

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Laetare Sunday ~ Year B

14th March 2018



Sacrament of Penance Programme

There are two formats in which children are able to experience their first confession:

- (1) The first format is where all the accompanying parents also come to confession. In past years, this has been the first preference for about 65% to 70% of families.
- (2) The second format is where the children only come to the sacrament although, if there's a change of heart, parents are still able to make a confession.

The first format is strongly recommended. And the scheduling is as follows:

First Format: **Tuesday 20th** at 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM, as well as Thursday at 4:30 PM.

Second Format: **Thursday 22nd** at 6:00 PM

Parents are asked to complete a form this week to nominate their preferred ceremony. A leaflet will then be prepared for circulation next week to advise of outcomes.

For the coming and final week of workshops, parents are asked to read page 24 and assist their children complete page 25. If there are parents who have not been attending to their pages, please go back and read. The advice from Pope Frances is very important. Parents and children should by now be able to recite the Act of Contrition perfectly



2nd Rite of Rec.

The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation as been scheduled for Tuesday 27th at 7:00 PM. There will be about five priests present.

Bell Ringers Wanted

Bell ringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps to keep you fit. And the bells also make such a glorious sound. Many consider bellringing to be their contribution to church life. Others do it for the pure pleasure and the company it brings.

Ringers come from all walks of life and range in age from 11 to those in their 80s.

Could I become a bellringer? Well if you can ride a bicycle you can ring.

Ringling is well within the capabilities of most people. The initial learning takes several weeks, after which you can begin to ring with the rest of the band. The teamwork is very fulfilling.

The main qualification is to be able to count. No other knowledge of music is necessary. Practice is on Tuesdays from 7:00 PM. Ringing takes place on special occasions, and on Saturdays before the Vigil Mass from 4:00 PM, and on the First Sunday of the month between the morning Masses from 9:00 AM. Why not have a try, especially since more bellringers are needed. Inquiries can be directed to Andrew on 0411 442202 or messerab@gmail.com This is a very easy way to become more deeply immersed in the life of the parish.



Bellringers – Special Ringing on Friday 23 February to celebrate Bishop Brian Mascord's Ordination.



Holy Week and Easter Weekend ~ Advance Notice

Palm Sunday Weekend 24th/25th March

Masses on Palm Sunday will be as usual but the 10:00 AM begins outside with the blessing of branches

Tuesday 27th ~ Second Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 28th ~Chrim Mass in Wollongong

Holy Thursday 29th ~Mass of the Lord's Last Supper

Good Friday 30th ~ Stations at 10:00 AM;

Passion at 3:00 PM

Holy Saturday 31st ~ Easter Vigil at **7:00 PM**

Easter Sunday 1st April ~Note change of Mass times

Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

Different Mass times are for the Easter Weekend only

Question: What Is Laetare Sunday?

Most Catholics today are used to the Mass being conducted in English, and they hardly ever think about the fact that Latin remains the official language of the Catholic Church. But occasionally, Latin reasserts itself, as it does in the case of Laetare Sunday.

Answer: Laetare Sunday is the popular name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. *Laetare* means "Rejoice" in Latin, and the entrance antiphon begins "*Laetare, Jerusalem*" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem").

Because the midpoint of Lent – which runs from Ash Wednesday to the beginning of Mass on Holy Thursday Evening – is the Thursday of the third week of Lent, Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened.

And on Laetare Sunday, the violet vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside, and rose ones are used instead when available. Flowers, which are normally forbidden during Lent, may be placed on the altar. Traditionally, the organ was never played during Lent, except on Laetare Sunday.

Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday or Refreshment Sunday, and it has a counterpart in Advent which is Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, when violet vestments are exchanged for rose ones.

The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as we progress toward the end of each respective penitential season.



Parish Finance Council

The next meeting has been scheduled for the second Tuesday after Easter, 10th April beginning from 6:30 PM. The meeting is expected to be quite brief as there are no major projects under consideration.

The Annual Report for 2017 will be available for discussion. After this meeting – and on the basis that the Annual Report is accepted – parishioners will be most welcome to make an appointment to review the financial position of the parish.

The single most important objective at present is to continue to accumulate funds as quickly as possible to recommence work on the church as St Clare's. The process of re-engaging an architect is expected within two years. Gratitude is extended to all our parishioners who have been committed to the parish's considerable need for ongoing financial support.