



# Spread the Word

**Vol. 39 No. 9      3rd Sunday of Lent      3 March 2024**

*The community of Our Lady of Graces acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish stands.*

## Reflection written by Michael McGirr

If the world is one great classroom, then God is a fantastic teacher. We have all had experience of this: the firm and gentle way that God opens our minds and helps us to understand.

Today's readings show three different ways that God tries to get through to us. In the first reading, God sets some clear expectations for behaviour. They are all based around respect, both for the teacher and for those with whom we share the class! At the same time, God reminds us 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.' In other words, these are not random rules. They are designed to protect our deepest freedom. Disregarding them sends us back into captivity.

In the Gospel, Jesus is annoyed by people who think they know everything but who have not properly understood the basic lesson about justice and reverence. 'Stop turning my father's house into a market.' Finally, St Paul speaks about wisdom. 'God's weakness is stronger than human strength.' This is another style again: inviting us into a mystery, almost using riddles to get us to think outside the box.

It is no surprise that the Catholic community has always valued education and done a great deal to make it accessible for people around the world. Just as God teaches us, so too do we try to share the wonderful gift of learning with others.

This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Leaia, who lives in Samoa. With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed in Leaia's home to harvest rainwater. This means that her family can now have access to clean water to drink and bathe. The time that was previously spent walking to collect water in buckets from a neighbour down the street can now be used for other essential tasks and, most importantly, her children don't have to miss out on school. School is a doorway that opens onto a better world.

The Gospel today says that Jesus knew what a person had in them. We should try to be the same: to see the potential, not just the surface.



*You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in the Church, calling 1800 024 413, or [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)*

**Leaia stands with four of her children with containers they have filled with water.** Photo: Laura Womersley/Caritas Australia

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday:** 8.30am - 12.30pm  
**Tuesday - Thursday:** 8.30am - 3.30pm  
**Friday:** 8.30am - 12.30pm

**Address:** 100 Mayfield Road  
Carina Qld 4152

**Postal:** PO Box 305,  
Carina Qld 4152

**Phone:** (07) 3398 2977

**Email:** [carina@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:carina@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Website:** [www.carinacatholicparish.org.au](http://www.carinacatholicparish.org.au)

**Facebook:** Our Lady of Graces Catholic  
Parish, Carina

### MASS TIMES

**Saturday:** 6pm  
**Sunday:** 7am, 9am & 5.30pm  
10.30am (Italian)

**Weekday:** 6.30am & 9am  
Monday - Friday  
8am Saturday  
& Public Holidays

### RECONCILIATION

**Saturday:** 8.30am - 9.00am  
5.30pm - 6.00pm  
or by appointment

### PARISH TEAM

**Parish Priest:** Fr Alex Vickers O.P.  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Maurice Keating O.P.  
**Pastoral Associate:** Shelly Stone  
**Email:** [sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au)  
**Parish Secretary:** Chris Larter  
**Email:** [carina@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:carina@bne.catholic.net.au)  
**Finance Officer:** Chris Larter  
**Email:** [fo.carina@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:fo.carina@bne.catholic.net.au)  
**Italian Chaplain:** Fr Luis Antonio Diaz  
Lamus CS  
**Phone:** 0403 948 967

## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### Sunday 3 March

- 9.00am Baptisms in Mass – Church
- 2.00pm Penance Session 2 – Church

#### Monday 4 March

- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group – Church
- 7.00pm Evening Prayer of the Church – Library
- 7.00pm Parish Pastoral Council – Aquinas Room

#### Tuesday 5 March

- 9.30am Japanese Language Playgroup  
– Hospitality Area
- 3.30pm RCIA – Library
- 5.30pm Social Justice – Library

#### Wednesday 6 March

- 9.45am Novena: OLPH – Library
- 6.30pm Legion of Mary – Library
- 7.00pm Evening Prayer of the Church – Church

#### Thursday 7 March

- 6.00pm TCS Choir – Church
- 6.00pm Alpha Young Adults – Library

#### Friday 8 March

- 7.00pm Stations of the Cross – Church

#### Sunday 10 March

- 9.00am Children's Liturgy of the Word – Church

**Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick** Liam O'Brien, Ancilla Richards, Jocelyn Bonney, Riley Dwyer, Elliott Jones-Perrin, Caroline Massa, Pamela O'Reilly, Hein van der Heide **those whose anniversaries occur around this time** Frank King, Maria Braidotti, Frank Leeson, Geoffery Frugniet, Maureen Ferguson, Maria Ky Le, Pelin Mayo, Neil Costello **and the recently deceased** Ted Carey, Luz Lopez, Joan Collins.

### Welcome Through the Waters of Baptism

God's blessings to Ethan, Harvey, Lachlan and Nina who will be baptised this weekend into our faith community. We warmly welcome them into our Parish Family and the Family of God. Congratulations and blessings to their families.

### Sacramental Program 2024

Penance (Year 5 / 10 years old):

*Penance Session 1*

- TODAY, Sunday 3 March, 2pm-4pm (Option 2)

Confirmation (Year 3 / 8 years old)

*Confirmation Family Activity Session 2*

- Sunday 17 March, 2pm-3.30pm (Option 1)
- Tuesday 19 March, 3.30pm-5pm (Option 2)

### Evening Prayer of the Church

Throughout the Season of Lent, Evening Prayer of the Church will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm.

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

A reminder to Parish Pastoral Council members that the next PPC meeting will be held this Monday, 4 March, 7.00pm. Note that the meeting will be held in the Aquinas Room (room underneath the Church).

### Social Justice Group

The Social Justice Group will meet this Tuesday, 5 March, 5.30pm, in the Parish Library. New members are more than welcome to attend.

## LENT

### Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings, 7.00pm, in the Church.

### Lenten Books

*Pieta (Diocese of Wollongong): \$10*

*A Resurrected Life (Archdiocese of Brisbane): \$7*

Available from the Parish Shop & Parish Office.

### Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes

Available in the Church.

### IMPORTANT: Car Park - Friday 8 March 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Parishioners are advised that parking may be limited for 7.00pm Stations of the Cross on Friday 8 March due to St Martin's School holding their disco in the Dominic Centre. We will block off some parking for those attending Stations of the Cross.

### Alpha Young Adult Group

The Alpha Young Adult group, for 18-25 year olds, continues on Thursday evenings, 6.00pm-8.30pm, in the Parish Library with free food, fellowship, discussions and question-asking.

For further information, contact the Parish Office on 3398 2977 or [carina@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:carina@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Food Donations for Alpha Young Adult Group

The Alpha Young Adult Group would welcome food donations to assist with their weekly meal on Thursday evenings. This could be as simple as preparing a sauce to go on top of pasta or rice. To assist, please contact the Parish Office on 3398 2977 or [carina@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:carina@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is being held next Sunday, 10 March, during 9am Mass. All primary school aged children are welcome to attend.

### St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of St Vincent de Paul will be held on Tuesday 12 March, 7.00pm, in the Aquinas Room (room underneath the Church). New members are more than welcome to attend.

*St Vincent de Paul Our Lady of Graces Carina  
BSB: 064 786 Account Number: 100026584*

To donate non-perishable food, you are welcome to leave in the baskets at the church door on weekends or drop into the Parish Office on weekdays.

### Working Bee

Our next parish working bee is scheduled for *Saturday 23 March, 7.00am onwards*. This is to prepare the church and grounds for Holy Week and Easter.



### Palm Fronds & Cypress Pine Branches

*Do you have palm trees or cypress pine trees at home?* If you do, we would appreciate any palm fronds or small cypress pine cuttings for Palm Sunday (23-24 March). If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office. We require the palm fronds and pine branches to be dropped-off on Friday 22 March or early Saturday morning 23 March.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Works on Replacing the Church Roof

The work on the Church Roof has commenced, will be done in 3 Stages and take approximately 6 months to complete. Stage 1 will involve work on the Church Spire, Stage 2 will involve the roof on the School side of the Church, and Stage 3 will involve the roof on the Mayfield Road side of the Church.

Important  
Information

Throughout the Roof Project, there may be sections of the Church blocked-off at times as an exclusion zone, as the contractors will be working on the section of roof above the exclusion zone.

### Work on the Church Spire

These last two weeks have involved the installation of the scaffolding around the Church Spire. This coming week, actual work on the Church Spire will commence with the scaffolding now in place.

### Photos of the Project

On one of the noticeboards outside of main door of the Church, a space has been created to display photos during the project. Also included in the display are a couple of photos of what the Church will look like once the project is completed.

*Thank you for your patience and understanding while this work takes place.  
Each week there will be updates as we work our way through the Church Roof Project.*

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacramental of Penance is an excellent way to conclude the penitential season of Lent. The instruction says, *"It is best the Sacrament of Reconciliation be celebrated before Holy Thursday evening so that, with heart and mind renewed, all may focus on the celebration of the Paschal Mystery."*

With the above in mind, we encourage those who would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation to do so before the Triduum. You can do this in one of the following ways:



- Saturdays at 8.30am & 5.30pm in the Parish Library
- Contacting the parish office to make an appointment

For those unable to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Triduum, the only opportunity during the Triduum for the Sacrament will be on Good Friday after Stations of the Cross.

*For parishioners looking for the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation, please contact the neighbouring parishes in the Brisbane East Deanery.*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Liturgy in Focus Lecture and Discussion Series Fr Richard Leonard SJ

*"Living Liturgy:*

*Being Sent Out on Mission to the World"*

Nourished by word and sacrament at our weekly Eucharist, the gathered community is sent out to live and proclaim our faith, hope and love in Christ. What does the world look like to which we are sent? What liturgy might enable us to reclaim a missionary energy that is hospitable, bold, inclusive and Catholic?

Wednesday 13 March, 7.00pm - 8.45pm

Hanly Room, beside the Cathedral of St Stephen  
(parking available via Charlotte Street)  
60 minute presentation, 20 minute tea/coffee/chat,  
20 minute Q&A

\$10 per individual or

\$8 per ticket for bookings of 5 or more

<https://liturgybrisbaneworkshops.weebly.com/richard-leonard.html>

### St Patrick's Day Mass - Cathedral of St Stephen

As St Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday this year, the Mass of the Feast of St Patrick will be celebrated on Monday 18 March instead. The Mass on Sunday 17 March will be of that of the 5th Sunday of Lent and liturgically has precedence.

The St Patrick's Day Parade Association who have organised the Mass on St Patrick's Day for some years now, nevertheless wish to acknowledge St Patrick's Day and so we invite you to the **10am Mass, Sunday 17 March, in the Cathedral of St Stephen**. Refreshments will be provided following the Mass.

The Annual St Patrick's Day Parade will take place in the City on Saturday 16 March starting at 10.30am.

### Chrism Mass 2024

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites you to the annual Chrism Mass to be held at the Cathedral of St Stephen on Thursday 21 March 2024 commencing at 7:00pm.

This Mass is a celebration for the whole Archdiocese, and everyone is welcome. The Cathedral car park will be available from 6:00pm.

A light supper will be served following the Mass.

# LENT IDEAS for KIDS

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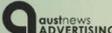
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