

Welcome

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield



EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 2 MARCH 2025

Parish Office:

97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW
2045

P: 02 9798 6657

E: admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

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Office hours:

Tuesday—Friday 9am-3pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org

Parish Team:

Secretary: Paula Cheng

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO):

Tony Mediati

0413 481 039

PSSO@stjoanofarc.org.au

Eucharist:

Weekend:

Saturday (Vigil): 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 6.00pm

(Check for changes on special
Feast Days)

Weekdays:

Wednesday: 9.00am

Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.15am

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

Lenten Fast is an Education for Peace and Justice

We begin Lent with the Ash Wednesday ceremony on March 5. These forty days of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving prepare us for the great Feast of Easter. While the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday exceeds forty days, the Lenten fast itself lasts only for forty. This is because not all days in Lent are designated for fasting—Sundays are days of celebration, not abstinence.

The liturgy leading up to the celebration of the mystery of the Resurrection begins on Holy Thursday. These three sacred days—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—form the Easter Triduum. When we exclude the Triduum and the Sundays of Lent, the days of fasting total exactly forty.

The Significance of the Number Forty

The number forty holds profound biblical symbolism:

- Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry (Matthew 4:1-2).
- The Israelites wandered through the Sinai Desert for forty years before entering the Promised Land.
- It rained for forty days and nights during the time of Noah, causing the great flood.
- Moses fasted for forty days and nights on Mount Sinai before receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28).
- Elijah fasted for forty days as he journeyed to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8).

The Meaning of Fasting

In contrast to modern views, which often frame fasting as a means of self-discipline or personal betterment, Scripture emphasizes fasting as an act of solidarity with the poor and a way to correct societal injustices. One of the most powerful biblical teachings on fasting appears in Isaiah 58:6-7, where the prophet challenges superficial fasting and calls for genuine righteousness:

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”

Here, fasting is not simply about personal deprivation but about using what is saved to help those in need. True fasting, according to Isaiah, involves acts of charity, justice, and care for the oppressed. This is why **Project Compassion** is an integral part of our Lenten observance.

The tradition of fasting as a means of spiritual transformation is also evident in Nehemiah 9:1-3, where the people fasted, confessed their sins, and renewed their commitment to justice. Similarly, the people of Nineveh, after hearing Jonah’s call to repentance, fasted and turned away from their evil ways (Jonah 3:5-10). Following this tradition, a true Lenten observance should lead to personal renewal. To aid this transformation, our parish offers special Lenten prayers, a Lenten Mission, and the Sacrament of Confession through Lent 2025.

Lent, an Education for Peace and Justice

The deeply interconnected three pillars of Lent - prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – provide a religious education that our faith practice is inclusive of the poor and comprehensive. Adult Catholics are to educate the younger generation on how to transform our hearts for Peace and Justice, deepen the faith, and bring the whole family closer to Christ.



First Reading Sirach 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on
the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. (R)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

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

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on
imperishability, and when this mortal nature has
put on immortality, then the words of scripture
will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory.
Death, where is your victory? Death, where is
your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin
gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God
for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus
Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit
defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work
always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be
labouring in vain.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Philippians 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one
blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into
a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher;
the fully trained disciple will always be like his
teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your
brother's eye and never notice the plank in your
own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother,
let me take out the splinter that is in your eye,"
when you cannot see the plank in your own?
Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye
first, and then you will see clearly enough to take
out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit,
nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit.
For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people
do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes
from brambles. A good man draws what is good
from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad
man draws what is bad from the store of
badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills
his heart.'

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ"

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover
the cure for their wounds through forgiveness,
rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their
differences.

April

For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies
will not replace human relationships, will
respect the dignity of the person, and will help
us face the crises of our times.

Prima lettura Sir 27,5-8

Non lodare nessuno prima che abbia parlato.

Dal libro del Siràcide

Quando si scuote un setaccio restano i rifiuti; così quando un uomo discute, ne appaiono i difetti.

I vasi del ceramista li mette a prova la fornace, così il modo di ragionare è il banco di prova per un uomo.

Il frutto dimostra come è coltivato l'albero, così la parola rivela i pensieri del cuore.

Non lodare nessuno prima che abbia parlato, poiché questa è la prova degli uomini.

Parola di Dio

Salmo responsoriale Sal 91

È bello rendere grazie al Signore.

È bello rendere grazie al Signore e cantare al tuo nome, o Altissimo, annunciare al mattino il tuo amore, la tua fedeltà lungo la notte.

Il giusto fiorirà come palma, crescerà come cedro del Libano; piantati nella casa del Signore, fioriranno negli atri del nostro Dio.

Nella vecchiaia daranno ancora frutti, saranno verdi e rigogliosi, per annunciare quanto è retto il Signore, mia roccia: in lui non c'è malvagità.

Seconda lettura 1Cor 15,54-58

Ci ha dato la vittoria per mezzo di Gesù Cristo.

Dalla prima lettera di san Paolo apostolo ai Corinzi

Fratelli, quando questo corpo corruttibile si sarà vestito d'incorruttibilità e questo corpo mortale d'immortalità, si compirà la parola della Scrittura:

«La morte è stata inghiottita nella vittoria.

Dov'è, o morte, la tua vittoria?

Dov'è, o morte, il tuo pungiglione?».

Il pungiglione della morte è il peccato e la forza del peccato è la Legge. Siano rese grazie a Dio, che ci dà la vittoria per mezzo del Signore nostro Gesù Cristo!

Perciò, fratelli miei carissimi, rimanete saldi e irremovibili, progredendo sempre più nell'opera del Signore, sapendo che la vostra fatica non è vana nel Signore.

Parola di Dio

Canto al Vangelo Fil 2,15.16

Alleluia, alleluia.

Risplendete come astri nel mondo, tenendo salda la parola di vita.

Alleluia.

Vangelo Lc 6,39-45

La bocca esprime ciò che dal cuore sovrabbonda.

Dal Vangelo secondo Luca

In quel tempo, Gesù disse ai suoi discepoli una parabola:

«Può forse un cieco guidare un altro cieco? Non cadranno tutti e due in un fosso? Un discepolo non è più del maestro; ma ognuno, che sia ben preparato, sarà come il suo maestro.

Perché guardi la pagliuzza che è nell'occhio del tuo fratello e non ti accorgi della trave che è nel tuo occhio? Come puoi dire al tuo fratello:

“Fratello, lascia che tolga la pagliuzza che è nel tuo occhio”, mentre tu stesso non vedi la trave che è nel tuo occhio? Ipocrita! Togli prima la trave dal tuo occhio e allora ci vedrai bene per togliere la pagliuzza dall'occhio del tuo fratello.

Non vi è albero buono che produca un frutto cattivo, né vi è d'altronde albero cattivo che produca un frutto buono. Ogni albero infatti si riconosce dal suo frutto: non si raccolgono fichi dagli spini, né si vendemmia uva da un rovo.

L'uomo buono dal buon tesoro del suo cuore trae fuori il bene; l'uomo cattivo dal suo cattivo tesoro trae fuori il male: la sua bocca infatti esprime ciò che dal cuore sovrabbonda».

Parola del Signore

Altar Servers Training

Boys and girls who have received First Holy Communion and are not Students of St Joan of Arc School are welcome to apply for Altar Server training by sending an email to the parish office. Students of St Joan of Arc School are recruited and trained through the School.



Eighth Sunday Year C, Luke 6:39-45

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Disciples or Mask-Wearers?

In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus.

He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality. For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts *our* vision. We should not rush to judgment.

The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, Who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22)

This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God.

Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'

We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.

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Understanding the Gospel, Luke 6:39-45

Gospel Focus – Good from Good

'The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good.' What makes a person good? Is it that they have had good things happen in their life? There are plenty of people who have had good things in their life but they remain cynical and spiteful people. Similarly there are plenty who have had the hardest of circumstances yet goodness constantly flows from them. It's not the external influences but what we do with them that determines whether we are nurturing 'good treasure' or harbouring 'evil treasure'. This is not just sugary sweetness but a deliberate decision to be a person of hope.

Scriptural Context – Three texts; one lesson

Today's gospel is made up of three separate teachings of Jesus that have been put together by the gospel writer to convey a particular message. When taken together, the three teachings all shed light on the way believers influence one another in community. It is a call to witness to one another through actions as well as words. Before we seek to teach another we must ensure we have adequately learned the lesson ourselves. We must be self-appraising before we critique another. Finally, our actions towards one another are a reflection of our intentions; good actions come from goodness of the heart.

Living the Gospel – You hypocrite

It is often argued that it is hypocrisy to attend Mass on Sundays and be 'holy' in that circumstance but to then be less than perfect during the rest of the week. This is often rolled out as a convenient excuse for not attending Mass at all: everyone who goes to Mass is a hypocrite. Of course, attending Mass does not imply perfection. It is in fact a recognition of imperfection and the need to come together as a community and to seek God's help to have another go at trying to get it a bit more right in the coming week.

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FROM THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH

An upright and honest man who feared God and shunned evil. The Moral Reflections on Job by Pope St Gregory the Great

Some people are so simple that they do not know what uprightness is. Theirs is not the true simplicity of the innocent: they are as far from that as they are far from rising to the virtue of uprightness. As long as they do not know how to guard their steps by walking in uprightness, they can never remain innocent merely by walking in simplicity. This is why St Paul warns his disciples *I hope that you are also wise in what is good, and innocent of what is bad* but also *Brothers, you are not to be childish in your outlook, though you can be babies as far as wickedness is concerned*. Thus Christ our Truth enjoins his disciples with the words *Be cunning as serpents and yet as harmless as doves*. In giving them this admonition, he had to join the two together, so that both the simplicity of the dove might be instructed by the craftiness of the serpent, and the craftiness of the serpent might be attempered by the simplicity of the dove.

That is why the Holy Spirit has manifested his presence to mankind, not only in the form of a dove but also in the form of fire. For by the dove simplicity is indicated, and by fire, zeal. So he is manifested in a dove and in fire, because those who are full of the Spirit have the mildness of simplicity, but catch fire with zeal of uprightness against the offences of sinners.

An upright and honest man who feared God and shunned evil. Undoubtedly whoever longs for the eternal country lives sincerely and uprightly: perfect in practice, and right in faith, sincere in the good that he does in this lower state, right in the high truths which he minds in his inner self. For there are some who are not sincere in the good actions that they do, looking not to be rewarded within themselves but to win favour from others. Hence it is well said by a certain wise man, *Woe to the sinner who follows two ways*. A sinner goes two ways when an action he performs belongs to God but what he aims at in his thought belongs to the world.

It is well said, *who feared God and shunned evil*, for the holy Church of the elect starts on the path of simplicity and of uprightness from fear but completes that path in charity. When, from the love of God, she feels an unwillingness to sin, then she may *shun evil*. But when she is still doing good deeds from fear then she is not entirely *shunning evil*: the fact is that she would have sinned if she could have sinned without being punished.

So then: when Job is said to have *feared God*, it is rightly related that he also *shunned evil*. Fear comes first and charity follows later; and when that has happened, the offence which is left behind in the mind is trodden underfoot by the desires of the heart.

Nominate a Parishioner

The parish exists because of the people of faith who continue to come together for worship and share their God experience. Each of these parishioners has a story to tell.

The Faith Formation Group is working on interviewing nominated parishioners and collecting their stories. We would like you to nominate one or more names of parishioners to be interviewed. There is a blue box and blue cards near the Baptismal Font. Please use the blue cards to write your nomination and place them in the blue box. Alternatively, you can contact the parish office by email:
admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

World Day of Prayer 2025 Cook Islands

"I made you wonderful"



Date and Time Friday, 7th March 2025
Morning Tea- 9.45am Mother Teresa's court
Service- 10.30am

Location St Joan of Arc church Haberfield

Contact Grace 0452 513 017
Beatrice 0425 309 699

Recently Deceased: Adam Messih, Paul Ponticello, Bartolo Ficarra, Salvatore Aiello, Pasqualina Tomassetti, Maria Italia Barbati, Rosetta Ursino

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

Anniversary: Concetta Cardillo, Giuseppe Arena, Francesconicola Arena, Raffaella Arena, Lucy The

Rest in Peace: Giuseppe & Lucia Amoroso, Gaspero & Carmela Amoroso, Antonio Pietro, Catania Velasi, Antonio Lagana

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:

Silvana Cocilova, Vittoria Colantuono, Enrico Cuomo, Neville Hill, John Kcoury, Mary Finios, Glen Dixon, Roberto Tramarin, Vittoria Lavecchia, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Buda, Mario Bianco.



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 5813 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.

Enrolment now opens for the Sacramental Program 2025

Please visit the Parish website, www.stjoanofarc.org.au to enrol your child/children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation programs using the online forms.

Closing date for enrolment is 3pm, Tuesday 1 April 2025.

There will not be any Reconciliation Program in 2025.

If you have any further questions please contact office by phone on 9798 6657 or by email admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

Do you have an hour or more to spare and help out at the Parish office?

Paula, our Parish Secretary, is looking for a volunteer to assist her with general tasks in the office. No prior experience required. Parish Office hours are Tuesday – Friday 9am -3pm.

If available to help, please contact Fr Thomas by email, admin@stjoanofarc.org.au.

*Palm Sunday cross making with
Belinda Bayssari 10th April*



Belinda Bayssari is looking for parents, carers, Auntie's Uncles, Grandparents and parishioners to join in on a Lenten reflection and craft activity to make Palm Sunday Crosses for Palm Sunday Mass'. This is a fun way of preparing for Easter and to spend some time with others over craft, tea, coffee and morning/afternoon tea.

Thursday 10th April 2025
10am - 12pm OR 1pm - 3pm

St Joan of Arc Church Haberfield - Liturgy room.
Please register by calling or messaging
Belinda Bayssari on 0421 669 752



Sydney
Catholic
Schools
Week

Enrolling now for **Year 7 2027**

OPEN DAY

Sunday 9 March
11.00am-3.00pm





Ash Wednesday, 5 March

There will be two parish Masses on Ash Wednesday – 9.15AM & 7 PM. Both Masses include ash ceremony.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lent. Catholics are obligated to fast and abstain from eating meat on this day. More instruction available in the Lenten Penance by the Archbishop.



You are welcome to bring dry palms to be burned on Ash Wednesday. The burning will take place in Mother Theresa courtyard, before the morning Mass. The palms to be burned should reach the church before 9.10 am on Wednesday.

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross prayed in the Church @6.30 pm on Fridays of the Lent. It will be a half an hour devotion, and it will be followed by Confessions for those who want to.

Lenten Penance

Printed copies of Archbishop's directive on Lenten Penance are available at the entrance of the Church (Foyer) for parishioners to collect.

ADORATION, ROSARY & CONFESSION

ST JOAN OF ARC CHURCH **2:20 - 3:20**
 Students, parents and parishioners 1st Wednesday of every Month

St Joan Of Arc Church, Haberfield



Weekly Diary 3 - 9 Mar 2025

Date	Time	To note
Wednesday, 5 Mar <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9:15 am	Mass, School attending
	7:00 pm	Mass
Thursday, 6 Mar	9:00 am	Mass
	2:00 pm	Charismatic Prayer Group
Friday, 7 Mar	9:15 am	Mass
	9:45 am	World Day of Prayer Morning tea
	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross & Confessions
Saturday, 8 Mar	10:00 am	SJA Family Fair @ school ground
	4:15 pm - 4:45pm	Confession
	5:00 pm	Mass
Sunday, 9 Mar	9:00 am	Mass
	6:00 pm	Mass

SJA Family Fair - Saturday 8th March

The W&EC will hold a stall at the Fair to be held in the SJA school grounds from 10am till 3pm.

We are looking for anyone who could bake for us, make jams or provide knitted goods for us to sell.

All money raised will go towards our scholarship fund to again sponsor an Indigenous student in 2025 at John Berne.

Please talk to **Rhonda (0411122641)** or **Carmel (0407455526)** if you can help.

Thanks in anticipation and don't forget to come on the day for a fun time.



Annual Fashion Parade – W&EC

We will once again be holding our annual Fashion Parade on **Saturday 22nd March** at **1pm** in the **SJA school Hall**.

Cost remains at \$10 each, and we will provide delicious food and drink, and of course a great variety of clothes in a wide size range, as well as jewellery and bags.

Tickets will be available on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/fashion-parade-tickets-1234221262019?aff=oddtcreator> or from the Piety Stall after weekend Masses **from 8th February**. Come and join us for a great social afternoon!!



LET YOUR WILL BE DONE

not mine

Limited copies of Lenten Prayer books available at the entrance of the church. Please take a copy home to pray together as a family or as a group of friends. Use it as a guide for a Lenten Retreat at home.



Lenten Companion 2025

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

New Website

The parish website needs reworking. A new website is being designed now. It is in the preliminary stages. Should you have any comments on how to improve the website, you may either speak with Fr Thomas or contact the parish office by email: admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

FAMILY FAIR

SATURDAY, 8TH MARCH

10AM TO 3PM



ST JOAN OF ARC PRIMARY SCHOOL
88 DALHOUSIE ST, HABERFIELD

HAIR BRAIDING & FACE PAINTING
CHOOSE FROM THE VARIETY OF FOOD ON OFFER!
COFFEE CART ON THE PREMISES
BRING YOUR PET TO JOIN OUR PET PARADE!
RIDES FOR THE KIDS
CHOCOLATE WHEEL & AMAZING PRIZES!
2ND HAND BOOK & TOY STALL
WONDERFUL STALLS!
KIDS CRAFTS & GAMES
YUMMY GELATO!
CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
WITH SPECIAL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES
& MUCH MORE!



WITH A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



Join now!

St Joan of Arc Playgroup

9:15AM WEDNESDAY'S



Join Miss Belinda and friends during school term's

Our Fun-filled, Play-based learning and educational content fosters cognitive, social, and emotional development in young children. Through interactive games, stories, and creative projects, children learn essential skills while having fun within their future school's environment.

Bring your water bottle, morning tea and hat.

Contact Miss Belinda to join:

0421 669 752
belinda.baysari@syd.catholic.edu.au
www.stjahaberfield.syd.catholic.edu.au

CONTACT MISS BELINDA TO JOIN TODAY!!

AT ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
88 DALHOUSIE ST, HABERFIELD