



ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

Parish Office: 34 - 38 William Howell Drive (PO Box 8037), GLENMORE PARK NSW 2745

Telephone: (02) 4789 2232 Web: www.padrepio.org.au Email: glenmorepark@parracatholic.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpadrepioparish/

Fr. Suresh Kumar
Annabelle Bhandoo
Regina Rossetto
EMERGENCIES ONLY

Parish Priest
Parish Secretary
Sacramental Coordinator
0488 448 844

(02) 4789 2232 (Extn.2)
(02) 4789 2232 (Extn.3)
(02) 4789 2232 (Extn.4)

suresh.kumar@parracatholic.org
glenmorepark@parracatholic.org
sacraments@padrepio.org.au

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

ST. PADRE PIO CHURCH PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 3:30pm
Closed 12:00pm – 12:30pm

SUNDAY

8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass

MONDAY

No Mass and Office closed

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

9:00am Mass

SATURDAY

9:00am Mass
Novena to St. Padre Pio
9:30am Sacrament of Penance
5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass

BAPTISMS

11:30am 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
Sundays. Please contact the
Parish Office. Presentation and
Baptism Information mornings
are held every 4th Sunday.

FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT ADORATION

8:00pm – 9:00am Saturday Mass
3:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet

CHILDREN'S YOUTH GROUP

For children: Year 1 to Year 8.
Every 1st & 3rd Saturday
4.30pm-5.30pm in school hall

FRIDAY PLAYGROUP

9:30am – 11:30am 0-6 years
Bethany Catholic Primary School
Hall Contact Joanne D'Agostino,
via the Parish Office.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the Parish Office.

Dear Friends,

Have you been noticing that Christians are particularly targeted and persecuted all over the world? Including media, they make fun of or mockery of Christian belief and symbols. Certainly, they wouldn't dare to mock other religions as they will fear losing their heads if they do. Christianity becomes an easy target since we don't retaliate or take revenge, but we pray for them. Though Christianity is challenging their way of life and behavior more than anything else in the world, it is also teaching the world how to love and forgive. What is seen as a weakness is our strength. It can be tempting to take revenge and we can do so but that is not what our Lord wants us to do.

Forgiving and loving those who persecute us are the characteristics of a Christian. That is our success story. Our Lord won the world by His love and forgiveness. It takes nothing to take revenge, but it takes a lot of courage and strength to forgive. Jesus teaches us to love our enemies and do good to those who persecute us.

The attitude of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth will make the world blind, deaf, dumb and maimed. Jesus teaches us in the Gospel to go to extraordinary lengths in order to be called children of God. It is certainly not easy to be Christian these days but it is also not easy to get to heaven these days.

The perfect model for us to imitate in our lives is God Himself. He provides rain and sunshine for good as well as bad people alike. He doesn't show His partiality to anyone. He always gives a second chance to anyone who needs it. God waits for the person to change until the last day of his life. But people take advantage of His goodness. They take His forgiveness for granted and don't realize that heaven and hell are for real. Despite all the efforts from the Lord, if we don't learn how to get to heaven then we don't deserve to get to heaven!

We need to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. Let us not be complacent in our lives but always strive towards perfection. His Grace is sufficient for us to become perfect. May the Lord continue to inspire us and give us the courage to forgive and to love as He did from the Cross.

God Bless..

Kind regards,

Fr. Suresh Kumar
Parish Priest

On the Meaning of Ash Wednesday

Author: Pope Benedict XVI

The Below is from: ewtn.com/catholicism/library/on-the-meaning-of-ash-wednesday-6733

On Ash Wednesday, 17 February [2010], at the General Audience in the Paul VI Audience Hall. The following is a translation of his Catechesis, which was given in Italian.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
On Ash Wednesday, we are beginning the Lenten Journey, a journey that takes 40 days and brings us to the joy of the Lord's Pasch. On this spiritual journey we are not alone because the Church accompanies and supports us from the outset with the word of God, which contains a programme of spiritual life and penitential commitment, and with the grace of the sacraments...

Indeed in the Christian vision of life every moment must be favourable and every day must be a day of salvation but the Church's Liturgy speaks of this in a very special way in the Season of Lent. And we can understand that the 40 days in preparation for Easter are a favourable time and a time of grace precisely from the appeal that the austere rite of the imposition of ashes addresses to us and which is expressed in the Liturgy in two formulas: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel"; "Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return".

The first appeal is for conversion, a word to be understood with its extraordinary gravity, grasping the surprising newness it releases. The appeal to conversion, in fact, lays bare and denounces the facile superficiality that all too often marks our lives. To repent [or convert] is to change direction in the journey of life: not, however, by means of a small adjustment, but with a true and proper about turn. Conversion means swimming against the tide, where the "tide" is the superficial lifestyle, inconsistent and deceptive, that often sweeps us long, overwhelms us and makes us slaves to evil or at any rate prisoners of moral mediocrity. With conversion, on the other hand, we are aiming for the high standard of Christian living, we entrust ourselves to the living and personal Gospel which is Jesus Christ.

He is our final goal and the profound meaning of conversion, he is the path on which all are called to walk through life, letting themselves be illumined by his light and sustained by his power which moves our steps. In this way conversion expresses his most splendid and fascinating Face: it is not a mere moral decision that rectifies our conduct in life, but rather a choice of faith that wholly involves us in close communion with Jesus as a real and living Person.

To repent and believe in the Gospel are not two different things or in some way only juxtaposed, but express the same reality. Repentance is the total "yes" of those who consign their whole life to the Gospel responding freely to Christ who first offers himself to humankind as the Way, the Truth and the Life, as the only One who sets us free and saves us.

This is the precise meaning of the first words with which, according to the Evangelist Mark, Jesus begins preaching the "Gospel of God": "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15). The "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" is not only at the beginning of Christian life but accompanies it throughout, endures, is renewed and spreads, branching out into all its expressions. Every day is a favourable moment of grace because every day presses us to give ourselves to Jesus, to trust in him, to abide in him, to share his lifestyle, to learn true love from him, to follow him in the daily fulfilment of the Father's will, the one great law of life.

Every day, even when it is fraught with difficulties and toil, weariness and setbacks, even when we are tempted to leave the path of the following of Christ and withdraw into ourselves, into our selfishness, without realizing our need to open ourselves to the love of God in Christ, to live the same logic of justice and love.

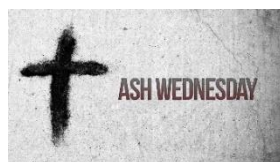
... I wanted to recall that "humility is required to accept that I need Another to free me from 'what is mine', to give me gratuitously 'what is His'. This happens especially in the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.. (*Message, 30 October 2009; L'Osservatore Romano English edition, to February 2010, p. 3*). The favourable moment of grace in Lent also reveals its spiritual significance to us in the ancient formula: "Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return" which the priest says as he places a little ash on our foreheads.

Thus we are referred back to the dawn of human history when the Lord told Adam, after the original sin: "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:19). Here, the word of God reminds us of our frailty, indeed of our death, which is the extreme form...The Lenten Liturgy, on the one hand, reminds us of death, inviting us to realism and wisdom; but, on the other, it impels us above all to understand and live the unexpected newness that the Christian faith releases from the reality of death itself. This life that will have no end has already begun in the earthly phase of our existence but it will be brought to completion after "the resurrection of the flesh".

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

ASH WEDNESDAY

When: This Wednesday 22 February. There will be two Masses: 9am and 7pm. **Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and it is a day of fasting and abstinence.** Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and fasting. Contributing towards *Project Compassion* is one way of self-denial and helping others who are in need. Project Compassion boxes & envelopes will be available soon.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
When: every Friday in Lent, starting on 24 February
Time: 7:00pm.

PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR LENT AND EASTER

When: 28 March, 7pm

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

The Antiochian Archdiocese of Australia has launched an Appeal to help those affected by the Turkey & Syria earthquakes. Please help us collect **ONLY** these items:

URGENT: Baby Formula, Milk Powder, Nappies.
Also needed: Pasta, Rice, Tuna & Sardine Cans (peel off lids), Noodle Cups, Cream cheese jars (shelf), Corned beef cans, Blankets & Coats. **Drop off point is here at St. Padre Pio Church. Last date to drop them off is Sunday 26 February.** Thank you.

MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING SESSIONS for people in ministry

Every person involved in ministry is required by law to do the Safeguarding sessions either in person or online. There are various places in the Parramatta Diocese where these are held in person. For this information or how to do the course online, please see the Parish noticeboards.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES WERE OFFERED FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS: Thanksgiving and for the souls of all unborn babies. **Prayers for the Sick:** Nicholas Tadros, Charbel Bazouni, Simon Bazouni & family, Ava Vella, Lucy Marie Ciappara, Georgina Rastegorac, Waled Hana, Maryrose Vella, John Vella, Catherine Vella, Loly Velayo, Normie Santos. *Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered for Recently Deceased, Death Anniversary, Prayers for the Sick, Thanksgiving or Birthdays.*

Sunday 19 February: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Tuesday 21 February: St. Peter Damian, *Bishop & Doctor of the Church.*

Wednesday 22 February: ASH WEDNESDAY

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Date: Tuesday 21 February

Place: Helena & Matt Steeds, 80 Glengarry Rd, GP

Date: Tuesday 28 February

Place: Teresa Brombal, 3 Woodi Close, GP

LEGION OF MARY ROSARY MEETING

Date: Every Thursday, 6:00pm

Place: Parish meeting room. All welcome to attend.

PILGRIMAGE-October 2023. There are few spots still available on the Pilgrimage that Fr Suresh will be leading. Places that will be visited are: Holy Land, Assisi, Rome, Lanciao and Pietrelcina. For those interested, please add your details to the Expression of Interest sheet found on the Welcome Table.

MET – Worship Celebrating Holy Week Seminar
When: 04 March, 9.30am-3pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown.
A Seminar for acolytes and ministers at the altar (senior servers) in preparation for Holy Week. Presenter: Chris Ohlsen. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. RSVP by 28 February to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

JANUARY'S INCOME & EXPENDITURE SHEET can be found on the noticeboards.

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Open Days for 2023: 7 March, 8 March, 10 March from 9am-10am. Go to bethanyglenmorepark.catholic.edu.au to register to attend & call the school office on 4723 3700 for enrolment packs.

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK FOUR – FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 25/26 FEBRUARY 2023

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
COORDINATOR	Cristina Cignarella	help needed	help needed
ACOLYTE	Joe Badrov	Khalid Younan	Chris Hersey
SENIOR SERVER	Kylie Sultana	help needed	help needed
READER	1. Cristina Cignarella 2. Reginald Vibar	1. help needed 2. Jacinta Rastegorac	1. Eric Ruiz 2. help needed
MUSIC	Youth for Christ		
HOSPITALITY		Warda Family	help needed
CLEANING TEAM	Helen Sipeli, Rebekah Gomesz, Marlene Schoebel, Joseph Gomes, Mel Gaudoin, Johan		



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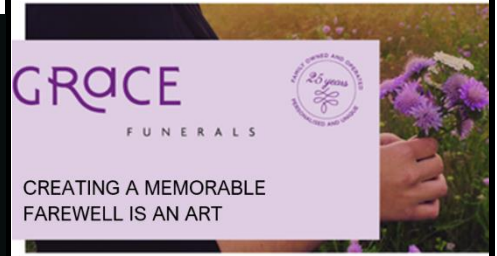
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**THIS IS A SMOKE FREE ZONE
NO SMOKING ON CHURCH
OR SCHOOL GROUNDS**

SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE GATES ONLY