



ST PAUL'S

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Bulletin Highlights

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A

24th September 2017

Mater Dei Country Fair

Mater Dei in our own parish is a most beautiful school in which the grace of God abounds. There is within the school a wonderful fraternity of teachers and ancillary staff who educate and care for children and teenagers with special needs. On **Sunday 15 October** there will be the 2017 Country Fair from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, featuring over 50 stalls, raffles, chocolate wheel, Devonshire tea, food stalls, rides and live entertainment. And there's lots more – attractions everywhere. Not to be missed! Please try to be supportive. The grounds at Mater Dei are quite beautiful and well worth a visit.



Parish Pastoral Council

Reminder of the meeting this Wednesday, which will include a photo to be taken for updated parish website.



First Holy Communion Programme

Families with children registered in the FHC programme are invited to return the enrolment forms this week after Mass with \$20. Even though there is no official business for the next few weeks, parents are asked to continue bringing their children to Mass. A presence at Mass should be viewed as a time when families are blessed. And parents are asked to tell their children that when at Mass, their love for each other grows stronger. This love is given expression in terms of thoughtfulness, affection and appreciation of each other's presence.



Men's Movie and Pizza Night

Another evening has been scheduled for Friday 6th October commencing at 6.45 PM. The cost is just \$10 and includes the movie, pizzas and liquid refreshments. And for this month only, an invitation is extended to *First Timers* to enjoy the evening for free. So please feel most welcome to come along and share in a little fraternity. For more information and catering, please contact Ken on 0417244 059.

Coping with Special Needs Students

During the school holidays there is to be a workshop run at Oran Park Parish for any catechist who would like a little information on coping with Special Needs students. A teacher from Magdalene College is running the workshops on 3 and 4 October from 10.30 am to 12.00pm. It is the same information both days and any catechist is invited to attend either day. They would appreciate RSVPs to have an idea of attendance and this can be done by email to oranpark@dow.org.au



Vote on Marriage ~ Please Vote No

The Bishops from the Catholic Church in Australia appeal to all parishioners to vote “No” in the plebiscite about marriage. A most significant reason relates to the concept of family, understood as husband and wife, for the purpose of physical complementarity and mutual love expressed in terms of procreation. Children are most richly blessed with a loving father and a loving mother. With only minor exceptions over some hundreds of years and across all the major religions, this is how marriage has been, and continues to be, defined.

It's also true that about 98 per cent of Australians identify as heterosexual and according to the 2011 census figures, only 1 per cent of Australian couples are same-sex, with surveys suggesting only a minority want same-sex marriage.

Changing the marriage act to include same-sex couples radically redefines and alters the meaning of a sacred union that provides more than just a physical and emotional connection. Such is the special union of body and spirit involved in a marriage between a man and a woman that it necessitates a unique ritual and sacred compact that should not be weakened by being radically redefined.

Another most significant concern is if the vote for ‘yes’ succeeds, then teaching in our schools will invariably come under strong pressure to then “normalise” radical teaching such as “gender fluidity” in which children and teenagers are invited to change their sexual identity contrary to their biological make-up. This is potentially very destabilising and seriously confusing for both children and teenagers. **Please vote ‘No’.**