

Central West  
Catholic Cluster of Parishes

# Sunday Bulletin

Incorporating the communities of Alpha, Aramac, Barcaldine, Bedourie, Blackall, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Jericho, Jundah, Longreach, Morella, Muttaborra, Stonehenge, Tambo and Yaraka



**Priests in solidum**

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## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A 4 / 5 April 2020

Procession: Matthew 21:1-11  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalm: Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 2:6-11  
Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

**Being Humble.** Jesus Christ shows us how to be humble today. So humble, that he "emptied himself". This brought on entry into Jerusalem, passion, death, burial, and risen life. How will I, an empty and humble self, do some mercy work this Holy Week?

*Written by Eliot Kapitan*

### Something to mull (think) about.

Throughout the Passion narrative, we see Jesus responding to people in a variety of ways... even when they treat him badly.

Over this week, mull how you react to different people in different circumstances. Ask the Spirit to enlighten you as to how you can enrich the love and care you have for them.

*Written by Sr Kym Harris*

**We pray for our sick:** Colin & Cecily Quinn, Kelly Struthers, Hazel Larcombe, Daphne Tilse, Allan Wills, Shirley Roberts, Leila Harvey, Melit Furneaux, Marcia Webster, Keith Lacey, Peter Kerrigan, Pat Lynch, Noel Rose, Aaron Murdoch, Gail Prow, Nola Head, Vera Stephens, Di Harris, Jane Dickson, Wayne Gatehouse, Rob Shrimp, Rob Paterson, Todd Austin and Mary Coleman.

**We pray for the recently deceased,** especially Malcolm Dyer and Darrel Rogers.

## Diocesan News

### Holy Week & Easter Ceremonies

Holy Week services can be viewed online via live stream or at a later time:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>

Palm Sunday Mass – Sunday 5 April 9:30 a.m.

Holy Week Masses – Mon, Tues & Wed 12 noon

Holy Thursday (Mass of the Last Supper) – 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday (Stations of the Cross) – 9:00 a.m.

Good Friday (Passion of the Lord) – 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) – 6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass – Sunday 12 April 9:30 a.m.

### Closure of Churches

In accordance with Government regulations, all *Church buildings* are now **closed** (locked) and there will not be any public events or activities that require people to gather together (eg Mass, prayer gatherings, meetings, etc).

However, the *Church as the people of God*, is still **alive** and strong! Our priests are still celebrating Mass privately; offering our intentions to the Lord. We are still encouraged and obliged to keep the Sabbath Holy with our personal prayer and actions. Our priests are still available for pastoral support via telephone and, when necessary, face to face contact (eg Holy Communion as Viaticum, presiding at Funerals, Baptism in the case of necessity in danger of death, Sacrament of Reconciliation). St Vincent de Paul, CentacareCQ, Catholic Education and other Catholic agencies are continuing to work, sometimes behind the scenes, to be the hands and feet of Christ in our World. Although we may feel alone and isolated, the Church, and our God, are very much with us. **Please reach out to your Parish community if you are struggling in any way.**

Letters from the Bishop and an official decree dispensing the faithful from the Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation are available online from the Diocesan website - [rok.catholic.net.au](http://rok.catholic.net.au)

## Cluster News



Dominic is a father of six from Papua New Guinea, a country where 40% of the population live below the poverty line. In 2016, Caritas Australia and its PNG partner invited Dominic to join its Safe House program, which provides Gender-Based-Violence prevention training, counselling services and safe accommodation for women and children survivors of violence. This program helped Dominic to turn around a difficult life and an unhappy relationship. He is now a community trainer, helping other men to change their behaviour. *If you are able to, please continue to support Project Compassion this Lent.*

## Faith Resources & Possible Sunday Activities

Suggestions for personal prayer include:

- read scripture
- listen/sing/play hymns/worship music
- pray devotions (eg the Rosary)
- pray the Liturgy of the Hours
- watch Mass on TV ("Mass for You At Home" is on Channel 10 at 6 a.m. Sunday and at varying times on Foxtel's Aurora channel)

Daily Mass (12 noon Mon-Sat & 9:30 a.m. Sun) at St Joseph's Cathedral can be watched online (live or at any later time) by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>

There are many ideas & resources for home based prayer and spiritual life available online. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has some great resources and links available at:

<https://www.catholic.org.au/prayathome>

If you are looking for ideas and resources to share with children, check out: <https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/family-prayer-week-by-week.html/>

Although the printed version of the "The Catholic Leader" is not available while Masses are suspended; it can be viewed for **free** on their website:

[www.catholicleader.com.au](http://www.catholicleader.com.au)

## Cluster Bulletin

The Cluster Bulletin will continue to be available each week. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive it via email, please contact Loretta (contact details at top of opposite page).

## Lent: A Season of Gratitude

*"The reason for Lent is His love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near; a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice..."*

*- Pope Francis*

We've reached the season of Lent, a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. It's a time when we become aware of our need for renewal and conversion. We cannot deny that this Lent is a very particular one as we find Churches closed and our access to the sacraments restricted. However, I believe that as we are shut out of the physical church buildings, we are called to be even more open as the Church, the people of God. Lent provides us with a wonderful opportunity to get in touch with God's merciful love that gives us opportunities to change as well as to remember that all we have is gift. I believe when our hearts are full of gratitude for what we have, we are more receptive to those we help in our work with the Society. When we are grateful for what we have, we are more compassionate towards those who go without.

Lent is a consolidated time to reflect on how we can become better people on our journey of following Christ. The scriptures invite us to 'return to God with all our hearts.' (Joel 2:12) In surrendering all our hearts to the Lord, there is no room for mediocrity. We are not urged to give part of our hearts to God, but rather all of ourselves. And if we seek to give our hearts fully to God, then we must not allow this COVID-19 pandemic to overwhelm us with fear and panic. As people of the resurrection, we believe deep within that light will overcome darkness; life will overcome death. At the same time, as we lockdown physically, may our hearts not remain shut from one another. Let us take this opportunity, perhaps with more silence and less human contact, to concretely examine our lives and call to mind with deep gratitude all that God has gifted us with.

Whatever our Lenten journey is for us, and however the COVID-19 virus affects us, let us not allow this important season to pass us by without having become different in some way. Let us resolve to be people of hope during these difficult times when we see fear, confusion and chaos around us. Just as Jesus rolled away the stone at the entrance of the tomb, so too the sun will rise on this COVID-19 virus and we will get through it. And finally, let us never forget that we are resurrection people, confident that Lent leads us towards Easter and that we can never be grateful enough for the greatest gift we have received, Jesus who out of love gave His life for us.

Let us continue to pray for one another, and our companions, during these challenging times.

*Written by Sr Mel Dwyer for the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland*

## Prayer for Humility

Merciful Lord, we stand before you in our human weakness.

We confess that we have been caught up in the pride and presumption that drives our worldly society. Free us from the arrogance that afflicts our age, for now we stand confounded by conditions beyond our control or understanding.

Give us humble and honest hearts to discern the greater mystery of your providence in creation. May we accept your justice and trust your redeeming mercy. Amen.

## Around the Parishes

### Blackall

#### Rosary in Unison

In this time of the uncertainty let us turn to Jesus through Blessed Mother Mary in the Holy Rosary.

Even though we are in our own homes maybe one of these times we could say the rosary in unison could be at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. A family who prays together stays together!!

May the Lord be praised as we live through these challenging times together.

#### Palm Sunday

If you are able, why not join with Catholics throughout the World this Sunday by acknowledging our faith and this special day with the placement of palms or other greenery at the door/window/letterbox of your home.