



ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B

28th January 2018

Episcopal Ordination and Farewells

A big number of our parishioners would by now have been aware that the Diocese of Wollongong will have a new Bishop with the episcopal ordination of Father Brian Mascord on Thursday 22 February in the Wollongong Entertainment Centre (WEC).

Besides the ordination, there are two other important events to which parishioners are sincerely invited to farewell the former bishop of the diocese – and now Apostolic Administrator – the Most Reverend Peter Ingham.

In all, therefore, three major occasions are being celebrated:

1 Regional Farewell Mass to Bishop Peter: The date is Wednesday 7 February at 7:30. The Mass will be celebrated in our own parish church. Other parishes to have been invited are Bowral, Mittagong, Moss Vale, Picton, The Oaks and Oran Park.

2. Episcopal Ordination of the Bishop Elect, Father Brian Mascord to be held in the WEC at 7:00 PM on 22 February. The occasion is expected to have in attendance about 4,000 people, including many priests especially from the Dioceses of Wollongong and Newcastle, and up to 30 Bishops from across the nation.

3. Farewell Social Event (for Bishop Peter) at the Cube, Campbelltown Catholic Club on St Joseph's Day (19 March), 6:30 PM for 7:00 PM. The cost of tickets has yet to be finalised but is likely to be about \$50/head to include a three-course meal and beverages. About 400 people are expected to attend.

The Ordination should be another historic occasion. Who, among those who were present, could ever forget Bishop Peter's installation way back in 2001! Quite an evening, even if not in a dedicated Cathedral.

The Ordination will be enhanced by sacred music that includes the orchestra from St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic College in Wollongong. Instruments include the organ, strings and woodwinds. The choir will be comprised of at least 50 voices.

Parishioners are encouraged to be supportive with your presence. The parishes are asked to indicate the number of people who wish to travel to the ordination. In our own parish, it is hoped that at least 50 people will make the trip and be enriched by the experience.

Conditions will be a little more comfortable than a church, and there probably won't be any kneeling which, of course, is an important gesture of humility and reverence in our sacred ceremonies. The WEC is used for people to be entertained and has been quite comfortably furnished. Please register your name on the clip board in the chapel if intending to go. We need to submit the number by the end of the week. Many thanks. 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.



Sacrament of Penance Programme

Parents are reminded that the programme resumes next weekend 3 February after a six-week lay-off over Christmas and the summer holidays. This is an important weekend as parents are required to nominate their preferences for the workshops in which adult and child attend together.



Mass of Teachers & Ancillary Personnel.

All parishioners are invited to Mass this Monday 29 January at 8:30 AM in the parish church. Many people will be in attendance from Magdalene, St Clare's, Mater Dei and St Paul's. Our prayer is that the faith of the teachers and ancillary personnel will further enrich the students as they continue their process of intellectual formation.



Parish Pastoral Council

The first meeting for the year has been scheduled for this coming Wednesday 31 January at 7:00 PM. The main item of discussion will be the "**Parish Mission Statement**". There will be other items also tabled for discussion relating to the Episcopal Ordination and Bishop Peter's farewells.



Native wildlife in the Church

Last Monday a one-metre black snake was seen in Church just a few pews behind the organ. It made its way into the air-conditioning unit towards the single corner door against the back wall adjoining the playground. An experienced snake catcher arrived the following morning and searched the church but couldn't find it. He felt the snake had slid down beneath the concrete slab and the brickwork. He explained that the movement of black snakes was seasonal and would most likely be gone in a few days.

Lectors Fellowship Meeting

The next meeting for our readers will be held in the meeting room at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6 February. All readers are encouraged to attend. An agenda will be sent with the February Roster. The meeting is highly recommended to all because it offers the opportunity for those who are present to share views and enjoy a little fraternity afterwards. The duration of the meeting has been planned for an hour.