

Welcome to

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B 25 February 2024

Parish Office:

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Office hours:

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am - 3pm

Parish Priest: Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
Thomas.Kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org

Parish Team:

Secretary:

Antonella Pesci

Pastoral Associate:

Maria Condello

Pastoral.Associate@stjoanofarc.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO):

Tony Mediat

0413 481 039

PSSO@stjoanofarc.org.au

Eucharist:

Weekend:

Saturday evening: 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 6.00pm

*(Check for changes on special
Feast Days)*

Weekdays:

Wednesday & Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.15am

Tuesday evening may be available
for memorial Masses.

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:30pm - 4.50pm

Schools:

SJOA Primary:

Principal: Amanda Gahan

P: 9798 9780

Domremy College:

Principal: Antoinette McGahan

P: 9712 2133



From the Pastor

Connect with God, either again or more intensely, in this Lent. Should you have a vision of God himself communicating with you, that would be amazing! At the transfiguration of Jesus on a mountain top, the selected trio of the disciples, Peter, James, and John, were awe struck (Ref. Mark 9:2-10). It was a God moment like none other. Ecstasy in prayer is not normal. But it is normal to connect with God in prayer. We want to be in touch with God always. St Paul says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17). Before his conversion, Paul as a good Jew prayed the "Shema Israel". The Jews recite the following verse from Deuteronomy (6:4) daily. "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one. And as for you, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." Unlike common understanding of prayer, Shema prayer does not contain any petitions. Instead, it is a praise of God as well as reminding oneself of God's relation to us, humans. Constant praise of God is the way to saturate the life with prayer. This Lent is the time to practise it.

It is not uncommon for people to feel drawn to God and want to get involved with Church, the Body of Christ. Hundreds of enquires gathered in St Mary's Cathedral last Sunday for the formal enrolment in the Book of Elects (RCIA) by the Archbishop Anthony. Recently I had a couple inquiries about becoming Catholic Christians. RCIA program is to help such inquirers. It involves catechesis, hospitality, and liturgical practices. I am seeking interested parishioners to help me with the upcoming RCIA program.

There are parishioners who, due to frailty or illness not able to join the Sunday Communion. I have started visiting some of them last week. I would like to do it at least once a month and organise Ministers to take Holy Communion to them on a weekly basis. You are welcome to nominate names of those who need a visit with the Blessed Sacrament.

I notice that our parish is blessed with a number of very talented young singers and musicians. It is time to think of a Youth Choir at 6 pm Mass on Sundays. Interested young adults and teenagers may leave the contact details with Maria Condello Pastoral.Associate@stjoanofarc.org.au.

God has been good to us. Let us not stop glorifying His name.

Stations of the Cross



From the first Friday of March (1/3) there will be Stations of the Cross starting 6:30pm in the Church. All welcome to this special Lenten devotion.

Our Vision as presented in our Strategic Plan

"...a welcoming and modern Catholic community grounded in faith and spirituality, we want to engage with and build a broader community, particularly among the young and with the families of our local Catholic school as well as providing pastoral outreach to those in need within our Haberfield community and also reach out to deliver broader social justice in our community, our nation and beyond."

*A reading from the book of Genesis
(22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18)*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 115:10, 15-19)

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans (8:31-34)*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 17:5)

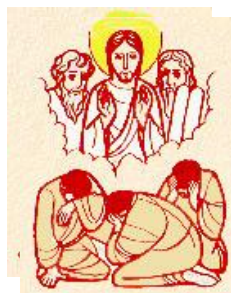
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark (9:2-10)*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



La trasfigurazione occupava un posto importante nella vita e nell'insegnamento della Chiesa primitiva. Ne sono testimonianze le narrazioni dettagliate dei Vangeli e il riferimento presente nella seconda lettera di Pietro.

Per i tre apostoli il velo era caduto: essi stessi avevano visto ed udito. Proprio questi tre apostoli sarebbero stati, più tardi, al Getsemani, testimoni della sofferenza di nostro Signore. L'Incarnazione è al centro della dottrina cristiana. Possono esserci molti modi di

rispondere a Gesù, ma per la Chiesa uno solo è accettabile. Gesù è il Figlio Unigenito del Padre, Dio da Dio, Luce da Luce, Dio vero da Dio vero. La vita cristiana è una contemplazione continua di Gesù Cristo. Nessuna saggezza umana, nessun sapere possono penetrare il mistero della rivelazione. Solo nella preghiera possiamo tendere a Cristo e cominciare a conoscerlo. "È bello per noi stare qui", esclama Pietro, il quale "non sapeva infatti che cosa dire, poiché erano stati presi dallo spavento". La fede pone a tacere la paura, soprattutto la paura di aprire la nostra vita a Cristo, senza condizioni. Tale paura, che nasce spesso dall'eccessivo attaccamento ai beni temporali e dall'ambizione, può impedirvi di sentire la voce di Cristo che ci è trasmessa nella Chiesa.

Dal libro della Genesi (22,1-2.9.10-13.15-18)

In quei giorni, Dio mise alla prova Abramo e gli disse: «Abramo!». Rispose: «Eccomi!». Riprese: «Prendi tuo figlio, il tuo unigenito che ami, Isacco, va' nel territorio di Mòria e offrilo in olocausto su di un monte che io ti indicherò».

Così arrivarono al luogo che Dio gli aveva indicato; qui Abramo costruì l'altare, collocò la legna. Poi Abramo stese la mano e prese il coltello per immolare suo figlio. Ma l'angelo del Signore lo chiamò dal cielo e gli disse: «Abramo, Abramo!». Rispose: «Eccomi!». L'angelo disse: «Non stendere la mano contro il ragazzo e non fargli niente! Ora so che tu temi Dio e non mi hai rifiutato tuo figlio, il tuo unigenito».

Allora Abramo alzò gli occhi e vide un ariete, impigliato con le corna in un cespuglio. Abramo andò a prendere l'ariete e lo offrì in olocausto invece del figlio. L'angelo del Signore chiamò dal cielo Abramo per la seconda volta e disse: «Giuro per me stesso, oracolo del Signore: perché tu hai fatto questo e non hai risparmiato tuo figlio, il tuo unigenito, io ti colmerò di benedizioni e renderò molto numerosa la tua discendenza, come le stelle del cielo e come la sabbia che è sul lido del mare; la tua discendenza si impadronirà delle città dei nemici. Si diranno benedette nella tua discendenza tutte le nazioni della terra, perché tu hai obbedito alla mia voce».

Parola di Dio.

Rendiamo grazie al Signore.

Salmo Responsoriale (Sal 115)

R. Camminerò alla presenza del Signore nella terra dei viventi.

Ho creduto anche quando dicevo:
«Sono troppo infelice».

Agli occhi del Signore è preziosa
la morte dei suoi fedeli. **R.**

Ti prego, Signore, perché sono tuo servo;
io sono tuo servo, figlio della tua schiava:
tu hai spezzato le mie catene.

A te offrirò un sacrificio di ringraziamento
e invocherò il nome del Signore. **R.**

Adempirò i miei voti al Signore
davanti a tutto il suo popolo,
negli atri della casa del Signore,
in mezzo a te, Gerusalemme. **R.**

Dalla lettera di san Paolo apostolo ai Romani (8,31-34)

Fratelli, se Dio è per noi, chi sarà contro di noi? Egli, che non ha risparmiato il proprio Figlio, ma lo ha consegnato per tutti noi, non ci donerà forse ogni cosa insieme a lui? Chi muoverà accuse contro coloro che Dio ha scelto? Dio è colui che giustifica! Chi condannerà? Cristo Gesù è morto, anzi è risorto, sta alla destra di Dio e intercede per noi!

Parola di Dio.

Rendiamo grazie al Signore.

Canto al Vangelo (Mc 9,7)

Lode e onore a te, Signore Gesù!

Dalla nube luminosa, si udì la voce del Padre:

«Questi è il mio Figlio, l'amato: ascoltatelo!».

Lode e onore a te, Signore Gesù!

† Dal Vangelo secondo Marco (9,2-10)

In quel tempo, Gesù prese con sé Pietro, Giacomo e Giovanni e li condusse su un alto monte, in disparte, loro soli.

Fu trasfigurato davanti a loro e le sue vesti divennero splendenti, bianchissime: nessun lavandaio sulla terra potrebbe renderle così bianche. E apparve loro Elia con Mosè e conversavano con Gesù. Prendendo la parola, Pietro disse a Gesù: «Rabbì, è bello per noi essere qui; facciamo tre capanne, una per te, una per Mosè e una per Elia». Non sapeva infatti che cosa dire, perché erano spaventati. Venne una nube che li coprì con la sua ombra e dalla nube uscì una voce: «Questi è il Figlio mio, l'amato: ascoltatelo!». E improvvisamente, guardandosi attorno, non videro più nessuno, se non Gesù solo, con loro.

Mentre scendevano dal monte, ordinò loro di non raccontare ad alcuno ciò che avevano visto, se non dopo che il Figlio dell'uomo fosse risorto dai morti. Ed essi tennero fra loro la cosa, chiedendosi che cosa volesse dire risorgere dai morti.

Parola del Signore.

Lode a te, Signore Gesù Cristo

Writings by the Fathers of the Church

The Law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

From a sermon of Saint Leo the Great, pope

The Lord reveals his glory in the presence of chosen witnesses. His body is like that of the rest of mankind, but he makes it shine with such splendour that his face becomes like the sun in glory, and his garments as white as snow.

The great reason for this transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the cross from the hearts of his disciples, and to prevent the humiliation of his voluntary suffering from disturbing the faith of those who had witnessed the surpassing glory that lay concealed.

With no less forethought he was also providing a firm foundation for the hope of holy Church. The whole body of Christ was to understand the kind of transformation that it would receive as his gift: the members of that body were to look forward to a share in that glory which first blazed out in Christ their head.

The Lord had himself spoken of this when he foretold the splendour of his coming: *Then the just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.* Saint Paul the apostle bore witness to this same truth when he said: *I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not to be compared to the future glory that is to be revealed in us. In another place he says: You are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

This marvel of the transfiguration contains another lesson for the apostles, to strengthen them and lead them into the fullness of knowledge. Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets, appeared with the Lord in conversation with him. This was in order to fulfil exactly, through the presence of these five men, the text which says: *Before two or three witnesses every word is ratified.* What word

could be more firmly established, more securely based, than the word which is proclaimed by the trumpets of both old and new testaments, sounding in harmony, and by the utterances of ancient prophecy and the teaching of the Gospel, in full agreement with each other?

The writings of the two testaments support each other. The radiance of the transfiguration reveals clearly and unmistakably the one who had been promised by signs foretelling him under the veils of mystery. As Saint John says: *The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* In him the promise made through the shadows of prophecy stands revealed, along with the full meaning of the precepts of the law. He is the one who teaches the truth of the prophecy through his presence, and makes obedience to the commandments possible through grace.

In the preaching of the holy Gospel all should receive a strengthening of their faith. No one should be ashamed of the cross of Christ, through which the world has been redeemed.

No one should fear to suffer for the sake of justice; no one should lose confidence in the reward that has been promised. The way to rest is through toil, the way to life is through death. Christ has taken on himself the whole weakness of our lowly human nature. If then we are steadfast in our faith in him and in our love for him, we win the victory that he has won, we receive what he has promised.

When it comes to obeying the commandments or enduring adversity, the words uttered by the Father should always echo in our ears: *This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him.*

Safeguarding Audit



The Australian Catholic Standards Limited (ACSL) visited the Parish on Monday, 12 Feb, to complete the final stage of the child protection and vulnerable adults safeguarding audit.

Two members of ACSL reviewed the parish's safeguarding procedures, processes and records (such as risk assessments).

The general feedback was positive and very reassuring that the safeguarding implementation and the practices put in place are well developed.

Parishes will not receive an individual report however the results of the 33 parishes and 7 church agencies selected for the audit, will be aggregated to form a representation of a whole of Archdiocesan report.

It is reassuring to know that all the safeguarding processes and practices are followed by our volunteers helping make St Joan of Arc a safe parish.

Thank you to all our volunteers.

Tony Mediati

World Day for Grandparents and Elderly to highlight loneliness

By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to life of the Church, the World Day of Grandparents helps the parish to forge bonds between the generations and combat loneliness. Along with families the parish wants to be at the forefront in promoting a culture of encounter to create a space for sharing, listening, to offer support and affection: thus the love Gospel becomes concrete.

Pope Francis established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021. It is held on the fourth Sunday of July, which falls near to the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. This year it is on 28 July.

For full story visit Vatican News

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-02/pope-francis-theme-fourth-world-grandparents-elderly-day.html>

REFLECTION

“There in their presence he was transfigured.”

Have you ever spent ages trying to figure something out, only to have a flash of inspiration just when you have forgotten all about it? Some people call it “a lightbulb moment”. Often it happens when we least expect because lightbulb moments come from the unconscious mind. We cannot bring them on, but we can welcome them all the same. Sudden clarity may lead to a burst of energy or renewed sense of purpose.

The eighteenth-century British engineer James Brindley often had to rely upon inspiration. He was the first of the great canal-builders, pioneering techniques that had never been attempted before. Whenever Brindley met with a problem, he would take to his bed until a solution sprang to mind! One of his lightbulb moments was a simple but brilliant idea called “contouring”. Building canals through hillsides involved earth-moving on a massive scale. It suddenly occurred to him... why cut through the hill when you can go round it?

Lightbulb moments are not confined to engineering. It is possible to have a lightbulb moment about a person. We may suddenly see someone “in a new light”, as they say. It is not that they have changed in any way. More likely, we have by spending more time with them, or listening more attentively to what they are saying.

Peter, James and John saw Jesus in a new light, literally so, when they accompanied him onto the Mount of Transfiguration. Mountaintops in the Bible are places of revelation; of encounter with God. It was on a mountain that Elijah called down fire from heaven; on a mountain that Moses received the Commandments. Coming down from the mountaintop, the face of Moses shone.

People had been speculating whether Jesus might be another Moses... or Elijah ... or even John the Baptist come back to life. The disciples were unsure. Their confidence in Jesus had been shaken recently. His earlier popularity seemed to be waning, and he kept talking about suffering and death. Then, suddenly, here on the mountain, they saw him speaking with Moses and Elijah. He was radiant with light. It was wonderful for their Master to be in such company. Peter even offered to build shelters, assuming the prophets to have come back to life.

It was then that the realisation struck. Jesus’ dazzling appearance was not reflected glory coming from Moses or Elijah: the light was coming out of him through the weave of his clothing! If they had had any doubts about whether Jesus ranked alongside these greatest of prophets, those doubts were now banished! Jesus was far greater: he was divine! Wonder turned to terror as the disciples found themselves enveloped in the bright cloud of God’s presence and heard the Father’s voice bestowing upon their Master a unique authority: “This is my beloved Son, listen to him!” By this time, Moses and Elijah had faded from view. It was hardly surprising... the disciples had eyes for no one but Jesus.

The mountaintop can be a metaphor for any transitional space where things... or people... are seen from a new perspective. We do not have to climb mountains for this to happen. A time of prayerful meditation can offer such a space. This Lent, we may like to spend time alone with Jesus, just as Peter, James

and John did, listening to him as our heavenly Father bids us. The thought may not appeal to everyone. Some might even share the disciples’ terror, for the voice of Jesus can be a challenging one, urging us to forgive and pray for our enemies. It commands us to love, and there may be something inside us that resists. Rather than build Jesus a shelter, some might prefer something more robust: to keep him safely contained!

However, it is not possible to compartmentalise our lives. The bright cloud of God’s glory reaches out to wherever we may be. Today’s Gospel describes how heaven keeps spilling over into our world. In revealing Jesus in his divinity, it calls us, too, to be holy as well as human. We are all sons and daughters of God, all beloved, and though we may pass unnoticed in a crowd, there is in each one of us a little of the glory seen in Jesus. There will be moments when other people notice something different about us; moments, too, when we become suddenly aware that the person next to us is more special than we thought. It all depends how much we let them shine!

The Living Word

Saints Days/Coming Events

March 1 Friday	World Day of Prayer
March 3 Sunday	9am - First Reconciliation Commitment Mass -
March 10 Sunday	Family Mass - 9am (followed by morning tea)
March 9 & 10	Following all Masses - fundraiser for John Berne Scholarship

-SACRAMENTS-

For information on BAPTISM, FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF THE SICK - EUCHARIST TO THE HOUSEBOUND please visit the parish website for details.

Children’s Liturgy Room

Thank you to Amanda Gahan, Grace Mediati and some of the children from St Joan of Arc primary school who tidied and rearranged the Children’s Liturgy room to make it a more inviting and prayerful area to gather on a Sunday. Miss Gahan donated some unwanted furniture from the school for better organization and storage of items.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL



The beginning of the 2024 year has arrived and there is so much excitement around the school. With a new playground, 4 new classrooms and a new library we are looking forward to a fresh new year!

Father Thomas has been to visit the students from K-6 and they are all very keen to learn more about him. In the next few bulletins we will get Father Thomas to attempt to answer some of the questions from the students.

Our Open Days are fast approaching. If you know of anyone wishing to enrol their child for 2025 or 2026, please let them know the dates.



St Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL HABERFIELD
Forward with Courage



The Table is the Place of Intimacy

The table is the place of intimacy. Around the table we discover each other. It's the place where we pray. It's the place where we ask: "How was your day?" It's the place where we eat and drink together and say: "Come on, take some more!" It is the place of old and new stories. It is the place of smiles and tears. The table, too, is the place where distance is most painfully felt. It is the place where the children feel the tension between the parents, where brothers and sisters express their anger and jealousies, where accusations are made, and where plates and cups become instruments of violence. Around the table, we know whether there is friendship and community or hatred and division. Precisely because the table is the place of intimacy for all the members of the household, it is also the place where the absence of that intimacy is most painfully revealed.



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Henri Nouwen Society



Second Sunday of Lent
24 & 25 February



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Recently Deceased:

Grace Walsh, Jack Coleman, Sheila McKeough, Fr Michael Kelly, Fr Kevin Bates SM, Giuseppe Ierardo, Franco Galasso, Pia Rozzi, Pietro Leto, Lorenzo Di Donato.

Please note: Names of **Recently Deceased** will remain for **1 month** period before being removed.

Anniversary:

Elisabetta Areana, Giuseppe Ciliberto, Martin Carey, Concetta Cardillo.

Rest in Peace:

Francesco Giannini, Luigi Criniti, Concetta Lo Surdo, Giustino Tauriello, Antonio Nesci, Beniamino Di Pasquantonio, Antonino Di Girolamo, Nunzia Ferrara, Angelo Testa, Salvatore Giarratano, Joe Di Marti, Mary Attard, Luciano Frisone, Elisa Procopio, Salvatore Procopio, Grazia Scuderi, Saverio Mafodda, Lattari & Aversa families, John & Moya Phillips, Mons Dino Fragiaco, Anna Vella, Conte family, Rugari family, Anna Vella, Tamaso Tonga, Flavia Ciliberto, Giuseppe Terranova, Lucia Terranova, Paolo Quattropiani.

Please note: Names of **Anniversary and Rest in Peace** will remain for **2 weeks** period before being removed.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of

our community: Sam Taufa'ao, Enrico Cuomo, Neville Hill, John Kcoursy, Mary Finios, Rose Uthappa, Asela Savieti, Glen Dixon, Venu Uthappa, Roberto Tramarin, Vittoria Lavecchia, Anna Attard, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Aitken Family, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Buda, Mario Bianco, Jozo Tadic.

In keeping with the Privacy Act names cannot be published in our Parish Bulletin without the permission of the persons themselves or their next of kin. Please specify on your Mass Envelope your intention to include the person's name in this Bulletin or contact the Parish Office on 9798 6657

Names for Recently Deceased, Anniversaries, Rest in Peace and Sick

Fr Thomas has requested change in the listing of names for recently deceased, anniversaries, rest in peace and those sick.

Names on the **Recently Deceased** will remain in the bulletin for a **period of 1 month**.

Names on the **Anniversaries** will remain for a **period of 2 weeks**.

Names on the **Rest in Peace** list will remain for a **period of 2 weeks**. From next week's bulletin names that have been there for a long period of time will be removed. If you would like to have the name remain, please contact Antonella - 9798 6657 or admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

Names for those who are sick. How long the names of the sick will remain in the bulletin depends on the advice we receive from the family.

Please contact Maria Condello via email or phone - Pastoral.Associate@stjoanofarc.org.au

Thanks Maria

Sacraments 2024

Enrolments for all Sacraments now open!

The google form for each Sacrament can be located on the parish website -

<https://www.stjoanofarc.org.au/>

under the tab "Sacraments 2024". All forms have a closing date for enrolment. The week after the closing date I will be in touch with details about your ceremony preference.

Please take note of the minimum year grade your child must have for eligibility for the relevant Sacrament and be baptised.

Reconciliation: Year 2 or above

Confirmation: Year 6 or above

Holy Communion: Year 3 or above

The relevant dates for the Sacraments are below and more details will be provided to parents/guardians with their resource packages.

Reconciliation

- Commitment Mass - **Sunday 3rd March** (9am)
- Gathering dates **Wednesdays 13th March** (7pm), **20th March** (7pm) & **3rd April** (7pm)
- Celebration - **Tuesday 9th April** (5pm & 7pm)

Confirmation

- Commitment Mass - **Sunday 5th May** (9am)
- Session gatherings **Wednesdays 15th May** - 7pm; **29th May** (7pm); **12th June** (7pm); **21st June** (7pm)
- Retreat day (for the children) - **Friday 21st June**.
- Celebration - **Sunday 23rd June** (11am & 2:30pm)

Holy Communion

- Commitment Mass - **Sunday 13th October** (9am)
- Session gatherings - **Wednesdays 16th October** (7pm); **23rd October** (7pm); **6th November** (7pm)
- Retreat Day (for the children) - **Friday 15th November**
- Celebration - **Sunday 17th & 24th November** (11am)

If you have any further questions please contact Maria Condello -

Pastoral.Associate@stjoanofarc.org.au

Right to Life Campaign

Oppose telehealth use for assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Please contact the Prime Minister: Hon A Albanese MP and Federal Attorney General: Hon M Dreyfus KC MP .

Key Message: DO NOT ALTER the current law which prevents doctors using telehealth for assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Refer to flyer in foyer for more information.

Reflection on Mark 9:2-10

Scriptural context – Not quite

Throughout the gospel of Mark, it is important to look at the stories that lie either side of important events to pick up the subtlety of the gospel writer's message. In this instance, the passage that immediately follows the Transfiguration is a story of the disciples trying unsuccessfully to heal a boy and Jesus having to intervene. It reinforces the message of the mountaintop in which the disciples still only partially understand Jesus' purpose and presence. They still haven't fully mastered who Jesus is and so they have not fully mastered the ability to heal.

Have you thought? Mountaintop Moments

Throughout the Bible there are instances of important encounters with God on mountaintops. Even this week's first reading, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, occurs on a mountaintop. It is not the potential sacrifice, but the new relationship between God and Abraham that is a mountaintop moment. In modern language, we often speak about 'peak experiences' – moments of exceptional clarity, intense emotion or extraordinary accomplishment. Sometimes, like Peter, we are tempted to try to remain 'in the moment' rather than using the peak experience as a motivator for when we go back down the mountain to our normal (if perhaps changed) existence.

Gospel Focus – A new vision

Part of Peter's mistake is to see the appearance of Elijah and Moses as a confirmation that Jesus has come to continue the work of the great prophets of the past. Rather than placing Jesus in the old tradition of the prophets, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, together with the voice of God, is to endorse the new direction that Jesus' ministry is taking. Jesus' new vision for the world is informed by the relationships forged between God and the prophets of the past, but it is a vision of a completely different way of relating to God: a much more personal relationship that calls us to respond from the heart to those around us.



World Day of Prayer 2024

Pray for Palestine



You are invited to join us as we host this

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Friday 1st March 2024

Service 10am Morning Tea 11am

St David's Uniting Church

51 Dalhousie Street, Haberfield

For more information please call Rev Joy 0403789883

Welcome & Events Committee

The Committee will host its first fundraiser for our scholarship student at John Berne School on the weekend of **9th & 10th March** following all Masses.

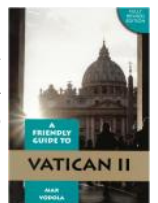
We are looking for some bakers or preserves & jam makers who might like to contribute.

If anyone can help, please contact **Rhonda on 0411 122 641 or 9798 8273.**

We are happy to hear from any Parishioners.

Vatican II Book

A reminder: If you borrowed this book and have finished reading it to please return it to the basket in the foyer.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Will commence Friday 8th March after 9:15am Mass.

All welcome