



ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

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EMERGENCIES ONLY

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SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the Parish Office.

Dear Friends,

We are about to begin the season of Lent. It is a time of repentance and a time of Grace. Lent begins with the willingness to repent and to change our way of life. Lent helps us to realise how much God loves us, that too, to the level of swapping Himself with the sinful humanity. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor5:21). We deserved punishment from God for our sins, but God took upon the sin on His own shoulders so that we could be saved.

The Gospel speaks of a leper who was isolated from the mainstream of the society and lived in loneliness. The leper knew that Jesus was the only hope for his wretched condition. He knew that Jesus could change his life forever. He threw himself at the feet of Jesus and pleaded with him to cure him. What puzzled me was the way he made the plea: "if you want to, you can cure me." He spoke as if God should make a choice to cure him or not. Jesus expressed His intention by saying, "of course I want to, be cured."

Jesus never looked out for human recognition. He didn't want people to look at Him as a mere miracle worker. There is a danger of reducing Him just as a magician if we do so. He is not a magician but our loving Saviour. The leper was restored to his dignity and prestige when Jesus cured him and sent him to the temple to show himself to the priest and to take part in the offering. He is back to normal life, but his happiness could not be contained so he started to talk about what happened to him and how Jesus cured him from his leprosy. People always look for a miracle or an extraordinary sign. Here it is right in front of their eyes.

The crowds and their demands began to increase around Jesus and He could no longer go anywhere freely. That is sad. Jesus loved travelling, visiting people, teaching them about God and so on. Now this man who received this miracle from Jesus made Jesus to be restricted in His movements. Before his healing, the leper lived in isolation but now Jesus had to live in isolation. That is how we treat our loving God many a times.

We can never thank God enough for the blessings that we enjoy from Him. His love is unconditional, and His mercy is beyond compare. These days people may not be suffering from leprosy of the limbs, but many are suffering from leprosy of the heart. The leprosy of the heart cripples them from loving God and one another. We are cold towards one another. Let us learn from Jesus on how to love one another.

God Bless..

Kind regards,

Fr. Suresh Kumar
Parish Priest



Picture from: pinterest.com.au/pin/recipes--326651779217075088/
The Below is from: ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/lent-14353

What is Lent and why is it celebrated?

Lent is the liturgical season of "preparation for the celebration of Easter. For the Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery: catechumens, through the several stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices" (*General Instruction of the Roman Calendar*).

In 2024, Lent begins on 14 February (Ash Wednesday) and ends on March 28 (Holy Thursday), as the Mass of the Lord's Supper begins. Easter Sunday is March 31.

What are the 40 days of Lent?

What began as a shorter time of preparing catechumens for baptism at the Easter Vigil, expanded over the centuries to 40 days of penitence, excluding Sundays... Today the Season of Lent is a little less than 40 days, the Church having designated the three days from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday to the Vespers (Evening Prayer) of Easter Sunday as a Sacred Triduum (3 days), celebrating the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

While the development of the Lenten days was various throughout the Church, it may have been suggested by Christ laying in death for 40 hours, or by his 40 days of prayer and fasting in the desert (a number itself reminiscent of Israel's 40 years in the desert for disbelieving God). Regarding the connection to Christ's own life, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning" [Heb 4:15]. By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert. (CCC 540)

Why are Sundays not counted in Lent?

Each Sunday of the year is like a *little Easter*, filled with the joy of the Resurrection. In the same way, every Friday of the year is penitential because it reminds us of Good Friday.

What is traditionally given up for Lent?

Since Lent is a time of penitence it is usual to offer a *sacrifice* to the Lord, both to appeal for the grace of personal conversion, and to strengthen our will to be able to cooperate with that grace. The two go together, since without God we can do nothing (John 15:5).

The best sacrifice we can make is to give up sinning. The liturgies of the first days of Lent make this point of the *vanity* of prayer and penitence without moral conversion. For the Catholic, daily examinations of conscience, more frequent Confession, as well as more frequent Mass and Holy Communion are especially good ways to prepare for Easter. It would also be good to read Sacred Scripture, pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Holy Rosary, daily if possible, meditating on the texts or prayers.

It is also usual to make some material sacrifice, one that calls for will-power and self-denial, whether television or social media, foods or treats we particularly like, recreations and other pleasures that we crave in excess, and which keep us from prayer and good works. The extra time can then be spent to pray and to serve, whether to volunteer at one's parish, or a local charity, such as a ministry to the poor or a crisis pregnancy clinic.

St. Catherine of Genoa said, "Lenten fasts make me feel better, stronger, and more active than ever." Lent should help us to be more active, in Charity — in love of God, and our neighbor. That is the best preparation for the celebration of the greatest act of Love in history.

"Lent is a season of intense prayer, fasting, and concern for those in need. It offers all Christians an opportunity to prepare for Easter by serious discernment about their lives, with particular attention to the word of God which enlightens the daily journey of all who believe."

- St. John Paul II



Picture from: clipart-library.com/lenten-prayer-cliparts.html

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

When: This Wednesday, 14 February
 Time: 9am (Bethany School attending) 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 helping others. Contributing towards Project Compassion is one way of living out the spirit of Lent. Project Compassion boxes & envelopes are available on the Welcome Table.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

When: every Friday in Lent, starting on 16 February
 Time: 7:00pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table for families who would like to lead each week.

ADORATION

Every Friday in Lent after the 9am Mass, till 10am.

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.

CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK: FORMATION FOR MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR: 9 March

The Office for Worship presents 'Celebrating Holy Week' – a workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar presented by Chris Ohlsen. It will be held on Saturday 9 March from 9:30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To register or for more information, please contact call (02) 8838 3456 or lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org by 5 March.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

The Parent Info Letter & Enrolment Form are available on the Parish Website and the Welcome Table.
 Please return the forms to the parish office on or before **Tuesday 13 February.**

NEXT SUNDAY is the First Sunday of Lent Year B

Genesis 9:8-15 Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10. 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Date: Tuesday 13 February
Place: Wendy & Gert Van Mullekom
Date: Tuesday 20 February
Place: Lya & Billy Layug

REFLECTIONS on WHAT'S APP (Audio)

Please add your name on the sheet found on the Welcome Table if you would like to receive Lenten Reflections each day based on the Gospel from Fr. Suresh.

SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown this coming February.

- Monday 12 February (10am – 1.30pm) – Modules 4-5: Renewal Safeguarding Training is for those in Parish Ministry who started Cycle 1 Training two years ago. To register or for other dates and locations go to: parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training

Sunday 11 February: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr.B
Wednesday 14 February: Ash Wednesday
Saturday 17 February: Seven Founders of the Servite Order

MASSES OFFERED FOR THESE INTENTIONS:

Deceased: Charlie Cutajar, Salvatore Russo, Helen Cauchi, Ignatius Bartolo. **Prayers for the Sick:** Ernesto Modelo, Joselito Canaria, Lynn Navarro, Kim Baluyot, Jasmine Arada, Maricris Palencia, Yvonne Videla, Alejandra Modelo, Emily & Danilo Rosales, Georgina Rastegorac, Maryrose Vella, Catherine Vella. Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered.

ST PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK THREE - THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 17/18 FEBRUARY

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
COORDINATOR	Trudi Almeida	Lynn Young	Regina Rossetto
ACOLYTE SENIOR SERVER	Billy Layug Lya Layug Kylie Sultana Tracy Amituanai	Khalid Younan Gilbert Grech Brady Fisher	Chris Hersey
READER	1. Rolaine Vibar 2. help needed	1. Sue Guy 2. Ajumol Alexander	1. Jason Ball 2. Noel Xavier
MUSIC	Our Daily Bread		
HOSPITALITY		Sue Guy	Connie Hyland
BAPTISM			Tracy Amituanai
CLEANING TEAM	Susan Guy, Anna Roberts, Aiman & Maria Jajo		



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OR SCHOOL GROUNDS

SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE GATES ONLY