



ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

*Bulletin Highlights*

*Third Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B*

*21st January 2018*

*Mass for Teachers and Ancillary Personnel*

Advance notice is provided that on **Monday 29 January**, our teachers and ancillary personnel at St Paul's, Mater Dei, St Clare's and Magdalene will be returning to their respective jobs after a well earned and much needed holiday which began a week before Christmas. The reality is that many of our teachers have already been working away in preparation for another challenging year.

To begin the school year, Mass will be celebrated in the parish church at **8:30 AM**. All our parishioners are invited to be present and offer prayerful support. Mass will include sacred music & a homily.



*God's Word 2018*

A beautiful publication, **God's Word 2018**, has become available. For each of the 365 days of the year, it contains the readings plus an accompanying reflection. Take for example, the reflection for 6 June:

*"We might at times think we are pretty wise and proud of it. This happens mostly when our decisions bring visible success and prosperity. But when we experience failure we tend to question ourselves and our decisions. In success it is easy to become over-confident, and in failure the temptation to doubt oneself increases.....What is needed is a faith that seeks understanding, not a doubting mind that questions the wisdom of God. May the Lord grant us such faith!"*

Books are available from the Piety Stall in the Chapel for \$12. There are only 20 available but more can be ordered if demand is strong. They are ideal for preparation for Mass, Eucharistic Adoration or simply to be read at home as a way of assisting personal prayer.



*Episcopal Ordination ~ 22 February*

Next week's PCN (weekly bulletin) will contain a feature presentation about the Ordination to the Episcopate of the Bishop Elect, Father Brian Mascord at the Wollongong Entertainment Centre. Parishioners interested in attending will be able to register their interest next week. The organisers are planning for about 50 people from our own parish to attend.

## *Australia Day ~ Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January*

This coming Friday is Australia Day and Mass will be celebrated at 9.00 AM (but no 8:00 AM Mass at St Clare's). Please be mindful that John Street outside the church could be blocked off because of community activities.

During Mass, some of the prayers that are specific to this celebration are particularly beautiful. The Opening Prayer – known as the Collect – reads as follows:

Grant we pray O Lord our God, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old & new, & by saving grace, transform our lives.

And the preface reads in part: "...for from ancient times you made this land a home for many peoples, and became their rock of strength; when they were hungry you gave them food and when thirsty, water, even in the desert."



**Question arising from the Gospel:** "In our lives, can we recall any examples when we, like the apostles, *"left our nets at once, and followed Him"*?"