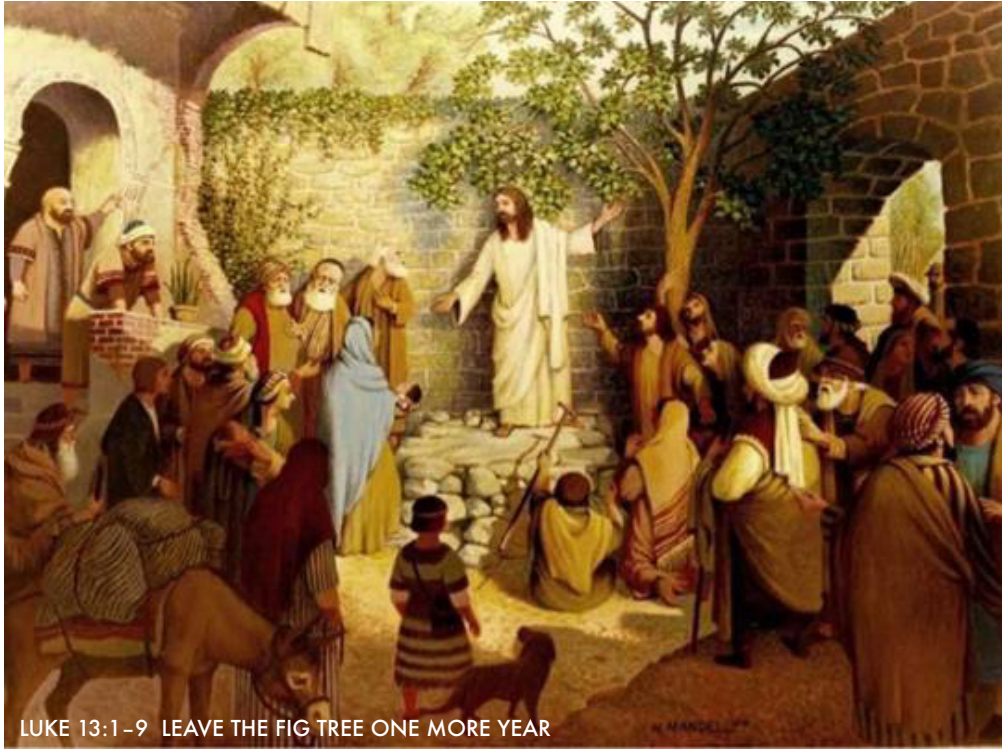




# St Patrick's Parish Gosford

The Communities of St Patrick's East Gosford,  
St Francis of Assisi Somersby & Holy Trinity Spencer  
Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.



LUKE 13:1-9 LEAVE THE FIG TREE ONE MORE YEAR

### ST PATRICK'S YEAR OF TRUST

Lord, You are the God of peace and love in Whom I place my trust - give me a peaceful heart that rests in You and a loving spirit that pours fourth Your love to others.

Lord, You are the God of comfort and rest in Whom I put my hope - give me a heart that abides in You so that Your comfort may stream through me to others who need comfort and strength.

Lord, You are the God of hope and joy in Whom I stand secure - give me a spirit of devotion that worships only You so that I may be a worthy witness that points to Jesus - for in Him is all peace and love and comfort and rest and hope and joy and love - and I trust You Lord,

Amen



## ST PATRICK'S OWN WORDS

### FROM HIS CONFESSION

But now, they have become the people of the Lord, and are called children of God. The sons and daughters of the leaders of the Irish are seen to be monks and virgins of Christ!



### FR FRANCIS JORDAN SDS

"With God's help, establish a society for the glory of God and the salvation of souls! Oh how much good can be done!"

Fr Francis Jordan is credited with many inspirational quotes that we will place here.



### POPE FRANCIS' MARCH 2019 INTENTION

Christian Communities

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

### SERVANT LEADERSHIP

A culture of Safeguarding values SERVANT LEADERSHIP...  
"Like good stewards of the manifold of grace of god, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."  
1 Peter 4:10

### FACEBOOK PAGE



St Patrick's Parish Gosford

Log into Facebook and like our "St Patrick's Parish Gosford" page to ensure you are notified of the latest news and events.

A warm welcome to our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the Eucharist with us this weekend at St Patrick's Parish.



**CHURCH OPEN DAILY 8:30AM – 4:30PM.**

**STANDARD WEEKDAY MASSES**

Rosary 20 minutes before or after the Mass

**Gosford:**

Monday:	9:00am	Thursday:	9:00am
Tuesday:	9:00am	Friday:	12 noon
Wednesday:	11:30am	Saturday:	9:00am

**WEEKEND MASSES**

**Gosford:**

Saturday Vigil:	5:00pm	Children's Liturgy:	During
Sunday:	7:30am	9:00am Mass	Each Sunday of
	9:00am	School Term.	
	6:00pm		

**Somersby, 30 Lutana Road:**

Saturday Vigil: 6:30pm

**Spencer, Wiseman's Ferry Rd:**

1st Sunday Monthly: 4:00pm

**OTHER MASSES**

**Filipino Mass 2nd Sunday Monthly:**

12 noon

**Korean Mass Monthly: [Enq: Peter 0409-508-123]**

6:00pm

**ADORATION IN OUR CHURCH**

Before the Blessed Sacrament

Mon:	8:30am-9:00am	Thur:	8:30am-9:00am
Tues:	8:30am-9:00am	Fri:	12:30pm-3:00pm
Wed:	11:00am-11:30am	Sat:	8:00am

**RECONCILIATION – 1ST RITE**

**Gosford:**

<b>Mon-Thur:</b> during Adoration	<b>Saturday:</b>	8:30am
1st Friday of Month:		4:30pm.
Prior to Mass	11:30am	<b>Sunday:</b>
Other Fridays	12:30pm	7:00am
		5:30pm

**St Francis of Assisi 30 Lutana Road, Somersby:**

Saturday after Vigil: 7:30pm

**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY**

After weekday Masses and 3:00pm Friday

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA**

Last Wednesday of each Month at 12 noon

**ADORATION AT BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL**

Located on Chapel Lane at the Admin Centre	Monday to Thursday	8:30am – 3:30pm
	Friday	9:00am – 3:30pm

**GROUP MEETINGS**

**Bible Study Lectio Divina:**

Mondays at 9:30am twice monthly,  
Wednesday at 10:00am in the Jordan Room.

**RCIA:** in Admin Centre 7:30pm Tuesdays.

Contact the Parish Office to register interest.

**menALIVE:** 7:30pm commencing with Mass  
1st Tuesday of Month

**Cancer Prayers:** 2:00pm Last Thursday Monthly  
in Jordan Room

**Grief & Loss, Prayer & Support:**

1st Thursday Monthly 2pm in Jordan Room

**Craft Group - Friday each week of School Term**

10:00am – 12:30pm

**SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE SHOP**



After 9:00am Mass in the Jordan Room.  
All proceeds to Charities

**ST PATRICK'S PARISH GOSFORD**

**PASTORAL CARE**

**Fr Grzegorz [Greg] Skulski SDS**

Parish Administrator

Email: grzeskulski1985@o2.pl

**SALVATORIANS**

Society of the Divine Saviour

<http://www.sds.org.au>



**PARISH OFFICE**

**Secretary:**

**Colleen Kirk**

Mon – Thurs: 8:30am – 4:30pm

**Media Coordinator: Tom Croll**

Friday: 9:00am – 2:00pm

Email: tcroll@photom.com.au

**VOLUNTEER ROLES**

**Office Admin:**

**Denise Jay**

**Judith Myers**

Friday: 9:00am – 3:30pm

**AV Presentation:**

Bob Smith

Tilly Timp

Peter McLean

Greg McBride

**Bursar:**

Ros Van Lierop

**Caretakers:**

Ron Begg

Tom Brown

John Malicki

**Gardeners:**

Trevor Byrne

Joyce Byrne

Victor Camilleri

**Children's Liturgy & Sacramental**

**Programme Coordinator:**

Margaret Eadie 4325 7817

**Catechists' Coordinator:**

Alain Corne

Email: saintpatsccd@acs.net.au

Wed: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Thurs: 9:30am – 1:30pm

**Seniors' Ministry:**

Barbara McCarthy

Ph: 4322 0250

**Youth Ministry:**

Matthew French

Ph: 0 411 792 587

**School Principals**

St Patrick's Primary: Mrs Cheryl Walsh 4325 1159

St Joseph's College: Mr Tony McCudden 4324 4022

St Edwards College: Mr Mark Bonnici 4321 6400

St Peter's College: Mr Tim Hilderbrandt 43512344

**Christian Brothers' Community**

Frederick Street, East Gosford

Br Peter Hester cfc [Community Leader]

Br Denis Cusack cfc

Br Rod Shoebridge cfc

## YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

### MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Mass Time & Place	Intention
Sat 23/3	5:00p Gosford	Remembrance Kathy Cairns
	6:30p Somersby	Remembrance Unborn Babies
Sun 24/3	7:30a Gosford	John Murphy
	9:00a Gosford	Parish Intentions
Sun 31/3	9:00a Gosford	Parish Intentions

#### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Dorothea Campbell, Valda McLaughlin, Laurence Pope, Adriana Cooke.

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

Daphne Hardie Margaret O'Donovan John Van Yzendoorn

#### REMEMBRANCES:

Lloyd Woods, Holy Souls, Especially Deceased members of Foss family, John Van Yzendoorn, June Farr, Deceased members of Friquet Family, Ronald Freeman, Patrick Holohan, Michael Kokegei.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:

Arlene Peters, Kath Ryan, John Burg, Peter & Lena O'Donovan, Tina Learwood, Allan Francis, Brian Loo, Bev Meehan, Michael Graham, Glenn Mills, Frank McGuinness, Angela Cunningham, Simon Low, Christopher Graham, Frances Cannon, John Riley, Margaret Gunnison, Sonia Cummings, Anna-Marie Rowan, Denise Smith.

### CONDOLENCES

To Neil Cooke and his 3 children on the loss of his wife and their mother Adriana. A funeral service will be held at St Patrick's on Monday 18, at 11:00am

### BEREAVEMENT MASS – WED 27

Our 11:30am Mass on Wed March 27 will be one of special remembrance of all whom we know passed in the last 12 months. A luncheon for the bereaved follows at the Jordan Room

*If you have a loved one you would like included, please contact the Parish Office so Colleen can add their name and a photo if you have one.*

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Each Friday from March 8 to April 12 2019

St Patrick's East Gosford

11.30am each Friday during Lent

St Francis of Assisi Somersby

6pm each Wednesday during Lent followed by Mass at 6.30pm



### BLESSING OF THE NEW CROSS ON THE FEAST OF ST PATRICK

Due to the rain last Sunday, the new cross over the Memorial Wall will be blessed this Sunday March 24, after the 9am Mass.

### THE LIGHT IS ON

#### EACH FRIDAY DURING LENT 7:00pm - 8:00pm

St Patrick's will be open with Adoration, for quiet time and prayer, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available.

[thelightisonforyou.org.au](http://thelightisonforyou.org.au)

### EASTER MASS TIMES

#### Holy Thursday – NO MORNING MASS

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:30pm.  
Church opened for Adoration until 11pm

#### Good Friday

Stations Gosford: 10:00am  
Stations Somersby: 9:00am  
Passion Gosford: 3:00pm  
Passion Somersby: 3:00pm

#### Easter Vigil

Blessing of Easter Baskets Gosford: 11am  
Mass Gosford: 7:00pm  
Mass Somersby: 7:00pm

#### Easter Sunday

Gosford Masses: 7:30am 9:00am, 10:30am [Family Mass] and 5:00pm - yes 5:00pm

### WORKING BEE

#### CALLING FOR HELPERS!

The recent heavy rains have highlighted drainage issues generally around the Jordan Room, so we are holding a working bee on Saturday, April 6 from 11 am and are seeking your assistance. The work ranges from clearing blocked gutters to digging and concreting a small channel to take away the water, so we'd ask you to bring your mattock and shovel or spade if you feel you could help with that. This work is long overdue, and hopefully, the measures put into place will keep us safe from flooding in the future. If you can come along, please contact the Parish Office simply so that we may be able to plan how much we may be able to achieve.

## IN YOUR PARISH OF ST PATRICK'S THIS WEEK

Monday March 25	9:30am	Lenten Lectio Divina in The Jordan Room. All Welcome and cuppa provided.
Tuesday March 26	7:30pm	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), in the Admin Centre.
	7:30pm	Catholics Returning Home programme, continues in The Jordan Room.
Wednesday March 27	11:30am	Mass for the Bereaved at St Patrick's
	12:00noon	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena in St Patrick's, until 12:30pm
	6:00pm	Stations of the Cross at St Francis of Assisi, Somersby.
	6:30pm	Mass at St Francis of Assisi, Somersby.
Thursday March 28	2:00pm	Cancer Prayer Meeting in the Jordan Room
Friday March 29	11:30am	Stations of the Cross, prior to the midday Mass at St Patrick's Gosford.

### KIDS CORNER

#### PINT SIZED PADDIES

##### 4TH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH - THIS FRIDAY!

On next, Friday March 22 at 7:00pm  
In the school hall. Enquiries to Melissa 0434 251 481

#### LENTEN PASSPORT PROGRAM 2019

Don't forget to get your sticker for your passport each week in Lent.

#### FROM YEAR 4 KIDS AT ST PAT'S

God is my sunshine after a beautiful day.  
God is the brightest star at night.  
God appears like the rainbow after a rainy day.

### YOUTH

#### AFTERMATH FOR 18 TO 35 YEAR OLDS



Join us for Dinner, Elanora Hotel,  
Sunday March 24, After 6:00pm  
Mass

### GENERAL NEWS

#### MASS AT MARY MACKILLOP CHAPEL,

##### NORTH SYDNEY ON TUESDAY MARCH 26.

There is a bus departing outside St Patrick's in Victoria St East Gosford at 10:00am. If you would like to reserve a seat on the bus please record your name and contact number on the sheet available today, in the foyer.

#### SPIRITUAL HEALING APPOINTMENTS

##### SR MARGARET SCULLY RSC

Sr Scully will be in the Parish on April 6 and is available for spiritual healing appointments. To book some time with Sr Scully please phone 9810 2499 to make an appointment.



#### CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE PASCHAL LAMBS ON SALE NOW!

Why not make your Easter gift more meaningful? Milk and white chocolate, only \$8 each. Your purchase supports the work of the

Michaelite Mission Priests in PNG and your parish. Available from the Parish Office now.

#### ADVERTISING FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

##### FOR THE EASTER CEREMONIES:

Please place your name on the sheet available at the sacristy today indicating the services at which you would like to assist.

#### MINISTRY TO THE SENIORS' BUS TRIP TO THE HUNTER VALLEY.

##### MONDAY, APRIL 29, DEPARTING AT 9.30AM.

Come along for a great day out where we'll visit the Marthaville Arts & Crafts at Cessnock & the Monarch in the Hunter, the home of all royal memorabilia, in Nulkaba.

\$35 per person, all inclusive - morning tea, lunch, travel and any applicable entry fees.

Call Barb on 4322 0250 to book.

#### SATURDAY ROSARIES

##### MONTHLY

8.05am: 1st Saturday - For Priests & Religious.  
8.05am 3rd Saturday - For Mothers & Abortion.  
8.05am 4th Saturday - For Persecuted Christians and their Persecutors.

#### SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

##### SIP CENTRAL COAST

Tuesday 2nd April, 2019, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

The Grange Hotel Function Room

Cnr: Renwick St & Pacific Hwy, WYOMING

Bistro opens at 5-30pm.

Inquiries: 4328 2596 or 0498 588 261

Theme 2019: "Reflections on my Spiritual Journey"

TWO SPEAKERS:

Rachel Willis: Rachel started as CEO at Coast Shelter in July 2018. She is driven by a passion to make a difference in the community she grew up in.

Hilary Wong: Born and raised in the UK Hilary moved to Australia in 2018 with her Australian husband and young son and became the Rector of Wyoming Anglican Church.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### THIS WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARCH 27

Join us for our first Grace Conversations for 2019 with our home grown guest speaker, Kelly Paget. On top of being a life long parishioner of Gosford Parish, a wife to Chris and mother to 3 little boys, Kelly works for the Office of the Bishop in the role of Senior Advisor. Kelly's beginnings in ministry are strongly grounded in Salvatorian spirituality and she brings a unique perspective into understanding the charism of Fr Francis Jordan and his Mission.

The evening will include a talk on Fr Francis and the Salvatorian Mission, time for small group discussion and fellowship around supper.

**Please RSVP** Add your name to the list in the Foyer of the church or phone the Parish Office.

**GRACED CONVERSATIONS**  
ADULT TALKS ABOUT FAITH & LIFE

**THE SALVATORIAN WAY**  
Getting to know Fr Francis Jordan and his mission  
Guest speaker Kelly Paget  
Wednesday 27 March  
7:30-9:00pm  
Jordan Room, St Patrick's Gosford

## ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL OPEN DAY FOR 2020 ENROLMENTS

28th March: School Tours from 9am and Information Session from 9:30am.

1st April - School Tours from 6:30pm and Information Session from 7pm

## THANK YOU

### ST PATRICK'S DAY

To Cecilia, Margaret, Eunice, Anne, Shelia and the team that helped to prepare and serve the morning tea last Sunday morning, and Jim & Sil who cooked the BBQ and Colleen for stepping up in the kitchen for the youth at the event after the Sunday night Mass: St Patrick's Day.

What a grand celebration of St Patrick's Day at the parish. We had Fr George join us for Sunday 9:00 am Mass where many ventured out into the torrential rain to attend. Then we had the Youth Mass, the Church was full to overflowing, with parishioners standing up the back and out in the Foyer — followed by a BBQ and Disco where the youth celebrated in the Hall.

### DONATIONS FOR ALSA BUHAY

\$200.00 has been received from a jar at Cafe Espresso which is for Alsa Buhay Salvatorian mission and school in the Philippines. Thank you!

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 10AM AT ST PATRICK'S

Calling all high-school students and young adults - join the team to help present Stations of the Cross to the Parish on Good Friday. We will need readers, musicians and 'actors' and will rehearse the liturgy at least twice prior to Good Friday.

**If you are interested in being part of this powerful and meaningful liturgy please contact Kelly Paget, kelly.paget@bbcatholic.org.au**

## BAPTISM PRESENTATIONS:

### 9 AM MASS 24/3:

Please welcome the families of Lana Aborro, James & Lewis Boaler, Alex Marks, Stanley & Finn McDarby, Herbie Moeller, Clara Policarpio, Alfonzo Rudd, Jacob Stuart & Zach Tomsett who are being presented to their new faith family preparatory to their upcoming baptisms.

## HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY VERONICA

Veronica Hilton (nee Woodbury) is one of long time favourite parishioners. An invitation to her parish friends.



90

*Veronica Hilton (nee Woodbury) turns 90 on 2 April. Family and friends of Veronica are invited to join her brunch birthday celebration*

*Where: St Patricks School Hall*

*When: 31 March from 10:15 to 1:15 pm*

*Bring a plate and please do join the family also for Sunday Mass at St Patricks Church East Gosford at 9am immediately before the party, if you can find the time.*

*RSVP by 14 March:  
SMS Veronica Fitzgerald 0407 249 675*

## MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY - NOTRE DAME BROADWAY

On Saturday, April 13 from 9am to 4:00pm. The day will include Mass, time for reflection and reconciliation, lunch and afternoon tea, and inspiring talks from three speakers. The retreat will take place at The University of Notre Dame Australia on Broadway campus. Event is free, registration essential:

Sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au or (02) 8204 4189 or Trybooking.com/475522

## FIRST READING

### EX 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

**This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.**

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' He said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### PS 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. V.8

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

## SECOND READING

### 1 COR 10:1-6, 10-12

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

**All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.**

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

## GOSPEL

### LK 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.**

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

## NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:

1st: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

2nd: Cor 10:1-6,10-12

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

## COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

We may be unfamiliar with fig trees, but we might know about the growth of spring flowers. Perhaps we have looked at a dry, brown flower bulb and wondered how this produces the colorful tulip or daffodil blossom that we expect to bloom in the spring. Perhaps we've even thought about the patience and hope that are required to plant flower bulbs in October. We don't have to be gardeners, however, to know about patience and hopefulness. As parents, we practice these virtues each day with our children. We may become frustrated and even angered by their willfulness and lack of cooperation. Yet we continue to offer our attention and guidance in hope that one day our efforts will bear fruit. Today's parable suggests that God is like that with us, working with us in patience and in hope that one day we will show evidence that such work is not in vain. As parents, we know God's kindness when we find evidence for our hope for our children. Does God find such glimmers of hope as he works with us?

Gather your family and show a spring flower in bloom. Recall that in the fall this flower was a dry bulb (if a flower bulb is available, show this as well). Talk about the hopefulness and patience shown by those who plant flower bulbs in the fall in the hope that they will bloom in the spring. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 13:1-9. Compare the parable of the barren fig tree to your discussion about spring flowers. Consider the patience and hopefulness that God has with us as he works with us, calling us to return to him when we sin. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God for his patience and hopefulness towards us. Conclude by praying together today's Psalm, <https://www.loyolapress.com>

Your Roster – March 24, 3rd SUNDAY of LENT [C]					
MASS	VIGIL 5:00	7:30am	9:00am	6:00pm	Somersby - 6:30
DATE	23.03.19	24.03.19	24.03.19	24.03.19	23.03.19
Audio/Visual	Cheryl Parry	Bernie Pannell	Arthur Holland	Joe Tropiano	Melissa Monaghan
Acolytes	Javier Alvarez Peter Young	Hilary Pope Jacob Curcio	Peter McLean Peter Julius	Kevin O'Donnell Anna Jung	
Lectors	Diana Ball Nicole Murphy	Anne Lovett Ian McGuinness	Tom Croll Scot Frazer	Tom O'Brien Sean Pearson	Cheryl Barany Judy Grenfell
Commentator	Terry Cooke	Ron Burgess	Chris Paget	Cheryl Walsh	Mary Luci
Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist	Jan Blanch Vic Camilleri Terry Cooke Elaine Third Tilly Timp	Eunice Dal Busco Margaret Eadie Sheila Evans Pam McCrae Ian McGuinness	Stephanie Trevenen Molly Holland Helene Hussein Marissa Hussein Paul Hussein	Rosa Tropiano Patricia Anderson Lyn Beglin Corrie Dunn Nora Koleszar	Michael Monaghan Maria Lentini
Altar Servers	Taz Parry Harry Cockerton		Roy Kim Heath Ford Scott Sheddon Seth Armstrong	Samantha Angulo Sienna MacDonald Raydon Gomez Vito De Toffol	Antoinette Xuereb
<b>COUNTERS</b> March 25 Group 1 Eunice Dal Busco Neryl Tyrrell Joyce Byrne April 1 Group 2 Ken Murray	<b>ALTAR LINEN</b> Hazel Walsh Collect April 4 Return April 8	<b>ALTAR SOCIETY</b> Helen Moore Colleen Kirk <b>HOSPITAL VISITATION</b> Eunice Dal Busco Laraine Rowe	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b> Joanne Ford Katie Moss	<b>PARISH BUS</b> <b>Driver:</b> Luis Machuca <b>Helper:</b> Ellen McNally	<b>Flowers:</b> Roseanne Dominello

## DR DAVID RANSON, DIOSCIAN ADMINISTRATOR WRITES:

### AN OPEN LETTER TO DR IBRAHIM ABU MOHAMED

Grand Mufti of Australia and other Muslim leader in Australia.

Thursday 21 March 2019

Your Excellency,

The events of 15 March 2019 in Christchurch are etched indelibly now in our minds and in our hearts. Through you, I extend the sympathy of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay to the Muslim people of New Zealand (and Australia) who have been the target of this senseless brutality which we utterly reject and condemn. We stand with you in shock and in grief in the face of the evil that has been perpetrated.

As those who have died in such a callous way are now laid to their rest, we hear the cry of the agony of those who have survived, those who have lost their loved ones, those who have lost hope and now despair in the inhumanity that we have experienced. We hear the echoes of their distress and confusion in our own hearts as we remember in prayer all those whose lives will no longer be the same. We wish you to know that we are your brothers and sisters, and though our voice is feeble before such horrific events, we want to say to you that we stand with you in compassion and hope.

It has been my own privilege to be in personal dialogue with you on several occasions over the last years. On such occasions we have lamented together the emergence of a culture of suspicion and fear which can spawn the mindset that leads to last Friday's carnage. In no small way has this been fuelled by the demonisation of Islam. Again, I reiterate with you, at this sad time, the immorality and unacceptability of this. It creates ghettos of fear. It cuts us off from each other into networks of defences. It renders us less than the truth of ourselves about which the French writer Louis

Massignon wrote, "Only in exercising hospitality towards another (instead of colonising him), in sharing the same work, the same bread, as honourable companions can one understand the Truth that unites us socially .. One can only find truth through the practice of hospitality." (Opera Minora III, 608-9)

In the face of the terrorism we affirm the pathway of love, rather than the pathway of fear. This can present as naively ridiculous, yet its power is manifest in the stories of heroism and forgiveness in the mosques of last Friday that display a light stronger than the darkness. Genuine love primarily is the decision to listen to the other with the premise that I may have something to learn from them. The way of love is the commitment to see always the other precisely as 'person' and not through the lens of categorisation. It is the practice of an open conversation which seeks to understand the other, to feel with the other, to listen deeply to them. We love the stranger by listening to them, by learning their names, rather than their labels, and by entering their story, often of incalculable pain and dislocation. For the eminent philosophy of 'the other,' Emmanuel Levinas, the "presence of 'the other' announces, commands, perforates, ruptures, unsettles. And that is their gift to us."

This conversation has yet to begin in Australia. If there be an invitation at the heart of our distress about last Friday, it is the imperative to commit to the critical importance of such dialogue. Our future lies in the conversion of a conversation about the other in our midst to one with the other.

I express to you on behalf of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay our readiness to work always with you in this endeavour. In the meantime, however, all of us in the Diocese reach out to embrace the pain you feel. May our solidarity and our shared hope for a better society represent a flicker of peace in the torment of this time.

With my sincere and personal wishes,

Very Rev Dr David Ranson Diocesan Administrator



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