are available from the Parish Office during office hours. Get your new book now and enjoy another year of great savings. \$55 for Parramatta/Hills edition or \$65 Sydney North & Sydney. Thanks again for helping us in "Leading Teens Closer To Christ".

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS 2009

Congratulations to all those who have received sacraments at celebrations so far. Our celebrations continue next weekend:

- **Eucharist** - Sunday 5th July at 6pm vigil, 9am, 10:30am & 6pm.

Final Event: New Members of God's Family (Closing Ceremony of Program)

- Friday 31st July 7:30pm in the Church. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

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 Luke Hackett, Pastoral Associate (Youth)
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 Mr Michael Watson, Maintenance Co-ordinator
 Mr Darren Edwards, Maintenance

Mass Times for this Week

Sunday Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am &
 6pm Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

Weekdays Mon 6.45am
 Tue 6.45 am,
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am
 First Fri 6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon
 Sat 8.00am

Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am-9.00am; 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 are at 7.30pm, August 3 or 4, this year.

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

Please pray for Steven Secco, Christian Karl Rivera and John Francis Cummings who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Leonard Daniells (30/6), Dalmacio & Felisa de Leon, Lucia Reyes de Raring (1/7), Valeriana Miranda, Eugene Ali (25/6), Antonio Roco (30/6) and Faustino Poletto and in remembrance of Henry Wajon.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – July 4 & 5

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Terry O'Mara S5	Vince Connelly Ray Scully Jessica Fearnside	Felicity Carvalho, Lourice Asmar, Patrick Bowie, Rod Boyd, Adeline Chong, Ignatius/Natalia Chui, Lynne Myers, Barbara Ortlepp, Mary McMahon
7.30AM John Stone S1	Tony Falzon Patricia Bright John O'Dea	Paul Hennessey, Francesca Menezes, Remy Sie, Bernard Rogers, Geoff Roney, Catherine Seddon
9.00AM Michael Wilson S2	Trevor O'Shea Brian Blacklock Joanne O'Shea	Brian & Jenny Blacklock, Neil Bone, Angela Crowe, Brian D'Arcy, Jeff Davis, Jocelyn Donovan, Jack Garcia, Yulia Hong
10.30AM Zeno Hong S3	Tony Smith Philip Golanco Trinity Abbertson-Woo	Mary & Jeyaraj Winslow, Crystal & Bernie Good, Mark Street, Gaye Crammond, Lydia Flores, Monica & Matthew Fitzalan

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - July 5

Adult Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Musos
Gillian Pak Marc Clasquin	Adam Chioatto Belinda Lee Darren Edwards Ian Pomeroy	Bass Erich Gracias Flor Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Daniel Ang Michael Smith Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton Ashley Adams
Lectors Stef Musgrave Jen Austin Raquel Lobo	Projectionist Larissa O'Callaghan	Singers Aarti D'Cruz Alice Bradshaw Cassie Knezevic Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Julia Calixto Sara Ang Tim Bywater
Altar Servers S4	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera	Welcomers Tony Muscat Tina Muscat
Gift Preparation Michael Piggott		

CHILDREN'S LITURGY First Communion No Children's Liturgy FLOWER ROSTER Lorraine O'Mara	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Barbara Fong, Karen D'Souza, Christine Gracia, Jana Fizely COUNTING (1st Collection) Alfred & Gladys Tsang	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Rex Smith, Albert Leroy, Jeff Cronan, Joachim Schiller, John Moran BOOKSHOP Carmel Adams / Anne Parker / Bernadette Logue / Dora Saleh / Patricia Smith
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