



Blessed Sacrament Congregation Newsletter

ministering at

**St Francis' Church
Melbourne**

March 2019

**St Peter Julian's Church
Sydney**

Volume 2

Our Arduous Lenten Journey

by Tony McSweeney SSS

"Why did we keep silent for so long?" Nigerian Sister, Veronica Openibo, asked the 200 bishops gathered with Pope Francis for the four-day abuse summit in Rome last month. "We must acknowledge," she continued, "that our mediocrity, hypocrisy and complacency have brought us to this disgraceful and scandalous place we find ourselves as a church."



If she used "we" rather than "you", her message was no less clear. One wondered how powerful clerics were feeling as they listened to her impassioned words, voicing a question so many faithful have been angrily asking.

It is a salutary moment for us as church to begin our Lenten journey signed with the ashes of repentance.

Reactions to the meeting have ranged from cautious approval to scathing disillusionment. If it was something very new for a woman to be allowed to give representatives of the entire world-wide hierarchy a stunning dressing down, the way forward from the tragic mess is by no means simple and straightforward. Opinions will continue to be passionately divided.

Lent provides an opportune time for us to ponder and process the turbulent mix of feelings and questions seething within us. Though we ask, "What can I do?", the following of Jesus teaches that we are never totally powerless. Think of his long nights of prayer, bringing to his Father his own frustration and anger at the constant rebuffs he suffered as he condemned the abusive exercises of power by the religious leaders of his time.

Each of us must take a personal stance. Many have left our company in disgust, others are drifting in pained bewilderment. When Pope Francis once invited all to do penance he was greeted at times with indignation: "What? Some of our shepherds misbehave abominably and you ask *us* to do penance!" Yet there is a sense in which the invitation is valid. For Jesus paid an appalling price for the guilt

of others. Here is the hardest challenge of the gospel.

In all spheres of life, the mistakes we fail to learn from will be repeated. President of the Australian episcopal conference, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, has recounted the long and difficult learning process he underwent, including many hours of listening to victims. It had to move through pain and outrage to insight. "It's been a journey from seeing abuse as a sin to seeing it as a crime and then finally seeing it as involving a culture."

Changing an institutional mentality, a centuries old culture, is an arduous challenge since it involves social structures, models of behaviour, systems of privilege and protection – all indiscriminately tagged as sacred – and especially an entrenched mindset. Transparency and accountability can be legislated; but they must also become a practice.

Another female voice resounded powerfully at the Rome meeting. Vastly experienced Mexican journalist, Valentina Alazkrati, admonished the assembly to no longer play the "ostrich" as she identified the role played by "money, compensation and gifts" in the decades-long protection of certain high-profile perpetrators.

Turning to the Pope and addressing him as "Brother Francis," Sister Veronica asked, "How could the clerical Church have kept silent, covering these atrocities?" At the same time, she thanked him for humbly admitting his own errors of judgment in defending guilty clerics. That too is part of the way forward.

The Apostle Paul provides a deeply pertinent pointer: "All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead." (Phil 3: 10-11)



ST PETER JULIAN'S, HAYMARKET

2019 Bishop Manning Lecture- The Catholic Community in the 21st Century

Where have we been? Where are we now? Where are we going? Who's going with us?

Listen to priest, academic, author and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn, **Father Anthony Percy** speak on this topic of critical importance to the future of our Church.

Named in honour of the *Emeritus Bishop of Parramatta, Most Rev Kevin Manning*, this annual lecture is hosted by the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations

Date: Thursday 21 March 2019

Time: 6pm - 8:30pm

Where: Kirribilli Club (Grand Ballroom),
11 Harbourview Crescent,
Lavender Bay.

Cost: Free

Registrations essential:
ccercatholic.org.au/register

ST PETER JULIAN'S

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Sunday:

9.30am, 11.00am (Chinese),
12.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.00pm (Korean)

Monday to Friday:

7.30am, 12.10pm, 5.30pm

Saturday:

12.10pm & Vigil at 5.30pm

Public Holidays: 12.10pm

1st Sunday:

1.30pm (Filipino)

1st & 3rd Saturday:

2.15pm (Indonesian)



Holy Trinity Community (Adoration)

2nd & 4th Saturdays at 3.00pm.

Mass of Anointing

every 1st Saturday (Feb-Dec) at 12.10pm.

Associates of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation,

2nd Saturday of the month at 12.10pm.

Life in the Eucharist every 4th Saturday at 1.30pm.

St Peter Julian's Altar Auxiliary 12.10pm Thursdays.

St Peter Julian's Church

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Email: haymarket@blessedsacrament.com.au

Website: www.stpeterjuliansydney.com

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES FOR ST PETER JULIAN'S CHURCH

Ash Wednesday—6 March

7.30am, 11.10am, 12.10pm, 1.10pm and 5.30pm

Ashes distributed at all Masses.

Reconciliation Times:

10.00am to 12 noon and 4.00pm to 5.00pm.

Mount St Benedict Centre Lenten Reflection Day

The **Mount St Benedict Centre** invites you to its last ever Lenten Reflection day prior to the closure of the Centre. The day will include input, time for reflection and conversation on scripture and the themes of Lent in conversation with contemporary issues and spirituality. There will also be a concluding ritual and prayer which will acknowledge and celebrate the history of the Centre as a place of peace, spiritual formation and hospitality.

Date: Saturday 9 March 10am - 3pm

Facilitator: Catherine McCahill sgs and
Sr Patty Fawcner sgs

Cost: \$30.00, Morning Tea provided; BYO lunch

Bookings by: Monday 4th March

email: mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au

Phone: (02) 8752 5390

Where: 449D Pennant Hills Road.
Entrance off Hull Rd.

Town Hall Housing Assembly

The Archdiocese of Sydney is joining with our partners Vinnies (NSW), Sydney Alliance and the Everybody's Home Campaign and 2000 citizens to advocate for a fairer affordable housing system in Sydney. This will be the largest event for affordable housing that our city has ever seen and it would be great to have as many Catholic parishioners there as possible. If you would like to attend, please register, indicating that you are representing the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney:

<https://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/housing>.

If you would like more information or to organise a group from your parish to attend, please contact the Justice and Peace Office on **(02) 93078465** or jpinfo@sydneycatholic.org

Date: Thursday 14th March 2019

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Venue: Sydney Town Hall

ST FRANCIS', MELBOURNE

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES FOR ST FRANCIS' 6 March 2019

Masses: 8am, 11 am, 12 noon*, 1.05pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

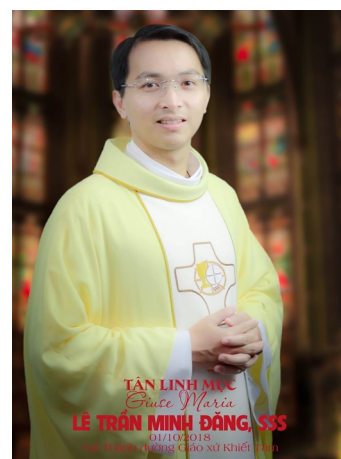
*We welcome **Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli** as the Presider at the 12 noon Mass.

Reconciliation: 11.30am—2pm and 4 pm—5.15pm.



The Blessed Sacrament Congregation welcomes **Fr Peter Tong SSS (left) and Fr Dang Le SSS (right)** into the community at St Francis'.

Both *Fr Peter* and *Fr Dang* were ordained late last year in Vietnam and have transferred to the Australian Province for their post-graduate studies in Theology at the University of Divinity.



ANNOINTING MASS at St Francis'

The annual Anointing Mass for Seniors will be held on

Monday 18 March at 10.30am.

Morning tea will follow in the Pastoral Centre.

NOTE: This Mass replaces the usual 11am Mass.



FRIDAYS IN LENT

The Blessed Sacrament Community at St Francis' invites you to join them in Adoration each Friday during Lent.

Evening Prayer is held at 6:00pm and Adoration follows, concluding with Night Prayer at 6:50pm. *All are welcome to spend some reflective time with the Community.*

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



Lenten Bible Study sessions will be held in the Pastoral Centre on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings during Lent. (The Wednesday evening sessions are a repeat of the Tuesday morning sessions.)

Sessions begin on **Tuesday 5 March at 9:45am; & Wednesday 6 March at 6:30pm.**

ST FRANCIS'

MASS TIMES

Sunday

6:00pm **Sat. (Vigil)**, 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am (Choral), 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:00pm

Monday-Thursday

7:30am, 11:00am, 12:05pm, 1:05pm, 5:30pm

Friday

7:30am, 11:00am, 12:00pm, 1:05pm, 5:30pm

Saturday

8:00am, 11:00am, 12:05pm

Public Holidays

8:00am, 11:00am, 12:05pm, 5:30pm

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday - Thursday

11:30am-2:00pm, 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Friday

7:30am - 8:30am

11:30am - 2:00pm, 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Saturday

10:30am-12:15pm, 4:00pm - 5:15pm

No Confessions on Sundays, Mondays and Public Holidays



A priest is usually available for consultation Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Pastoral Centre except on Holy Days and Public Holidays.

Morning Prayer of the Church (Sung)

Monday-Friday at 8:00am

Evening Prayer of the Church (Sung)

Mon-Fri at 6:00pm

Sundays at 5:30pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Eucharistic Benediction

Fridays at 12:30pm

Tertiary Students Mass & Youth Choir

1st Sunday of month at 6.00pm

Mass Signed for the Deaf, 2nd Sunday of month at 1.30pm

Filipino Community Mass, 2nd Sunday of month at 2.30pm

Mass for People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2nd Tuesday of month, 5.30pm

Indonesian Family Mass, 3rd Sunday of month at 2.30pm

St Francis' Church,

326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne,

Tel: (03) 9663 2495 Fax: (03) 9663 2817

Email: stfrancis@blessedsacrament.com.au

Website: www.stfrancismelbourne.com

THE WHAT AND WHY OF LITURGY

What is a Mass Stipend? - Luke Thorpe SSS



A Mass stipend is an offering of money to a priest for the intention of offering a Mass for the donor. Sounds a bit complicated or rather like buying a Mass doesn't it? The Church teaches that nobody receives any more graces or special favours for having a Mass said explicitly for their intentions; the Eucharist is offered for all, this is why it is wrong for a priest to announce at the start of Mass what the "special intention" is or for whom the Mass is being offered. It is offered for everyone. Stipends or offerings are a rather complicated issue. You cannot "pay" for the Eucharist, or any sacrament, in fact it is condemned outright by the Church and called simony. Mass stipends, or offerings originated with people who asked a priest to remember a particular person or intention at a Eucharist. Remember, the Eucharist is the highest form of prayer so you are really just asking for a priest to pray in a special way for someone or an intention. The offering was made as a way of supporting the priest, a donation for food or other needs.

The Church looks at stipends only as a generous gift to the priest or the institution who carries out the request. Grace from the Eucharist comes to all of us, whether or not we pay a Mass stipend. The problem arises when people look at the Eucharist as a commodity or a thing instead of an action of Christ and the whole Church. Prior to the Reformation, abuses occurred when people thought they could quantify grace and buy Masses. Many religious communities and churches became incredibly rich from stipends.

Pope Francis along with many theologians has offered a critique of stipends saying that redemption is free. In poorer countries, there may often be a need to support priests through stipends as priests do not often receive financial support any other way. In religious communities such as ours, the stipend does not go to the priest but rather the Congregation. Mass stipends are certainly difficult to comprehend fully and much work needs to better understand the practice. You cannot buy more grace with a greater donation, likewise, those who cannot afford any offering are still prayed for. The suggestion for an offering in the archdiocese of Melbourne is \$10.00. But remember, you can't quantify grace you are simply supporting the work of the priest.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION @ St Francis'

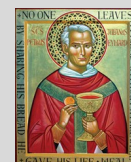
Are you (or do you know someone) interested in becoming a Catholic?

Our 2019 Adult Faith Formation will begin on
Sunday 3rd March at 12:30pm
in the Pastoral Centre.

For further information please contact
the Pastoral Centre or
Fr Tony McSweeney SSS on
(03) 9663 2495.

EUCCHARISTIC ASSOCIATES

Meetings held on the last Sunday of each month, 2:00pm - 4:00pm in the St Francis' Pastoral Centre. For information, contact **Barbara Shea on 0431 012 890** or Reception (03) 9663 2495



MONDAY PRAYER GROUP



This is a spiritual family that helps each other overcome adversity through prayer and fellowship. Join the Group each Monday evening in the Pastoral Centre to pray for your intentions and those of others. Prayer commences at 6.30pm.



Art at St Francis' nature's sanctuary Stephanie Jane Rampton

Exhibition: 12 March to 16 April

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 9.00 to 5.00
Sunday 9.00 to 3.00

Art at St Francis'
326 Lonsdale St, Melbourne 3000
03 9663 2495
Email: bwremmen@bigpond.net.au