



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS Chatswood Catholic Parish

1st & 2nd SUNDAY of LENT

1 & 8 March 2020 – Year A/2

Come to our PARISH WORKING BEE on Saturday April 4th to get the church ready for the Easter celebrations.

Church - Cnr Kirk & Archer Sts,
Chatswood
Parish Office - 94 Archer Street,
Chatswood, 2067
PO Box 1446, Chatswood, 2057

Phone: 9410 9000 or for an after
hours' emergency call:
0473 046 906

www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood
chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office hours:
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm
Closed for lunch 1pm – 1.30pm

Fr Jim McKeon (Parish Priest)
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Fr John Puliparambil (Assist. Priest)
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(Admin Assistant for Children's
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Bernadette Ho
Bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au
(New Parishioner Engagement Co-
Ordinator)

World Day of Prayer: Our Parish is hosting the World Day of Prayer service for the North Shore area this year. The service is on Friday 6th March at 10.15am in our church. The host country this year is Zimbabwe. We will have morning tea in the Magnificat room after the Service. All welcome.

How to do Lent: St Teresa of Avila discouraged the nuns in her care from doing additional penances. Many were fond of taking on extreme penances such as starvation fasting or all-night prayer vigils, the result of which was that they were unable to do their household chores and fell asleep during their normal communal prayer times. She forbade the nuns from doing such extra penances and instead told them to do the ordinary ways of prayer and holiness well.

As we begin the season of Lent, we might be wondering what penance we can take up. For some of us if we were to heed St Teresa's advice the best penance we could do would be to "do the ordinary ways of prayer well" by being fully present for the whole hour at Mass. Could you plan your Sunday around giving an hour to God at Mass, rather than squeezing it in around other things? Could you commit to be in the church when Mass begins, not hastily running up the stairs? Could you stay to the end and not leave early? Could you leave your phone at home or at least switched off (not just silent) so that you are undistracted? For some of us this might be a big challenge, but it might be the most fruitful penance we could do.

If this is already the way you approach Mass, then you might like to consider what additional penance or discipline you will take up for Lent. A message from Bishop Anthony regarding Lenten penances is on the noticeboards. Please note that only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday require compulsory fasting from meat, with people invited to choose their own appropriate penance on the other Fridays of Lent.

Lent is also a time to make a focus on developing a particular virtue or conquering a particular vice. Many people recognise that the time they spend on social media, gaming and online in general is excessive, and a good Lenten discipline might be to have one or more "digital-free" days per week, just as many people now have alcohol-free or meat-free days.

There are some other suggestions for Lent in the pages of this newsletter, including doing the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, Adoration on Thursdays, or coming to the sacrament of Reconciliation. – Fr Jim McKeon

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES – are available on the table in the Church foyer. Please take one home and return full 😊 at the end of Lent.

WITHIN OUR PARISH

LENTEN PROGRAM BEGINNING

The Tuesday Bible group will begin studying the current Lenten program during Lent if any parishioners would like to join them at 10am each Tuesday morning, beginning Tuesday March 3rd. No need to book; just come along to the St Paul room.

LIFESTYLE ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS

Lifestyle English Conversations is a free service of St Vincent de Paul Society that aims to break down the language barriers in our community through conversations in a friendly environment.



If you would like to improve your English language skills and meet new friends please join us:-

Thursdays, 6.30pm - 8pm

St Paul Meeting Room,

Corner Kirk & Archer Sts, Chatswood

Refreshments served at 6.15pm

We also need enthusiastic and committed volunteer English speakers. If you would like join as a student or volunteer, please contact Christian Salandanan on: (02) 9568 0288 or via email at: christian.salandanan@vinnies.org.au

HELP NEEDED PLEASE

On Easter Monday 13 April our Social Justice team is running the barbecue at Bunnings Chatswood.



**Social
Justice
@ OLD
Parish**

All proceeds will go to Street Work which is one of our parish projects. Street Work does fantastic work helping troubled youth. We're looking for some willing workers. If you could give a hand for a couple of hours please contact on Trish 0431 696 504.

KIRK ST CARPARK

For some months the carpark gates have been permanently open due to the gates malfunctioning. These are about to be repaired and will once again be closed during school hours for Mercy College and OLD staff. The parish will still open the gates for weekend Masses and for after-hours events. The gates may be closed again at any time.

BAPTISM FONT

The old baptism font which was removed from the centre aisle has now been reassembled as a holy water stoop in the Marian chapel. A new font has been designed which will use stone to match the altar. The architect's render of the new altar is on the noticeboard in the foyer. It will be octagonal (8 sides represent the 8th day, the new creation, a common theme for baptism fonts), and a glass bowl so that the water can be seen.

ALPHA 2020 – KEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Our Alpha course has commenced after much preparation work by a dedicated team who will be conducting the course.

The purpose of Alpha is to invite anyone, no matter their background, wherever they are on their own personal life journey, whatever their religious affiliation – or none at all, but those who are seeking answers and certainty in our very confused world.

It is open to everyone and we anticipate many will come to join us, to find answers, and above all to find the One who is the only lasting answer to the desires and needs of every heart.

We are seeking people among us who will volunteer to undertake **THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE** in this endeavour; namely to **PRAY**. To pray for the Alpha Team and those who will come to the course.

The Lord hears the cry of your heart wherever you are! Please join us in this work for Jesus, you can pray in your own home or together with us here at Our Lady of Dolours. Please send your email address so we can keep you informed as to how Alpha is going and the specific things we will be thinking about each Monday when we meet.

Please help to get this Prayer Group happening throughout our Parish over the period of our Alpha Course which runs until 6 April 2020 – Please mark your calendars.

Contact: Ken - kenmankennedy@yahoo.com.au or Jill - gillian-hawkins@bigpond.com to enrol in the Prayer Group and please mark the email message "Prayer Group".

POSITIONS VACANT IN THE DIOCESE

There are two positions available in parishes at the moment:



- St Agatha's, Pennant Hills – Faith Formation Team Leader (Full Time)
- The Lakes – Administrative Assistant and Sacramental Programs Coordinator (Part Time)

For more information see:

www.bbcatholic.org.au/people/positions-vacant

WITH OUR LADY OF DOLOURS WE PRAY FOR:

Recently Deceased: Beverley Coleman

Deceased Anniversaries: Jakica Bacic, Mara Stanich, Franko Stanich, Marko Stanich, Siegfried & Michael Korb, Maria Gussnig, Joseph Egger, Hubert Gussnig, Diana Carson

Baptism: Joseph Maiorana



Do you know someone who has a child with a Disability?



St Lucy's School is a Catholic school dedicated to students with disabilities. To find out more please join us at one of our Open Days in March or visit www.stlucys.nsw.edu.au

High School Open Day Wahroonga Campus 6th March
K-6 Wahroonga Campus Open Days 10th & 26th March
K-1 Narrabeen Campus Open Day 20th March

Working in a child-related ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay

Paid and volunteer workers who have direct face to face contact with children (under 18 years) are required by law to obtain a Working with Children Check number. Please note though exemptions may apply in some cases. The Parish is the employer of the paid or volunteer worker and therefore is required by law to verify the Working with Children Check number. All paid or volunteer workers engaged in a child-related role must have a clear Working with Children Check to work in a child-related ministry. This disclosure references the legislation, *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*.

PARISH MASS & DEVOTIONS TIMETABLE

Monday to Friday – Monday 12.15pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 9am, Thursday 9am & 12.15pm, Friday 9am

Saturday - 9am and 5.30pm (Vigil)

Sunday - 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

Reconciliation - 9.30am - 10.30am each Saturday & 7pm-8pm each Thursday. Any time by request.

Morning Prayer - 8.45am Tuesday to Saturday

Rosary - 9.30am Monday to Saturday;

Cenacle - each Monday at 11.30am

Exposition - 9.30am - 10.30am each Saturday

Adoration: Thursday after 9am mass. Ends with Divine Mercy Chaplet. Also, on Thursdays 7-8pm.

Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Saturday 10.00am with **Benediction** 10.30am

Anointing of the Sick - 3rd Thursday of month at 12.15pm weekday Mass, before surgery or medical treatment, or by request.

NEW GROUP - SENIORS GET TOGETHER



Seniors within our Parish got together for a cuppa last Thursday to see if there is any interest in starting up a regular get together. Around 18 people turned up which is a wonderful start. We have decided that we will

meet the last Thursday of each month in the Magnificat room at 10am. **Our next gathering is on Thursday 26 March.** If you would like any more information please contact Jan Hunter on 0415629242 or just come along.

MENALIVE

Next meeting is Wednesday 11th March at 7pm in the St Paul meeting room.

Topic is: "What is your idea of what happens after death. Who are you most looking forward to seeing out of family & friends? Do you think people like Donald Trump, Pablo Escobar & Oscar Schindler will make it?"

HOME ROSARY SCHEDULE (7.30pm):

- 7/3 - 7 Bongalong Street, Naremburn
- 14/3 - 45 Park Road, Naremburn

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

We meet each Friday at 10am in the St Paul room. All welcome to come along and join us. We have a new topic each Friday.

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA

First Sunday of Lent 1st March 2020

Indigenous minorities in the Philippines face regular discrimination and disadvantage. Manide woman, Shirley faced challenges supporting her children and sending them to school. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley's life has been transformed.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help people like Shirley, and her children gain confidence and respect within their community.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

THE DAY OF THE UNBORN

As Catholics, we are guided by science and the Church's moral teaching which tells us, contrary to the prevailing culture:

- 1 A new human being comes into existence at the moment of conception.
- 2 This new human being is made "in the image and likeness of God" and enjoys the same dignity and status as any other human being.

Therefore, the killing by abortion of the unborn baby is no less a grave moral offence than the killing of any born person. Our society is therefore confronted with a huge moral catastrophe which claims far more human lives than those other equally real tragedies which make the headlines.

The response to the recent bushfires was overwhelming with people from all walks of life helping in any way possible to overcome them. This is the type of response that would be expected and it should be said that a similar outpouring of effort is the only appropriate response to the enormous tragedy of abortion that exists in our society. Abortion is often looked upon as a means of birth control invoked when a baby is considered to be an inconvenient proposition. All this ignores the inherent dignity and value of the unborn baby.

On Sunday 29 March the annual procession to mark the Day of the Unborn will take place starting at 12 noon from St Mary's Cathedral. This is a peaceful and prayerful procession through the city streets to witness to the plight of the unborn and to call for action to stop the tragedy of abortion. Fr Jim will lead parishioners from Our Lady of Dolours as we join with other concerned people from around Sydney and beyond. Hopefully there will be a huge response especially given the terrible legislation recently passed by the New South Wales Parliament to allow for abortion up to full term. Taking part in this procession is part of our parish pastoral plan for this year to engage with the wider community.

Please register your name and contact details on the sheets in the foyer if you intend to attend The Day of the Unborn event. Meet on the forecourt of our church at 11.15am to travel together to the city, or make your own way there. *Michael O'Connell (Marian Catholic Action Group)*

Come to the **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** during Lent. We will continue to have the sacrament available every Thursday at 7pm and every Saturday at 9.30am until Holy Week, and on Thursday April 2nd at 7pm it will be in the form of the 2nd Rite, where several priests will be available after a short time of common prayer.

100 YEARS OF OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CHURCH

We will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church on Sunday April 19th. Bishop Anthony Randazzo will celebrate our 10.30am Mass and we will gather for morning tea afterwards. We are seeking the help of many people to make finger food for this event. If you are able to help, please put your name on the list in the foyer stating what you can bring and how many pieces. We will have trays for you to take in the weeks before the event so that you don't lose your own good trays.

YOUNG ADULT DINNER

Adults 18+ are invited to join for dinner after the 3rd Sunday night Mass of each month. The next dinner will be March 15th.

YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group for Years 7-10 meets on the 2nd Sunday morning of each month after 9am Mass. Join us on the forecourt at 10.15am on Sunday March 8th

CORONAVIRUS

Across our diocese and many Australian dioceses, we are taking the precaution of not sharing the Communion chalice, even though the risk of transmission of coronavirus or any virus in this way is very small. Health authorities continue to advise that the best precaution is frequent handwashing. There are bottles of hand sanitiser in the church if you need them.

THE PARISH LOGO

You'll notice we have the teardrop logo on the front page of the bulletin. This image of Mary's bowed head and a teardrop is a stylised image of Our Lady of Dolours, reminding us that *dolour* means *grief* or *sorrow*. While at other times of the year we want to focus more on the joy of the resurrected Jesus, during Lent it is fitting that we share in Mary's grief-stricken accompaniment of Jesus to the Cross, and that we join ourselves to all the suffering of the world.

OUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE met for the first time this year on February 18th. The PFC meets monthly to advise and support Fr Jim and Michael Mercer in the governance and business aspects of the parish. This is more than just keeping an eye on the numbers, and includes ensuring asset maintenance, insurance, contracts, taxation and all compliance issues are well managed. This year's members are Chrystal de Croos (chair), John Wu, Rick Doran, Martin Teulan, Peter Staciwa and Joe Jin. All parish clergy are ex-officio members, and Michael Mercer is a non-voting member as part of his role as Parish Finance and Facilities Officer.

We *welcome* you with great *joy* and it begins with a warm *smile* and a welcoming *spirit*.

Our dream is to be a welcoming and joyful spiritual home where people encounter Jesus, choose to follow God, and become fully alive. Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ is what we exist for.

We are passionate about building a culture that is friendly and welcoming, a place where we can truly be ourselves. You'll find our doors are wide open to everyone regardless of where we are on our spiritual journey and what matters is not where we are on the journey, but being on the journey itself.

We want you to know that we are delighted to have you here with us, just come as you are. There are no perfect people in our church and there is no perfect church,

but we strive to be a community of love and we would love to get to know you. Connecting with others, building and strengthening friendships is how we develop a sense of belonging and begin to feel part of a family.

On Sundays, we do our best to look out for anyone who is new but if we don't spot you, please come and say hi so we can help you settle in. Greeting you joyfully at the doors of the church is one of the ways we'd like to welcome you. We also have an Information Hub set up on the forecourt after the Sunday 9am family mass where you can meet some of our lovely parishioners, ask questions and be offered a welcome pack. You'll notice the forecourt comes to life as we chat and enjoy morning tea with one another.

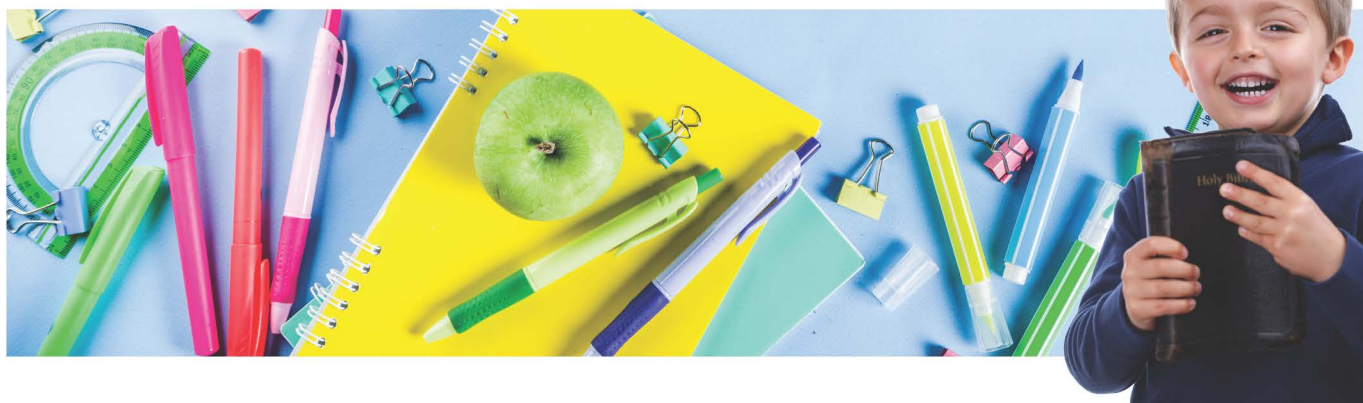
We warmly invite you to join us, we'd love to extend our friendship to you and help you feel at home.

You may also download a new parishioner welcome pack and connect with us on our website: bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood

Our new parishioner engagement coordinator, Bernadette Ho, would be delighted to reach out and help connect you into the life of our vibrant parish family.

Bernadette can be reached at Bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au or phone 9410 9031.

We celebrate with joy that you are here. Welcome to Our Lady of Dolours!



Enrolling your child in a Catholic School this year?

Throughout the year people contact the parish seeking a parish priest's reference for enrolment into a Catholic School. In 2020, Fr Jim invites parents seeking a reference to attend a Parent Connect Gathering which will develop the partnership of parish, family and school in the project of teaching Catholic faith to both primary school and high school.

We will host several gatherings throughout 2020 with the first one being held on 7th March 2020, 10 - 11 am in the Magnificat Room (Cnr Kirk and Archer Streets).

To RSVP, please book online through the parish website www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood under the school's tab. For more information, email Bernadette bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au

2020 PARENT CONNECT GATHERING DATES

Time	Day	Date
10 - 11 am	Saturday	7th March
10 - 11 am	Saturday	4th April
10 - 11 am	Saturday	16th May
10 - 11 am	Saturday	13th June
10 - 11 am	Saturday	8th August
10 - 11 am	Saturday	12th September

God bless you. 



Playgroup

We are excited to announce that our new playgroup for 0-5 year olds and their parents and carers will commence;

Monday 9 March 2020

**In our Magnificat Parish Meeting Room
from 9.30-11.30am**

Playgroup will meet each Monday during school terms.

Our aim is to provide a warm and welcoming place for parents and carers to meet, socialize and support each other whilst also providing some fun and nurturing activities for the children.

This is a joint Parish and OLD Primary School initiative.

Everyone is welcome!

For further details contact Angela at the Parish Office on (02) 9410 9033 or angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au.

Reconciliation Preparation Update



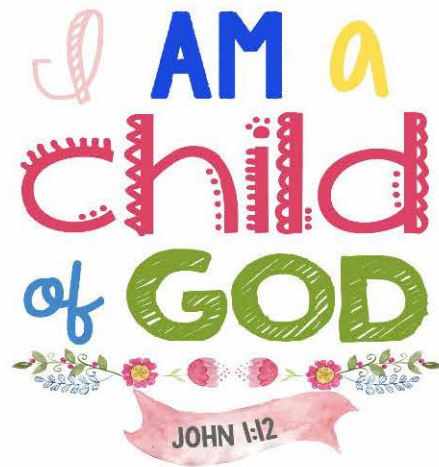
This week 80 children in our parish began preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

The children will be presented to the parish at the 5.30am Vigil 29 Feb and 9.00am 1 March Masses.

At the end of Mass please to collect a prayer card to be that child's prayer partner.

Your prayers of support will strengthen them on their journey and the children, parents and parish staff thank you for this support.

Kindy Blessing Mass



The Catholic community of Chatswood *invites all* the Kindy children and their families to our:

'Kindy Blessing Mass'
On Sunday 15 March 2020
At our 9am Family Mass

A family-friendly celebration at
Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church
94 Archer St. Chatswood

During this Mass we will celebrate their
'starting school'
with a special **blessing**.

After Mass please join us at Our Lady of Dolours Primary School playground where we will have **morning tea and a jumping castle!**

Please bring a plate to share!
All welcome!





Living a Laudato Si Lent

... the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion ... what we all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. LS 217

This time of Lent invites us into closely examining how we live and what we hold in our hearts. It can be a deeply challenging and rewarding journey of repentance and renewal; a time of conversion that opens our hearts to the joy of Jesus' resurrection at Easter.

This Lent, you are invited to reflect on a dimension of conversion: ecological conversion which Pope Francis describes in the quote above from *Laudato Si, Care for Our Common Home*. You may like to choose some of items below to add to your Lenten preparations for Easter.

The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains ... everything is, as it were, a caress of God. LS 84

Pray

1. Get a copy of *Laudato Si* either from the Piety Shop or download from <http://w2.vatican.va>.
2. Take one of each of the seven sections of chapter 2, *The Gospel of Creation*, for prayerful reflection.
3. Pray for those who are most affected by climate change - people living in poverty, climate refugees, farmers and fishers, future generations.
4. Pray Pope Francis' prayers from *Laudato Si* n 245 & 246.
5. Download the Brisbane Archdiocese Lenten App, *Lent 2020 Be Opened* from Apple Apps & Google Play for under \$3.00.
6. Spend time in a quiet space, a park, a garden or a beach, Be attentive to the sounds of life, birds, insects and animals, wind and water. Pray a prayer of thanks to God; reflect on the power of the water of baptism.
7. Download, or read and reflect online the Columban Mission Society's *Grace of Earth 2020 Lenten Reflections* on six earth life support systems. www.columban.org.au Search under Ed Resources.

Fast

1. Plan to have one or more meat free days each week.
2. Take a break from electronic entertainment - computers, smart phones, TV - pay and free to air. Become more present to the people around you. Become at ease with silence.
3. We are blessed with good drinking water in Sydney, use tap water rather than bottled water.
4. Reduce shopping by one day a week and resist buying any new things that are not essential.
5. Put 'carbon fast' into your search engine to locate many ways of doing a carbon fast.
6. Fast from the consumption of news. Focus on one or two stories that have moved you. Pray for the people involved and for the renewal of our earth.
7. Fast from the convenience of having appliances constantly drawing power. Turn power off at the wall.

Act

1. Read each chapter of *Laudato Si*. Make a note of possible actions that you, your family and/or community can take.
2. Have a week of not using any disposable plastic products.
3. Go to www.arcc.org.au the website of Australian Religious Response to Climate Change. Choose one item from many possible actions.
4. Even though the dams are now replenished continue to conserve water usage.
5. Plan to purchase easter eggs that are *Fairtrade*, *Rainforest Alliance* and/ or *UTZ certified*. Go to www.WFTO.com for information.
6. Plan to celebrate Earth Hour on 28 March at 8.30pm.
7. Consider ways to reduce your carbon footprint. Try car pooling, public transport, cycling or walking when possible.
8. Reduce the use of plastic bags. Use cloth grocery bags. Make use of the supermarkets' soft plastic collection bins.

PARISH WORKING BEE 4 APRIL 2020

Our pre-Easter Working Bee will be held on Saturday 4 April from 9am to 12 noon. Our goal is to have as many of our committed parishioners available to help us get the church and grounds sparkling ready for the Easter Masses. A list of tasks is set out below. If you can make it on the day to help out, please give some thought to what tasks you would like to get involved in. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Task	Materials Required	Number of People Required
Tennis Court Car Park - Trim Bushes, clean up branches and other rubbish and sweep car park	Green Bin, Garden Shears, Pruner, Rake, Gloves, broom and shovel	2
Gardening - Trim Bushes along Kirk St Side of the Church below window level, plant new Shrubs near front of kirk St side of the Church	Garden Shears, Gloves, Plants, Potting Mix, Hand Spade	1
Clean Pews	Cloths, Spray and Wipe, Bucket and Rubber Gloves	2
Clean Ledges on side walls of church (after painting done)	Cloths, Spray and Wipe, Bucket and Rubber Gloves	2
Clean Window sills after windows cleaned	Cloths, Spray and Wipe, Bucket and Rubber Gloves	2
Dusting of Church	Duster, gloves, cloth, spray and wipe	1
Weed Spraying around church, office grounds and Presbytery	Pump Bottle and Zero Concentrate	1
Remove Wax	Scraper	1
Sort out books in library-		2
Clean drains	Hand spade, rubbish bag	1
Clean Stairs and Handrails of Meeting Room (levels 1 and 2)	Bucket, Detergent and sponge	1
Fertilizing the Garden	Fertilizer, gloves, bucket	1