



BEING ON PILGRIMAGE: VISITING SACRED SITES IN FRANCE

Many parishioners have visited Paris. I think it is the most beautiful city in Europe. The pilgrims I was with three weeks ago on the Harvest Pilgrimage were part of the 45 million people who will visit Paris this year. With its iconic landmarks of the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and Sacre Coeur, Paris is a must-see. Catholicism's recovery, following the French Revolution (1789-1799), is truly remarkable. In 1790 all religious orders were dissolved. Church land was sold to the highest bidder. Most of France's 130,000 clergy began to live privately or became employees of the state. Many were executed as traitors because they refused to take the oath of loyalty to the Civil Constitution.

Enlightenment advocates denigrated the Catholic Church.

During the Reign of Terror, the State tried to de-Christianise the nation. This included the imprisonment and massacre of priests and the destruction of churches and religious images throughout France. Civic festivals replaced religious ones. A prostitute was enthroned on the cathedra in Notre Dame. The aim was to replace the Catholic Church altogether.

The ordinary people rejected these extreme measures, and Napoleon Bonaparte, in 1801, signed a Concordat with Pope Pius VII, weighted in Napoleon's favour, but nevertheless allowing the Church certain freedoms. The Church bounced back. There was a yearning for spiritual renewal. Sacre Coeur is an expression of this renewal.

The inspiration for the building of the church on Montmartre came from divisions within French society following the French Revolution. The rule of the Paris Commune, that lasted only a

few months, came after the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). This battle had been a disaster for the French nation.

One of the chief areas of military activity was the rocky outcrop of Montmartre overlooking the city. From here the workers supporting the Paris Commune were entombed in the subterranean galleries of former gypsum mines where they had retreated. The army had detonated explosives at the entrances and even the Archbishop had been executed in this uprising. It was the new Archbishop of Paris,

who, in 1873, walked onto Montmartre and announced that the 58,000 Frenchmen who lost their lives as a result of war activities should be remembered by building a church. He announced that it would be dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

The foundation stone was laid on June 16, 1875. The building is a Romano-Byzantine construction with the popular saints, Joan of Arc and King Saint Louis IX, in bronze statues out the front. The world's heaviest bell, a nineteen tonner, was cast in 1895, installed for calling Parisians to worship.

Five architects worked on the project and it was finally completed in 1914.

It is interesting to know that the white travertine stone constantly exudes calcite which ensures that the basilica remains white even with weathering and pollution.

That this "basilique" would be in honour of the Sacred Heart is not surprising.

On December 27, probably 1673, the feast of St John, Margaret Mary Alacoque, a nun in the Visitation Convent at Paray-le-Monial, France, reported that Jesus permitted her to rest her head upon his heart and then disclosed to her the wonders of his love, telling her that he desired to



Sacre Coeur Basilica on Montmartre

make them known to all people and to diffuse the treasures of his goodness, and that he had chosen her for this work.

In probably June or July, 1674, Margaret Mary claimed that Jesus requested to be honored under the figure of his heart of flesh, also claiming that, when he appeared radiant with love, he asked for a devotion of expiatory love: frequent reception of Communion, especially Communion on the First Friday of the month.

During the octave of Corpus Christi, 1675, probably on June 16, the vision known as the "great apparition" reportedly took place, where Jesus said, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men ... instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of humankind) only ingratitude ...", and asked Margaret Mary for a feast of reparation on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi, bidding her consult her confessor, Father Claude de la Colombiere, then superior of the small Jesuit house at Paray-le-Monial. Margaret Mary died on October 17, 1690 and the French devotion of the Sacred Heart began in earnest.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart has enduring popularity with Catholics. It was in 1864 that Margaret Mary was declared Blessed by Pius IX. The foundation stone of Montmartre was laid eleven years later.

Along with the pilgrims visiting France, I stayed for two nights at Paray-Le-Monial, seeing the relics of St Margaret Mary Alacoque and saying Mass in the chapel of her spiritual director, Father Claude de la Colombière.

From Paray-Le-Monial, the pilgrimage went to La Salette, high up in the mountains where access is impossible in winter. You will recall Father Sunny was serving here on the parish staff. He is a La Salette priest. Here we met the priest who had arranged with Bishop Manning for the La Salette priests to come to our diocese. If you want to make a retreat in a very isolated place, La Salette, near Grenoble, is the place for your retreat. Two shepherd children, Maximin Giraud and Melanie Calvat saw an apparition of Our Lady at 3.00 pm on September 19, 1846. The children were eleven and fourteen at the time. Unlike Fatima and Lourdes, Our Lady only appeared once. In 1850 Jean Baptist Marie Vianney, better known as the Cure of Ars met Maximin Giraud and doubted the whole thing, only to come to firm belief in the apparition later on. The apparition was approved in 1851.

My Harvest Pilgrimage also went to Ars, to Rouen (famous as the town of St Joan of Arc), Lisieux, Chartres, Cluny and Taize.

Father John.

LITURGY CORNER

We know the story of Mary and Martha so well! Martha busy and Mary sitting – but what Mary is doing is vital. Mary is listening to Jesus. How often do we actually listen to him? How often do we truly listen to others? It is through listening to Jesus that we learn where to be busy – where to be Martha, but the real 'trick' lies in finding the balance between listening and action. Both are necessary, and obviously Jesus appreciated the time Mary took to sit with him and listen for he said, 'Mary has chosen the better part.' And if we consider this a little further, Jesus enjoys company – company which offers the hospitality of listening.



Today's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10. Abraham welcomes three visitors to his tent and receives the blessing of the Lord.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:24-28. Paul explains God's purpose to gather the whole world in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42. Jesus visits the home of Martha and Mary.

Next week: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:12-14, Luke 11:1-13

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

REPARATION PRAYER GROUP meets Wednesdays at 8pm in the Parish Office Basement. All welcome.

RETIREMENT VILLAGES SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Warrina - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Tuesday 20 July at 4pm in the chapel.

Nuffield & Hopetoun - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday 21 July at 4pm in the chapel at Farrer Brown Court.

LIFE BEGINS AT 50 CHANGE OF VENUE: As the Parish has a function in the Church on Friday 23 July cards/mahjong will be at Marie & Howard's from 7.30pm – 9899 8983. Please advise if you plan to go.

THANK YOU to all parishioners who have supported the Parish Bookshop. A cheque for \$2000.00 has been presented to the local St Vincent de Paul branch from the proceeds of sales.

LIFE BEGINS AT 50 BUS TOUR to Eden on 18-23 October 2001. There are two vacancies on this trip. All inclusive price \$765-00 per person twin share. Phone Robin & Harry Reyden 9634-3354.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS: A small number of Entertainment Books are still available from the Parish Office during office hours. \$60 for Parramatta/Hills edition or \$65 Sydney North or Sydney editions,

CHURCH RENOVATIONS THIS WEEK: During renovations to the church sanctuary, weekday masses will be celebrated in the parish hall (under the church) and an Adoration Chapel has been set up in the Marian Centre.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION EVENINGS for families seeking First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion for their children in 2011 will be held at 7.30pm on Monday July 26 and Tuesday July 27, 2010 in the Parish Hall.

OAKHILL COLLEGE GALA DAY - Saturday 31 July
Home games of rugby, soccer, tennis, netball, hockey
* Battle of the Bands * Big Kids' rides
* Mums chill out zone (tea, coffee etc)
* Stalls/ food * Raffles & more

ALPHA COURSE: Alpha will be held again this year commencing the last week of July on Monday, Tuesday & Friday evenings. Invite a Non-Churched or Non-Christian friend, neighbour or family member to learn more about Jesus and Christianity. Come and be refreshed yourself. The Alpha course will be held over 10 weeks and each evening will include a meal, DVD and discussion. The sessions will be run in various locations. Enquiries to Mike and Von on 9899 1383 or contact the Parish Office. Course content details on Alpha.org.au.



THE CATENIANS meet for dinner and trivia quiz at the Hills Lodge, cnr Windsor and Salisbury Rds., Castle Hill on Tuesday 27th July for 7.00pm. Any males who are interested in becoming members of the group are welcome to join them. RSVP to Malcolm on 9639 1915 or Tony on 9680 3079.



CAN YOU SPARE VINNIES A LITTLE TIME? From August 21 - 29, the St Vincent de Paul Society will hold its annual Doorknock Appeal in our Diocese to raise funds to help families in need. Are you able to spare a few hours of your time on the weekend of 21/22 (or 28/29) August to join the great St Bernadette's Vinnies Doorknock Team? Encourage your family and friends to join you! No one too old! If you haven't received a letter, please call Margaret Hawkes on 0413013390 or Greg Piggott on 0413747214.

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY: All are welcome to come to read and reflect on the **Acts of the Apostles** starting on Wednesday 4th August at 9.45am in the Marian centre for 10 weeks. Come and be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit of God. Please ring the Parish office before July 28 so your books can be ordered. Books are \$18.00.

THEOLOGY ON TAP: Fr Stan Fortuna and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal from New York will be speaking and performing at PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub, 74 Church St, Parramatta on July 19 from 6.30pm. Details: www.theologyontap.com.au



Youth & Young Adults Ministry



Night is "Blasting Zone"- Sunday 1st August.

LIFE Nights is having a special event "Keeping it REAL" before returning to regular school term nights. (For Grades 9 to 12 and bring a friend). This Sunday night, 18th July after the youth mass in the hall under the church till 8:30pm. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. The following Life

Into Life is back on this Monday 19th July 7 - 8.30pm in the parish hall. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. All in Years 7 - 8 are welcome to attend.

Spring Camp 2010 is coming so keep the dates free: **Into Life (years 7-8) on 10-12 September**
Life Night (years 9 -12) 17-19 September

Camp will be held at La Salle Youth Camp Kincumber located on the shores of Kincumber's water ways. Teens will have a great time hanging out with friends and meeting new people while doing activities and chilling out. The camp is organised and run by the Youth Ministry team headed by our Youth Minister and consisting of Life Teen Core, Young Adult Leaders, and Parent Support.

Young Adults (ages 18-35yrs) - Marian Centre this Wednesday 21st July 7-8:30pm Join together with other Young Catholics for inspiration. Bring \$2 donation. For information contact the youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

Coming soon is WYD2011 Madrid (ages 15 - 34). More information nights coming up so stay tuned. For information wydtours.com.au (Parramatta diocese) or contact the youth ministry on 0420 594 277.



40 Hour Famine – Take the challenge!

Don't just sit at home doing nothing - do the 40 Hour Famine and raise money to fight the Global Food Crisis. It's on 20-22 August. Contact Luke Hackett, Darian Jessup-Lonsdale and Chloe Hijniakoff to pick up your famine book and do something real! For more information contact youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

Thank you to parishioners for your support in raising funds for the youth ministry with the sale of nearly 200 entertainment books with a profit of over \$1900. This money will go towards resources for our many ministries & parish activities and our camps. Please continue to support the youth in their endeavours and keep the youth and youth ministry in your prayers.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2009 - 2010

New Members of God's Family - the final ceremony and presentation of certificates for children who have recently received Sacraments of Initiation will take place this Friday 23 July at 7.30pm in the Church.

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 6.45 am
 Tue 6.45am
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15am
 Sat 8.00am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am-9.00am; 4.30pm-5.30pm

Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am

Sacramental Preparation Program 2011: Information nights for families seeking First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion are in the parish hall at 7.30pm on July 26 & 27, 2010.

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 Bill Miller (funeral Tues at Kellyville Parish at 11am), Louie Lebnan and Vittorio Muratore who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Karam Salib, Nestor Mina, Peter & Alice McNally, Max Yago, Yink Sum Ford and Tim Anderson and in remembrance of Sam Sherry.

Prayers for the Sick: Jim Reardon, Jo Martin, John Peters, Michael Dowson, Patrick Ferris and Caroline Wooster.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – July 24 & 25

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Melvyn Myers S9	Rebecca Barrett Tony Calabria Douglas/Felicity Carvalho	Jessica Fearnside, Rebecca Barrett, Marjorie Orioles, Harry Reyden, Kym, Cassandra & Jacqueline Holden, Moira Mitchell, John Geoghegan
7.30AM Terry O'Mara S10	Tony Falzon Patricia Bright John O'Dea	Paul Hennessey, Francesca Menezes, Remy Sie, Bernard Rogers, Geoff Roney, Catherine Seddon
9.00AM John Stone S6	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 Michael Wilson S7	Tony Smith Philip Golamco 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 25

Adult Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Belinda Lee Kate Eagleston Annalyce Hangan Monica O'Callaghan Chris Dogulin		Musos	
Lectors Vanessa Muscat Tina Muscat Brenda Clasquin			Bass Erich Gracias Flor	Singers Alison Wong
Altar Servers S8	Projectionist Matthew Ashton		Piano Alice Bradshaw	Annabel Irawan Darian Jessup-Lonsdale
Gift Preparation Jeremy Smith Mitchell Johnson-Green	Ushers Paul Musgrave Philip Smith	Welcomers	Guitar Daniel Ang	Sara Ang Veronica Sahabu
			Horns/Strings/ Winds	Bec Burrowes
			Drums Justin Abeleda	

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Karen Byrnes Karen Grace	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Marion Heron, Marjorie Anderson, Caroline Higgins, Bernadette Logue	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Rex Smith, Joachim Schiller, Jeff Cronan, John Moran
FLOWER ROSTER Bernadette Logue	COUNTING (1st Collection) Barbara Ingram Marie Sammut	BOOKSHOP Joanne Barrett / Anne Parker / Bernadette Navarra / Barbara Halpin / Natasha Orioles