



SEPTEMBER 12 & 13 – TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Issue Number 326

CAN THE OPUS DEI GET THE TRAIN TO COME TO CASTLE HILL?

The front page of Tuesday's *Hills News* makes disturbing reading. The editor quotes a "Liberal Party insider" as saying that the extreme religious right "want to control everything" (in the Liberal Party). Col Allison writes that more than 10 per cent of the 3,000-odd Liberals in the north-west are Opus Dei Catholics or associates aiming to dominate NSW by branch-stacking extreme right wingers into power. If this is accurate, then this is of concern to this Catholic community.

It is difficult for the ordinary parishioner to understand the nebulous concept of extreme right-winger, hard, extreme religious right, even 'soft' right-winger, or far right - expressions used on the front page of the *Hills News*. Further, because of the nature of Opus Dei, it is difficult to know who is a member and who is not. To widen the claim to include "associates" of Opus Dei starts to confuse the issue. One parishioner remarked, however, "where there is smoke there is fire".

We know that, as Catholics, we have to pull our weight in public affairs and at least be proportionate or representative in public life as is warranted by our numbers. You have heard me encouraging parishioners to join a political party so that principles of Catholic social justice in particular, will have a voice in the proper forum for debate and discussion. This is part of the political process. Catholics can make a contribution because Catholics have a history and background in these important areas. Much of Australia's social legislation is based on Catholic social teaching because the philosophy underpinning the teaching is documented and based on long-standing principles.

For too long the complaint at all levels of government has been that developers have been too influential, either through political donations to a political party or joining a political party

from motives of self-interest, rather than from any notion of service to the community.

Pushing one particular barrow in politics is never a good thing. It would be a sad day for the two major parties if the agenda pursued by developers were to be replaced by branch members joining either the Liberal Party or the ALP to push a religious agenda.

Catholics have been down that track with their support for the Democratic Labor Party, begun in the 1950s - and it was a disaster. The DLP experiment is replicated with the election of Steve Fielding to the Senate. His Family First party is backed by the Assemblies of God, a right-wing religious group formed in 1937.

Closer to home, Louise Markus, an ex-Catholic who worships at Hillsong, was elected in 2004 to the Federal Parliament. She had the resources of Hillsong at her disposal to get her into what everyone thought was the safe Labor seat of Greenway. In May 1997 Pastor Brian Houston was elected the National President of the Assemblies of God in Australia. Brian Houston is the Senior Pastor of Hillsong. Are the members of Opus Dei



saying, well if the Assemblies of God can do it, so should we?

For the most part branch members nominate the candidate, who then stands for the seat. The life of an elected politician is difficult. It is difficult for his or her family, with the media forever waiting to pounce; the long hours, the thankless task of having to be nice to branch members who, in a certain sense, are the employers, ever ready to knife the member in the back, to say nothing of the small remuneration which is disproportionate to the job of trying to govern the country and being subservient to a fickle electorate. How much more difficult would that job be if the control, at branch level, was dominated by "the religious right"?

When I was a boy, our local member at Parramatta was Jim Clough, a Liberal. He later became the member for Eastwood from 1965 to 1988. All in all, he was in politics for 26 years. He was run off his feet attending Catholic functions representing the non-Catholic Premier because there was no other Minister of the Crown who was a Catholic at that time.

Mainstream Catholics in my childhood voted Labor. Cardinal Moran had supported the 1890 maritime strike, expressing his belief that 'the officers, the seamen and the wharf labourers are all justified in asking for proper wages, and I do not think their demands are unreasonable or excessive'. The Cardinal's support for Labour meant that, when the party was formed in 1891, large numbers of Catholics followed his lead and supported the Labor movement en masse. Being Catholic meant voting Labor. Now times have changed and Catholics are well represented in both parties. This is a good thing.

What is not good is to read that one particular group within the Church seeks to encourage its members to join one political party for the purpose of gaining power to position its candidates to "dominate NSW", as reported in the local paper. This claim should be investigated.

The odds of Labor winning the next election are slim. Unless Barry O'Farrell and his Liberals shoot themselves in the foot we will have a new coalition government in March 2011. Dissatisfaction with Labor means more people will vote Liberal than ever before and this seat will become even more blue-ribbon, no matter who the candidate is. Safe seats traditionally give the electorate nothing. It is my view we have to become marginal in order to get government to take notice of our needs. In other words, if you live in Castle Hill, think about voting Labor in the next election.

Barry O'Farrell's public statements include building the north-west rail line. If branch-stacking by Opus Dei can get us the heavy rail link from Castle Hill to the CBD, perhaps we should encourage them to stack the branches.

There is a public information evening next Tuesday at Castle Grand to discuss Sydney's transport needs. *Project Sydney*, a campaign launched by the *Sydney Morning Herald* on August 22 to get some answers to the continuing failure of government to implement extensions and improvements to Sydney's transport system, is behind the information evening.

This article will hopefully encourage people to attend that meeting. I think it will also start the conversation about the March 2011 election.

Father John.

LITURGY CORNER

In Mark's Gospel the supreme moment of triumph for Jesus, rather than being the resurrection, is when Christ suffers and dies on the cross. The cross represents Christ's unconditional response to God and therefore is his triumph. What a surprise it is to find that an instrument of torture and death can become such a powerful symbol of life and love. The true identity and mission of Jesus in only made clear on the cross. (The cross was instrument of the death for a common brigand or thief – it was a cruel and heartless death.)

The Summit



Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9. God's servant suffers every indignity but continues to trust in God.

Second Reading: James 2:14-18. Faith that does not prove itself in deeds, especially to our neighbour in need, is dead and useless.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35. The disciples discover that Jesus is the Messiah; he reveals that as disciples they must be ready to follow him in carrying the cross.

Next week: 25th Week in Ordinary Time - Year B

Wisdom 2:12,17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37.

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

Feast Day this Week

Triumph of the Cross - Monday, 14 September

Our Lady of Sorrows - Tuesday, 15 September

Ss Cornelius & Cyprian - Wednesday, 16 September

RETIREMENT VILLAGES SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Warrina - Mass & Anointing of the Sick, Tuesday 15 Sept at 4pm in the chapel.

Nuffield & Hopetoun - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday 16 Sept at 4pm in the chapel at Farrer Brown Court.

Nordby - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Thursday 17 Sept at 4pm.

Wirreanda - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick on Thursday 17 Sept at 11am.

Kilvinton - Mass & Anointing of the Sick, Friday 18 Sept at 2pm at Brian King Gardens.

Flinders - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick, Saturday 19 Sept at 10am at Donnington Court.

FOOD DRIVE: Our parish will join other Life Teen parishes all around the world for the 'Second Annual Global Life Night & Food Drive'. From now until 27th September, we are collecting canned goods in the Church foyer to help our local St Vincent de Paul Society. Your support is greatly appreciated.

JESUS AND MEN MEETING: Parish Hall 26th September, 2009. 8.45am – 11.45am, Gary Raymond (President & Senior Chaplain of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association) will be speaking on 'How to be Rescued by God'. Please join in for a morning of learning, sharing and fellowship. Enquiries & Registration: Steve Decker on 9688 6226.

FATHERS' DAY APPEAL

Thank you for your very generous contributions to The Parramatta Diocesan Father's Day Appeal for the support of retired and sick priests of the Diocese, which was held last weekend. Almost \$11,000 was raised in this parish alone which will go directly to help those who have served us well in our diocese.

RAFFLE TODAY TO SUPPORT OUR NEWEST PARISH

Our Lady of the Angels Parish at Rouse Hill is the newest parish in the Diocese of Parramatta and needs help to get established. All the foundational buildings and works which are necessary for the birth of a parish incur a large financial debt. The parish is working hard to minimise the loan required for the parish.



The parish priest, Fr Warren Edwards has organised a raffle with 1st prize being an overseas trip with Harvest Pilgrimages to the value of \$7,000.

Other prizes include:

- 40" LCD TV
- Wii console & games
- Xbox console & games
- Accommodation & more
- Masport lawnmower
- Sunbeam BBQ
- Hot Air Balloon ride

Tickets are available after all masses today.

CAN YOU HELP?? We are looking for anyone interested in being part of our Sacramental team for 2009-2010. If you think that this ministry could be for you, please contact Alice on 9634 2622 or sacraments@stbernadette.org.au. Parents of children in the program or any interested parishioners are welcome. There will be a team meeting held in the Parish Lounge **THIS Wednesday 16th September 7:30pm** for all those interested and for those who served in our 2008-2009 cycle.

TRANSPORT NEEDED: Drivers needed to assist with transport of a parishioner with disability to the Sunday 9am Mass. Cherrybrook area. Commitment is only one week in four on a roster basis. Passengers are extremely appreciative of those who help with this ministry. Please contact Andrew Madry on 9634 2732 (ah) or 0416 278 324.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2010

Information Packs are now available from the Church foyer for all families wishing to enrol in our Sacramental Preparation Program. Each pack contains an information booklet, 'Welcoming' card and an enrolment form. If you are enrolling more than one child in our program please make sure that you pick up an extra 'Welcoming' card and enrolment form for each additional child.

Any family who wishes to enrol in the new preparation program but did not attend the information evenings must obtain a copy of the DVD and information handouts from the parish office asap, prior to enrolling.

All families wishing to enrol in our preparation program must make an appointment to meet with Fr John. Various meeting times are outlined in the information booklets. Please call the parish office to book in. Appointment times conclude on Saturday 26th September.

Faith Formation Course: Participants who completed our recent course can pick up their certificates from the Church foyer. Certificates from previous cycles of the course that have not yet been picked up are also available.



Celebrating 10 Years at St Bernadette's.

Youth & Young Adults Ministry...

LIFE Nights LIFE Nights - Regurgitate: To repeat after memorization. **Do You Regurgitate?** Find out tonight for anyone in Yrs 9-12 in the Hall straight after the youth mass, finishing 8:30pm

Coming Up: On the 27th September we are joining other Life Teen parishes all around the world for the 'Second Annual Global Life Night and Food Drive'. From next week we are going to start collecting canned goods in the Church foyer, so help us help our local Vinnies chapter. You CAN do it!

Into LIFE will be back **THIS MONDAY NIGHT!!!!** 14 September, 7.00 till 8.30pm in the hall under the church.

40 Hour Famine – QUICK! Time is running out...you have one week left to return all famine books (used or unused) and money raised to the parish office or a LIFE night leader. **No later** than the 20th September.

Don't forget to check out **www.lifeteen.com** for some great facts on faith, reflections on upcoming Sunday Mass readings and other scripture, inspiring and insightful podcasts and more! This is a fantastic website for all youth and young adults to get more out of our Catholic faith.

YEAR OF THE PRIEST "Thank You Father"

COMPETITION: You could win \$1000 for yourself and \$1000 for your nominated priest. Simply fill out the special coupon that can be cut out from The Catholic Weekly for the next 5 weeks and attach a picture of the Patron Saint of Priests, St John Vianney, appearing in The Catholic Weekly over 6 weeks starting with today's issue. The Catholic Weekly is available each week for just \$2.00.

CONGRATULATIONS to our acolyte, Edy Kesuma and his wife, Imelda on the birth of their second son last week.

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
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15am
 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]

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

Please pray for Sr Dorothy May RSM (also known as Sr Mary Michael, sister of Tony Hawke), Remedio Cabarrus and Ni Shu Ying Yang who have died recently and for the anniversaries of David Edward Edhouse (Sept 17) and Millicent Jacobs (Sept 17).

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – September 19 & 20

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Budi Kawiadji S10	Rebecca Barrett Tony Calabria Douglas/Felicity Carvalho	Joanne Barrett, Carol Cividin, Esther Coleiro, Beverley Curtis, Lucille Wilson, Maureen Fearnside, Richard & Cheryl Koen, Warren Hiser
7.30AM Edy Kesuma S6	Gerard Kearney Daryl Hill Audrey Markowskei	Lina Josue, Albert & Gladys Tsang, Jo Wickens, Colleen & Eric Woodhead
9.00AM Michael Lopez S7	Ann O'Brien Susan Moore Peter Hine	Karen & David Askey, Christine & Hubert Jenneke, Cathy & Greg Piggott, Trevor & Joanne O'Shea, Lena Madry
10.30AM Joe Lorenzo S8	Eamon Keane Donna Boddy Jo-Ann Campion	Anita Christy, Pauline Camilleri, Dorothy Finucane, Elizabeth Fogolin, Philip & Yolanda Golamco, Margaret Hawkes, Winnie & Henry Li

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - September 20

Adult Servers Andrew Tomic James Madry	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Adam Chioatto Belinda Lee Darian Jessup-Lonsdale		Musos	
Lectors Josh Chaney Mystique Nelis Nicci Heidegger		Jeremy Smith Martin Collins Stef Musgrave Sean Finucane Veronica Sahabu	Bass Daniel Ang	Singers Alison Wong Annabel Irawan Sara Ang Julia Calixto Maree Calabria Natalie Jones
Altar Servers S9	Projectionist Josh Becker		Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton	
Gift Preparation Ben Mules	Ushers Paul Musgrave Phillip Smith	Welcomers Ingrid Fizely Jana Fizely		

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Niamh Holt Jan Penerson	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Maria Mochnik, Kathy Habek, Adelina & Ronald Tabila, Caroline Irawan	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Rex Smith, Albert Leroy, Jeff Cronan, Joachim Schiller, John Moran
FLOWER ROSTER Sandra Fernando	COUNTING (1st Collection) Alfred & Gladys Tsang	BOOKSHOP Joanne Barrett / Rose Huby / Bernadette Navarra / Barbara Halpin / Natasha Orioles