



The Massabielle

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

FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2010 – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - Year C

Issue Number 350

BOYS WITH KNIVES

Last week the lives of two Queensland families were ruined. One 12-year-old boy stabbed another, who died, in a playground before school started. One was buried over the weekend, and the other was refused bail when he was charged with murder. Both families are devastated. The school is in shock. It was a Catholic school. This has nothing to do with the intimacy of violence.

Fifty years ago a lot of teenage boys carried knives not as weapons but as tools. We all used pocket knives to sharpen pencils, open tins and carve initials into desk tops. But they were a status object, too. They didn't get used in school fights, because disputes were sorted with fists - using a knife was not 'manly', and a boy's own mates would get stuck into him for being a coward if he pulled one.

Boys of the early '60s were far more likely to be scared of authority (headmasters with canes, dads with fists, police with boots and a lavish discretion on how to use them). Most boys looked down on 'crooks', and only a crim would use a knife. But 20 years ago there was a lot of violence among the schoolkids my daughter mixed with, only we weren't aware of it: the media weren't running the issue, and parents weren't being alerted to it.

Why do schoolchildren use knives? As one year 12 student remarked online to Melbourne's *The Herald Sun*, 'in most schools kids don't bring knives or weapons to be seen as cool, but to scare off bullies. Lots of bullying goes on where one smartass in a pack of mates wants to make everyone laugh.' This group bullying, he said, wasn't picked up and managed by teachers.

Kids don't do their private jockeying for position under adult supervision. Research into playground behaviours and language among boys

shows that the 'culture' of childhood hasn't changed much in 50 years: boys still work at their pecking order in the mob, pick cliques, and pitilessly dump on outsiders.

It's a tough boy's world and no amount of equality rhetoric makes any difference to the time-honoured put-downs and rambunctious activities that come with the hierarchical challenges which have been part of western, masculine society since we started noticing it.

Violence among children isn't new. Armed violence isn't either. On 14 September last year, Melbourne's *The Age* ran police statistics documenting a 45 per cent jump in Victoria in (admittedly small numbers of) children aged 10–14 who were using knives during criminal behaviour: 20 per cent of their victims were under 10. More of the older children and adults were carrying knives in public.

The government obediently provided greater search powers for police. A Deputy Police Commissioner said many young people were carrying knives 'for protection', not realising that this increased the risk of a confrontation - they should, he said, 'just walk away'.

Peer relations are an important part of children's development and a lot of academic time has been taken up in writing about it. Conflict resolution is an essential element of peer relations - indeed, it's the essential role of civil society.

Without prejudging the facts in this case, let us assume a knife was used to 'resolve' a conflict; the feelings caused by the behaviour of one that was designed to influence the other's behaviour, which in turn was prompted by each having different and incompatible goals. Where this happens among adults, a range of approaches are available, short of violence, from avoidance ('just walk away') to distraction ('there's the bell');



expressions of anger, or seeking social support, and (desirably) compromise if not capitulation.

It takes hard-earned maturity, or an enforced separation, and the presence or imminence of an external authority for either boy to 'walk away', when every cell of their psyche is demanding an explosive alternative. Even a man like my late father, the gentlest of men, experiences the un-blooded boy's rush of rage, swelling of humiliation, or surge of fear, and even such as my dad may lash out (he laid on with a cricket bat, which knocked the other boy unconscious) and, please God, not kill, but learn never, and how not, to lose control.

Whatever happened between these two tragic children, a boy's play is preparation for the man's life. Adolescence is a time of violent, primitive emotions, of play-acting but also of the most intensely lived reality, and of confrontations adults rarely see because it is played out in the privacy of childhood space. Boys' passionate assertion of relative worth and pecking order is developmentally necessary. That child's place in the society of his peers is, for that moment, a matter of life and death.

So let it be with the outcome. We have to be gentle with children whose judgment is not yet developed, whose experience of life is limited, who are learning. Like them, we must not rush to judgment on the life of the man to be who is, today, a boy in a Brisbane Jail.

Reprinted with permission from the Jesuit publication Eureka Street.com.au by Moira Rayner, a barrister and writer and former Equal Opportunity and HREOC Commissioner. Moira Rayner is principal of Moira Rayner and Associates. (With thanks to Tim Kroenert, Assistant Editor, Eureka Street, for permission to reprint this article.)

Father John.

OAKHILL COLLEGE ENROLMENTS 2010:

Applications for enrolment to Year 7 in 2011 will close on Friday 5 March and for Year 11 in 2011 will close Friday 21 May. Contact 9634 0802 or registrar@oakhill.nes.edu.au.

GILROY CATHOLIC COLLEGE invites interested families to the Open Evening for Year 7 2011 on Tuesday 16 March at 6.00pm in the Brother Damien Harvey Hall. School tours at 5.30 & 7.00pm only. Bookings essential on 8853 8200. Enrolments close Thursday 1 April 2010. For information visit the website or email tpoole@parra.catholic.edu.au.

ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Enrolment Packages will be available from the School Office from Monday 19 April (the beginning of Term 2)

LITURGY CORNER

The whole season of Lent-Easter-Pentecost has a fundamental integrity and unity to it despite being divided into a forty day (the Sundays during Lent are not numbered in the forty days as Sunday is always a celebration of the Resurrection) and a fifty day time frame set each side of the Easter celebration. The word 'Lent' is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'spring' and was associated in the northern hemisphere with the seasonal change from winter and the lengthening of the days. The forty day period of prayer, fasting and alms-giving in preparation for Easter was not firmly set until the fourth century and had strong catechumenal and baptismal overtones, as this was the final preparation time for people seeking baptism (The Summit). At St Bernadette's we are fortunate to have adults seeking baptism, and as they prepare for that - and all the sacraments of initiation, they provide each of us with good reasons to consider what our baptism means to us, and to ask 'does my baptism make a difference to the way I live?'



Today's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12,17-18. We hear of the covenant made between God and Abraham, a covenant that will never be broken.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1. St Paul encourages the people of Philippi to remain united and true to the teaching of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36. While on top of Mt Tabor, Jesus undergoes a transformation of such magnitude that Peter does not want the experience to be lost.

Next week: 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2,5-8, John 4:5-42 .

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

REPARATION PRAYER GROUP meets Wednesdays at 8.00pm in the Basement of the Parish Office. All welcome.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place this Friday, 5 March at 12noon followed by a light lunch in the Marian Centre. All welcome. If you can help with transport or by providing sandwiches, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Marion Heron on 9659 9385.

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



ST BERNADETTE'S CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP meets in the Lourdes Centre, 31b Brisbane Road, Castle Hill. (follow the lighted pathway), Thursday Evenings 7.30 - 8.30. Newcomers very welcome. Phone Marilou Sandejas 9680 4531 or email sandejas@ozemail.com.au or Lesley Maker 9873 1221 or email jandmaker@optusnet.com.au

PROJECT COMPASSION

As Christians we are called to walk with those who are in need. Caritas Australia provides support programs which empower children to attend school, have healthy and nutritious food and improve the school performance of children in Australia's outback regions. Your donation to Project Compassion helps toward the goal of ensuring primary education for all children.



ALTAR SERVERS REMINDER: Meeting of all altar servers in the church this Friday 5 March at 6.00pm.



THE IRISH FUN NIGHT – IT'S ON AGAIN!

In the Parish Hall, 20th March, 7.00 for 7.30pm start. For a great night of Irish fun and festivity, organise a table of 10 or 12 now. Irish Dancing, Music and Jokes with some Trivia on the side. Only \$15 per head. BYO Nibbles & Drinks. Supper, Tea & Coffee provided. All parishioners and groups welcome. Organised by the FAMILY GROUPS. Bookings – phone Maureen or Ray Scully 9634.6925.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER this Friday 5 March:

This week Christians around the world will share in the World Day of Prayer service prepared by Christians from Cameroon. The theme, "Let Everything that has Breath Praise God", is relevant to us all. Bring a friend and share the blessings at St Michael's Church, Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills at 7.30pm.

THE SENIORS FAMILY GROUP will meet on **Saturday March 6** at 10.30am in the Marian Centre and meet for Coffee on **Friday March 19** at 1.45pm in Townzys Café, 72 Cecil Ave. (Day Hospital). Phone Robin Reyden 9634-3354 / Clare Budge 9580-9752.

EDEN & SAPPHIRE COAST TOUR

with LIFE BEGINS AT 50 from 11 to 16 October 2010. See the noticeboard for details. Phone Harry & Robin Reyden 9634-3354.



PALM SUNDAY YOUTH MASS & BBQ: Bishop Anthony invites the youth of the Diocese to St Patrick's Cathedral for a Youth Mass followed by Q&A session and BBQ on Sunday 28 March. Gather in Prince Alfred Park opposite the Cathedral at 5.45pm for a blessing and procession leading into the Mass.

PILGRIMAGES WITH FATHER JOHN

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 for eleven-days to Paris, Lisieux, La Salette, Taize, Turin and other pilgrimage sites in France. You are invited to join Father John on one or both pilgrimages. Brochures are available from the sacristy or from Harvest Pilgrimages www.harvestpilgrims.com or 9390 5460 or call Father John on 9634 2622.



Youth & Young Adults Ministry



LIFE Nights presents **COLD SHOULDER TONIGHT** Sunday 28th Feb after 6.00pm Mass till 8.30 in the hall for all in grades 9-12. Bring a friend. \$2 food & drink.

The next Life Night is 'Tri Wa?' on March 14.

Young Adults (ages 18-35yrs) The Lenten Program has begun and continues till Easter. Held every Thursday night at the Muscat's home from 7:30 till 9:00pm with a donation of \$2 each night. Please register by email ym@stbernadette.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.

Life Teen Youth Mass Training. If you want to serve at the Sunday night masses in any way please contact the youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au. All ages are welcome to participate and we have many roles to fill including welcoming committee, offertory team, communion ministers, readers, senior servers and more.

DRIVER NEEDED: The Transport Ministry is responsible for bringing elderly parishioners to church for the 9.00am mass on Sundays and a new driver (preferably with a sedan) is needed to join one of the teams operating in the Anglican Retirement Village. The commitment is once a month - pick up and drop back. If you are looking for something different to do for Lent (and beyond) then look no further. Please ring Jim Gidlow on 9659 4782 or 0403814427.

MOUNT ST BENEDICT'S COLLEGE an independent Catholic high school for girls, is holding its annual Open Day on Sunday 14 March from 10.00 am until 2.00pm. Limited parking on site. For enquiries: Jill Willis on 9980 0444 or www.msb.nsw.edu.au.

VIVA LA FIESTA!!!!

To help us all celebrate the Year of The Priest in 2010, St Bernadette's Parish Pastoral Council is inviting parishioners to register their interest in a **MULTINATIONAL FOOD FIESTA** to be held in the Parish on **Pentecost Sunday - 23 May**. Expressions of interest are now being sought from parishioners who would like to participate in the FOOD FIESTA, by way of cooking traditional dishes and then distributing these dishes through stalls set up at the celebration.

A limited number of stalls will be available so you if you want to show off your culinary skills and introduce a world of tantalizing gastronomical treats to your fellow Parishioners please register your interest as early as possible. For more information and bookings please call Greg Piggott 9680 3977 0413 747 214

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: The next session will be on this Tuesday 2 March at either 4pm or 7.30pm or Saturday 6 March at 3.30pm in the Parish Hall for parents and children who will be receiving Reconciliation..

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
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am
 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]

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

Please pray for Joseph Gangemi who has died recently and for the anniversaries of Angelina Rajendram, Audrey Kilby, Geoff Davis, Charles J. Davis, Alice McNally, Thecla Hatson and Mildred Taylor and in remembrance of Margaret Davis and Shou-Yin Ni.

Prayers for the Sick: Adeline Chong, Marj Orioles, Rita Gatt, Pablito Afable, Antonietta Aloschi and Brian Fausset.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – February 27 & 28

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Stephen MacMahon S9	Rebecca Barrett Tony Calabria Douglas/Felicity Carvalho	Felicity Carvalho, Lourice Asmar, Patrick Bowie, Rod Boyd, Ignatius/Natalia Chui, Lynne Myers, Barbara Ortlepp, Mary MacMahon, Laura Burrige
7.30AM Philip Myers S10	Gerard Kearney Daryl Hill John O'Dea	Paul Hennessey, Francesca Menezes, Remy Sie, Bernard Rogers, Geoff Roney, Catherine Seddon
9.00AM Melvyn Myers S6	Ann O'Brien Susan Moore Peter Hine	Brian & Jenny Blacklock, Neil Bone, Angela Crowe, Brian D'Arcy, Jeff Davis, Jocelyn Donovan, Jack Garcia, Yulia Hong
10.30AM Terry O'Mara S7	Eamon Keane Donna Boddy Jo-Ann Campion	Mary & Jeyaraj Winslow, Crystal & Bernie Good, Mark Street, Gaye Crammond, Lydia Flores, Monica & Matthew Fitzalan

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - February 28

Adult Servers Gillian Pak Marc Clasquin	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Belinda Lee Mitchell Waters Darren Edwards Ian Pomeroy		Musos
Lectors Stef Musgrave Jen Austin Raquel Lobo			Bass Erich Gracias Flor Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Michael Smith
Altar Servers S8	Projectionist Larissa O'Callaghan		Singers Julia Calixto Darian Jessup-Lonsdale Monique O'Callaghan Natalie Jones Maree Calabria
Gift Preparation	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera	Welcomers Tony Muscat Tina Muscat	Horns/Strings/Winds Matthew Ashton

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Vicki Ford Karen Grace	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Group Leader, Karen D'Souza, Christine Gracia, Jana Fizely	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Barry Halpin, Bernie Good, Stephen Dowd, Debbie Fang, Eugenia Fidel
FLOWER ROSTER No flowers	COUNTING (1st Collection) Alfred Tsang Gladys Tsang	BOOKSHOP Joanne Barrett / Anne Parker / Bernadette Navarra / Barbara Halpin / Natasha Orioles