

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Fifty years ago the word 'stress' was only ever applied to materials like steel and the wings of planes. But since then, along with 'pressure', it has first crept into our language and more lately become an everyday term. Everyone experiences stress now. You can even hear Grade One students talk about the stress they're under at school! Perhaps it's the ever-growing pace of life or an innate competitiveness but pressure and stress have become part of daily life for most people in the so-called civilised world. Although he may never have used the words 'stress' or 'pressure', Jesus knew all about the demands of ministry with other people. When the disciples returned from their first efforts away from Jesus he knew that they needed some time out to debrief, to pray and to re-energise themselves. He ordered them all into a boat and they headed for a lonely place where they could be by themselves and rejuvenate. Jesus recognised the importance of taking time out. If you are engaged in a vocation or ministry that sees you meeting the needs of others, you need some time out to reflect on your experiences; time to hold those people up to God in prayer; time to make sense of your work and the interactions you've shared; time to simply recharge your batteries so that you can once again give fully of yourself.

Unfortunately, when Jesus arranged for himself and the disciples to have some time out, the crowd anticipated where they were going and actually beat them there! When the disciples arrived at their lonely spot, they were once again overwhelmed by the crowd. However, Jesus recognised the demands of the crowd as being more urgent than the demands of the disciples and himself. He took pity on them – he was moved by compassion – and responded to their need.



PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 16 July

- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group – Church

Tuesday 17 July

- 9.30am Scripture group – Library
- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area

Wednesday 18 July

- 9.30am Wednesday Friendly Group – Hosp.
- 11.00am BED Scripture Group – Library
- 3.30pm FHC Family Session 1a - Church

Thursday 19 July

- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area
- 9.30am Two Hearts Prayer Group – Church

Saturday 21 July

- 3.00pm CRL – Church

Sunday 22 July

- 3.00pm FHC Family Session 1b – Church

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick and those whose anniversaries occur around this time Patrick Boyle, Joseph Lee, Jose Lay, Antonio Lay, Madalena Nheli, Rosario Coco, Freda Hill and Annamaria Pizzica **and the recently deceased** Dorothy Neylan

Holy Infant Orphanage Mae Sot, Thailand

The Missionary Sister of St Dominic were asked to work with Burmese Refugees in Thailand. One of the ministries they took on was the establishment and running of an orphanage in the north-west of Thailand.



Over the last 7 years, Fr Alex has been travelling to Mae Sot to give retreats to the sisters and to work with the children. This year, he will also be baptising 5 of the older children who have expressed that they wish to be baptised, the fruit of the Sisters work.

Parish communities have supported the many different projects for example, new solar panels for power supply, water tanks and a baker.

A few years ago, a weaving workshop was built in which some of the beautiful products produced will be sold this weekend. You may also like to help with the work of the sisters by donations. There will be envelopes provided in the pews this weekend. All money from the sale of the weaving items as well as any donations will go directly to the sisters. Thank-you.



Parish Picnic

It is that time of the year where Our Lady of Graces holds our biannual Parish Picnic to celebrate St Dominic's Feast Day and our Dominican Family. You are all invited to the Picnic brunch which will be after the 9am Mass on Sunday 5 August. The details are as follows:

When: Sunday 5 August 2018 from 10am – 1pm

Where: In St Martin's School Grounds

What's happening?

A BBQ style brunch with:

- Mince/Sausage/Egg Burgers and Bread
- Tea/Coffee/Cordial
- Games and Activities for the Family

All welcome and needs catered for:

- Ramp Access
- Some Tables/Chairs Available

Bring along:

- Share Plate of Sweets / Fruit
- A Chair / Picnic Blanket

RSVP by 29 July 2018

- Add your name and approx. number attending to list at the back of Church

Sacramental Program – Eucharist 2018



Now that the holidays are just about over, we now start preparing the children for First Holy Communion. The first session starts on Wednesday 18 July at 3.30pm in the Church. For all parents who have not booked in your sessions or have not been in contact with the office, now is the time to do so. Whilst we do not impose a compulsory Mass attendance component of the program, parents are encouraged to support their child's understanding through attending Sunday Mass, and discussing all the questions this might raise. That requires hearts and minds tuned to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We ask that everyone keep these children in their prayers as they begin their next step in their Sacramental journey.

Congratulations Br William Loh



Many of you may remember Br William Loh who graced our corridors for 6 months in 2016. Br William has taken the next step in his journey to priesthood and was ordained a deacon on the 7th of July 2018. Let us keep Br William in our Prayers as he continues his vocation.

1 Week until the Expo! Volunteers Needed!

Over the past year, we have seen the number of people across all ministries depleting.

We rely on volunteers over the weekend to participate in the many ministries to ensure the smooth running of a mass. We also have other ministries and committees outside of mass. There are many groups that you can also join!

So with that being said, we are now holding our first Parish Expo. This event will be aimed at finding more people to get involved across the many ministries, committees and activities that our Parish has to offer. Please come along and check it out, you might find that there is a ministry or committee that you would like to join or a group that you might be interested in.



We hope to see you there!

OLOG Parish Expo 2018!

Come along to our Parish Expo which will be held across the weekend of 28/29 July after all masses! There will be information on the many ministries in this Parish that need your support! If you already belong in a ministry and wish to help out, please contact the Parish Office.

Safeguarding Announcement

We are happy to announce our new Safeguarding Officer, Carmen Kee. Carmen is an active member of our Parish running the Tuesday Playgroup as well as a member of the PPC. Carmen's role will be comprised of updating our Volunteer Database as well as being a contact for those who feel vulnerable or if anyone sees suspicious behaviour. Please know that Carmen is doing this role on a volunteer basis and will do her best to assist in any way possible. She has been issued a phone number and email address to specifically cater to this role. If you have any problems regarding Safeguarding please contact Carmen on 0405 883 479 or you can email safeguardolog@gmail.com.

..for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Mark 10:14

Last Week's 2nd Collection

Loose	\$629.70
Planned Giving	\$3,105.20
Total	\$3,734.90

Planned Giving Program

To obtain envelopes, Direct Debit or a Credit Card request, please complete the form on the back page of this newsletter and place on either collection plate or deliver to Parish Office.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Bayside Forum

To anyone interested in developing confident communication skills a Public Speaking Course is being held on 25 July at the Wynnum Library from 7pm to 8.30pm. if you are interested please phone Elaine on 3824 8659 or Nera on 0449 511 956 or email west.mel@bigpond.com

Youth and Vocations Expo

"The annual Youth and Vocations Expo invites young people to explore their call. It's also a valuable opportunity for youth to engage with other Catholic ministry organisations across Queensland and Australia that can empower them to help make a difference in their community and deepen their faith. The expo will begin with 12:00 Youth and Vocations Mass at the St Stephen's Cathedral and celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge."

Date: Sunday 5th August 2018

Venue: St. Stephen's Cathedral Precinct
249 Elizabeth St, Brisbane QLD 4000

Time: 11:00 stalls open, 12pm Vocations Mass,
1pm – 2:30pm 2018 Vocations and Youth Expo

PLenary COUNCIL 2020 NEWS

The Plenary Council 2020 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. Your voice is important. All people are invited to contribute to the Plenary Council agenda by sharing your experience of faith and of the Church.

See www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au for more information.



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Become a part of the parish Planned Giving Program to help your Parish grow.

We thank, sincerely, all Parishioners who contribute to Planned Giving. Your ongoing commitment and contribution assists the parish to budget for operating expenses (wages, rates, electricity, phones, maintenance etc) as well as parish pastoral planning (faith education, sacramental preparation, resources etc). To obtain Planned Giving Envelopes or to contribute by direct debit, complete this form and place on the plate, or contact the Parish Office. Planned Giving contributions are not Tax Deductable.

Surname: _____ **Given names** _____

Address _____ **P/code** _____

Phone _____

Email _____