

The Massabielle

The Weekly Newsletter of St Bernadette's
Parish Community, Castle Hill, NSW

FEBRUARY 13 & 14, 2010 – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Issue Number 348

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Since the 1970s, Muslim communities have built many mosques and Islamic schools in Australia and, although they number only 340,000 in the whole of Australia, their presence is particularly brought to the notice of the population by Muslim women wearing the headscarf.

Catholic schools are sometimes criticised because it is claimed that students know more about Islam than they do about Catholicism. Their parents know something about Islam, even if it is only about Ramadan, the month of fasting in August-September. This is mainly because the newspapers make an issue of Ramadan. Fasting for religious purposes for most people is novel and exotic. However, I don't expect to read much about Lent in the newspapers except a few references to Pancake Tuesday and the usual photo of scantily dressed girls at Mardi Gras in Rio de Janeiro. That will be the media's coverage of Lent.

Muslims take fasting seriously. They refrain from eating, drinking, even smoking, during daylight hours.

Ramadan parallels the Jewish feast of Yom Kippur, sometimes known as the Day of Atonement. For Jews, this is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, and incorporates fasting and praying. Again, this is like our Ash Wednesday, but the difference seems to me that, with both Yom Kippur and Ramadan, the participants take the matter of fasting seriously.

Years ago Catholics took Lent more seriously. On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the priest would explain the complicated laws of fasting and abstinence. On Ash Wednesday, the priest would instruct us that flesh meat, soup or gravy made from meat were not permitted at all.

With regard to fasting, all Catholics from

the completion of their twenty-first to the beginning of their sixtieth year were bound to observe the Law of Fast. The days of Fast were all the weekdays of Lent. Sundays in Lent are days of rejoicing and not days for fasting. It meant Catholics could have only one full meal on days of fast. Two other meatless meals were allowed but they were permitted only to maintain strength. Solids between meals, that is, something with your cup of tea or coffee, was not permitted. Dispensations could be granted from a sympathetic priest, but only for serious reasons concerning health or the ability to work. Furthermore, Catholics had to abstain from eating

meat on all Fridays, except if Christmas Day fell on a Friday. Even then, Christmas Eve was always a Day of Fast. In those days, like the Muslims and Jews, Catholics took fasting seriously.

Next Wednesday, we might again look at what the Church is asking and abstain from eating meat and also go without morning and

afternoon tea and maybe even fast for the day.

Wednesday begins the period of Lent during which we are called to prayer and penance as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday the Church asks us to observe both abstinence from meat and fasting. For Christians fasting is one of the ways of expressing penance. The other ways are prayer, self-denial and works of charity. The practice of fasting is given to us by the Church to help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart (Catechism #2043). All who are 18 and not yet 60 are bound to fast. All who are over 14 are bound to abstain.

Lent formally began from the First Sunday of Lent, but this comprised only thirty-six days. The addition of Wednesday and the three



following days brought the number to forty, which is that of the Our Lord's fast in the desert.

Years ago, ashes were generally a symbolic expression of grief, mourning, or repentance. In the Early Church the use of ashes had a similar signification and, with sackcloth, formed part of the public penances. This concerned those guilty of serious, public sins and was arranged in conjunction with the preparation of the Catechumens for baptism at Easter. At the beginning of Lent the bishop used to bless the sackcloth and ashes to be worn by the penitents.

Perhaps the most famous penitent who was forced to do public penance was King Henry II. He was humiliated by walking to Canterbury Cathedral in sackcloth and ashes and was flogged by the monks at the cathedral. The Pope blamed Henry for the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170.

The archbishop was going to Vespers when four knights came into Canterbury Cathedral and according to one witness, "By this stroke, the crown of his head was separated from the head in such a way that the blood white with the brain, and the brain no less red from the blood, dyed the floor of the cathedral. The same clerk who had entered with the knights placed his foot on the neck of the holy priest and precious martyr and, horrible to relate, scattered the brains and blood about the pavements, crying to the others, 'Let us away knights; this fellow will arise no more.'"

I guess Henry should have done some penance for suggesting the murder of an Archbishop, but 368 years later, it was pay-back time and Henry II's successor, Henry VIII destroyed the shrine of Thomas Becket, some say, because of the sackcloth and ashes treatment metered out to his predecessor.

The imposition of ashes, as we know it today, is an extension of the former public penance; what applied originally to a single category of the faithful is now extended to all without exception, even young children and babies. It is an old ritual ordered by Pope Urban VI in 1091, when he directed that all Catholics should receive the ashes on Ash Wednesday.

To continue the Dominican theme I introduced last week, (and no, it is not to curry favour with our new Dominican Bishop), on Ash Wednesday, Pope Benedict will be at Santa Sabina on the Aventine. This ancient shrine is the mother Church of the Dominicans.

Father John.

LITURGY CORNER

What is the attitude with which we approach Lent? One of the Prefaces for the Lenten Masses thanks God because "each year you give us this *joyful* season when we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery with mind and heart renewed".

Joyful? This is *Lent!* – a time for giving up the good things in life and getting on our knees and striking our breast. Joyful? Who wrote that Preface, some masochist? No. A realist. Make this a good Lent and we'll find ourselves happier people. The first days of Lent are like starting an exercise programme. We're sore all over, but we also feel invigorated, energised, enlivened ... and we feel good about ourselves. Our body is made for this. So it is with Lent. Our lives, without our realising it, can become flat. Lent is a time to take a long look at our lives. Our spirits are meant to soar ... to experience the grandeur of God. When all is said and done, how much *is* God part of life? Instead of giving up, take up a joyfilled attitude and live fully.

Today's Readings

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8. Jeremiah urges faithfulness to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20. Paul tells the Corinthians how important it is to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.



Gospel: Luke 6:17,20-26. Jesus provides a list of blessings and curses. He predicts reversals in the fortunes of those who are blessed and of those cursed.

Next week: 1st Sunday of Lent Year C

Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13.

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

RETIREMENT VILLAGES SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Warrina - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Tuesday 16 February at 4pm in the chapel.

Nuffield & Hopetoun - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday 17 February at 4pm in the chapel at Farrer Brown Court.

Nordby - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Thursday 18 February at 4pm.

Wirreanda - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick on Thursday 18 February at 11am.

Brian King Gardens - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Friday 19 February at 2pm.

Flinders - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick, Saturday 20 February 10am at Donnington Court.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST will take place in the Church from 5.00pm this Friday 19 February to 5.00pm on Saturday 20 February. **Adoration Time Sheets** are on the board in the Church foyer. Please write your name on the sheet to indicate the time you will be present in the Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion promotes peace by pursuing justice. Please take home a Project Compassion box and give generously this Lent. Your donations allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with communities to reduce poverty and hunger around the world. Boxes are available from the baskets at the church doors.



LENTEN GROUP

If you are interested in becoming involved in a discussion group beginning this Thursday and focusing on Lent, please contact the Parish Office. Cost \$5. Meetings will be Thursdays at 10.00am in the Marian Centre.
Sr Judy

CATECHIST COMMISSIONING MASS: The Catechists from St Bernadette's Parish will be commissioned during the 10.30am Mass next Sunday 21 February. Following the Mass, Catechists and their families are invited to morning tea in the Parish Hall.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES this Wednesday, 17 February will be at

6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon and 7.30pm.

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



ST BERNADETTE'S PLAYGROUP welcomes families with children 0 – 5 yrs in the Lourdes Centre (entry via Brisbane Rd) every Monday and Thursday from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon during school term time. The cost is \$15 per family per term and craft is supplied. For more information contact Carolyn Lincoln 0411 547 285 or Suzanne Waldon 9614 3403.

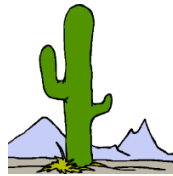
LITTLE BLACK BOOK FOR LENT is a book of six-minute reflections for the 50 days leading up to Easter. Available from the Bookshop for just \$5.

JOIN FATHER JOHN ON A HARVEST PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Father John is leaving for Europe on June 9 and taking a 12-day pilgrimage to Fatima, Avila, and Lourdes, then a second pilgrimage immediately following the Visitations of Mary Pilgrimage. The second pilgrimage, an eleven-day pilgrimage will visit Paris, Lisieux, La Salette, Taize, Turin and other pilgrimage sites in France. Parishioners and their friends are invited to join Father John on one or both pilgrimages. Brochures are available from the sacristy or from Harvest Pilgrimages 9390 5460 or www.harvestpilgrims.com or talk to Father John on 9634 2622.



Youth & Young Adults Ministry



LIFE Nights presents **DESERT-ED** tonight (Sunday 14 Feb) after 6.00pm Mass till 8.30 in the hall for all in grades 9-12. Bring a friend. \$2 food & drink. Next night is "Cold Shoulder" 28th Feb.

Young Adults (ages 18-35yrs) A Lenten Program is starting on February 18 till Easter (7 sessions), held at the Muscat's home from 7.30 till 9.00pm with a donation of \$2 each night. Please register by email ym@stbernadettes.org.au or call/sms youth minister on 0420 594 277.

Into LIFE: This Monday from 7 - 8.30pm in the parish hall. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. All in Grades 7 - 8 are welcome to attend.

Reminder: Think this lent is not only about what you might give up but what good you can do.

Visit us on <http://www.stbernadette.org.au/> or join our Facebook groups:

Into LIFE - St. Bernadette's, Castle Hill & LIFE Nights - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill

OAKHILL COLLEGE ENROLMENTS 2010: Application for enrolment into Year 7 will close on Friday 5 March and enrolment for girls into Year 11 2011 will close Friday 21 May 2110. Parents who have not yet submitted an Application for Enrolment can contact the Registrar on 9634 0802 or registrar@oakhill.nes.edu.au.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOLIDAY: LIFE BEGINS AT 50 is organising their annual week away to Eden & the Sapphire Coast, departing Mon 11 Oct 2010 and returning Sat 16 Oct. Cost twin share \$765.00pp. Enquiries and bookings to Harry & Robin Reyden on 96343354.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER on Friday 5 March: This year's theme, "Let Everything that has Breath Praise God", reminds us that we are to praise God in all circumstances, especially during difficult times. Be encouraged by joining others around the world to praise our Lord. All are welcome at St Michael's Church, Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills at 7.30pm for the Service prepared by the women of Cameroon.

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Please collect your new rosters from the church foyer.

JESUS & MEN MEETING in the Parish Hall on 27 February from 8.45am to 11.45am, Greg Nance (Parishioner of St. Bernadette's Parish) will be speaking on 'You Are Who You Are'. Please join in for a morning of learning, sharing and fellowship with the men of the parish. Enquiries & Registration: Steve Decker on 9688 6226

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: The next session will take place this Tuesday 16 February at either 4pm or 7.30pm or on Saturday 20 February at 3.30pm in the Parish Hall for children and parents.

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
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate
 Mr Luke Hackett, Pastoral Associate (Youth)
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 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 6.45am
 Ash Wed 6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon, 7.30pm
 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 Fr. Ron Hickman, Willie Lai Kwon, Alvito D'Costa and Theresa Limbrey (funeral at St Agatha's 18/2) who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Barbara Virgona, Chris Millgate, John Francis Aylmer, Nita and Bernard Donnelly, Angela Banno, Allen Kennedy and Achille Margerita Forestieri and in remembrance of Kit and George Clews.

Prayers for the Sick: Adeline Chong, Marj Orioles, Rita Gatt, Monique Guy, Pablito Afable & Antonietta Aloschi.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – February 20 & 21

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Michael Wilson S10	Martin Collins Katrina Obeid John Obeid	Carole-Anne Lunn, Annarita Mezger, Sabrina Lobo, Maureen & Ray Scully, Connie Tierney, Helen Wintle, Joe Zammit
7.30AM Zeno Hong S6	Anne Parker Mary Ward Matthew Troy	John O'Dea, Annemarie & Daryl Hill, Jennifer Wakeling, Matthew Troy, Fran Mulcahy
9.00AM Joe Josue S7	David Green Von Lulan Mike Lulan	David/Bettina Green, Sally Healey, John & Lois Donnelly, Aida Pereira, Von & Mike Lulan, Brian & Katrina Fitzalan
10.30AM Budi Kawiadji S8	Bill Gleeson Elizabeth Fogolin Michael Puckeridge	Buds Custodia, Campion, Rani & Cherani Fernando, Kerry Myers, Natalie Parmenter, Sandra & Johan Nelis, Rosary Roco

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - February 21

Adult Servers James Madry	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Belinda Lee Darian Jessup-Lonsdale Jeremy Smith		Musos	
Lectors Josh Chaney Mystique Nelis Nicci Heidegger		Martin Collins Stef Musgrave Veronica Sahabu	Bass Daniel Ang	Singers Alison Wong Annabel Irawan Sara Ang Maree Calabria Natalie Jones Julia Calixto
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 Jana Fizely Gerard Kearney	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Andrea Tomic, Ivonne Purnomo, Eva Mustapic, Krystyna Graczyk, Janice Bonaccorso	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Rex Smith, Albert Leroy, Jeff Cronan, Joachim Schiller, John Moran
FLOWER ROSTER No flowers	COUNTING (1st Collection) Bert Hofstaetter Helga Hofstaetter	BOOKSHOP Maureen Gain / Heather Woods / Christine Jenneke / Maria Barros / Bernadette Boulous