

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9th February 2020



The account in this week's Gospel is one of the great lessons in the need to trust in divine providence.



Sacrament of Penance Programme 2019/20

The programme began in early December 2019 with the enrolment period coming to completion on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Once all the parents and carers had enrolled their children, the required number of workshops were calculated and an appropriate number of books were ordered. Somewhat unfortunately, more than a dozen parents waited until last weekend until seeking to enrol.

Accordingly, some workshops will be overcrowded and more books have needed to be ordered. Parents and carers are asked to be more responsive to the program requirements for the FHC program later in the year.

If parents and carers feel inconvenienced by the program's requirements and regard sporting and social commitments as higher priorities, then it's best to wait for another year until there's a stronger commitment. It's not possible for any programme to be administered properly if a large number of parents feel they can participate under their own terms.

The programmes in our parish are administered for the benefit of all our families, but also need to serve the interests of the 'common good'. As the great apostle St Paul said to the Thessalonians: "You must all think of what is best for each other and the community". 'Common good' is also a term used in Church law. It applies in the operation of our Catholic schools, and in the administering of large sacramental programmes. St Paul also says: "What God wants for all of us is to be holy".

Apologies are extended for the corrective tone of this notice to the overwhelming majority of parents and carers who have been so responsive and dutiful. After Mass, please collect a leaflet that advises of the workshops to which candidates have been assigned. If families have difficulty attending their assigned workshop, please email the parish office by lunch time, this Tuesday. With thanks, Fr. Michael.

Parish Pastoral Council

Our next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 4 March at 7:00 PM. It's been quite a while since our last meeting and so it's about time to consider aspirations for the coming year. Our Parish Mission Statement, available on our parish website, is a good reference point for future direction.



Parish Finance Council

The auditor of our accounts retired at the end of last year. This particular gentleman had been auditing the accounts of about 15 parishes in the diocese over the past 15 years. A replacement has yet to be recruited. Accordingly, our end-of-year report for 2019 might not be available for some time yet. Any members of the PFC are welcome to contact Father Michael for a personal discussion or to initiate a meeting. The financial surplus from 2019 was simply directed to savings for the church at St Clare's, a project that now has a little more momentum.



Congratulations

Our wedding couple Sarah and Roberto were married on a Wednesday, 22nd Jan. The date was of special significance. Another very beautiful and sacred ceremony



Mount Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville

This retreat centre is set on a 300-acre property that has 31 refurbished bedrooms, all with large ensuites. There are three conference rooms and two recently renovated dining rooms as well as a chapel.

Throughout the year there are a number of retreats on offer. These retreats can be for a day, a weekend or a week. Please visit the website mtcarmel.com.au or phone 8795 3400 for more information. Retreats are quite valuable for adults of all ages as a way to experience personal and spiritual renewal.