



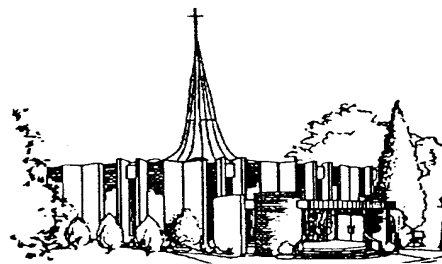
St. Nicholas

Parish Penrith

Established 1839

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

326 HIGH STREET, PENRITH



* Tel: (02) 4721 2509 * Fax: (02) 4731 4259

* Website: www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au

* P O Box 1868, Penrith 2751

Parish Staff

Fr Chris de Souza
Parish Priest

e-mail: chris@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Fr Sunny Poovathumkudy
Assistant Priest

e-mail: sunny@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Fr John Watkins
Assistant Priest

email: john@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mrs Lyn Olander
Secretary / Office Manager

e-mail: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mrs Anne Tucker
Sacramental Co-ordinator

e-mail: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mr Fred Keuneman
Catechist Co-ordinator

e-mail: catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mrs Ursula Gomez
Clerical Assistant
e-mail: bulletin@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Office Hours 9am - 5 pm
(Lunch 1pm - 1.30 pm Office closed)

Schools

Mary MacKillop Primary
Mrs Anne Corrigan,
Principal Phone : 4736 3466
St Nicholas of Myra Primary
Mrs Anne Hines,
Principal Phone : 4721 2623

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil
Sunday 7.00am, 8.30am,
10.00am, 6.00pm

Reconciliation:

Saturday 9.30am - 10.30am
5.00pm - 5.45pm

Adoration: After Sat Morning Mass

Weekday Mass :

Monday 9.30 am
Tuesday 6.45 am & 7 pm
Wednesday 6.45 am & 9.30 am
Thursday 9.30 am
Friday 6.45 am & 12.10 pm
Saturday 9.00 am

1st Sunday of Lent : Year A 13th March 2011

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls to me, I will answer; I will rescue him and give him honour. Long life and contentment will be his.

First Reading : *Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 Creation and the fall of Adam and Eve.*

Response to the Psalm : Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading : *Romans 5:12-19 St Paul declares the victory of Christ as the remedy for sin.*

Gospel Acclamation : Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel : *Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus, tempted by the devil, remains faithful to God's will.*

Communion Antiphon : Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Lectio Divina : Praying the Scriptures in Lent and Holy Week 2011
Please take the FREE booklets to use during this Lenten season.

Next Week's Readings :
Genesis 12:1-4
Timothy 1:8- 10
Matthew 17:1-9

PARISH OUTREACH

Reminder for the different ministries for the week end 19/20 March, 2011. If you cannot fulfill this commitment, please arrange for someone to take your place. Thanks.

Time	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Community Rep.	Reader	Eucharist Ministers		
6 pm	J Buttigieg J Relunia	Samuel & Joshua Vella Jessica Buttigieg	F Jackson	K Smith	L De Bono	R De Bono	B Hansen
7 am	A Ruzgas		G Nunn	S Paterson	M Edmunds	D Friend	A Pace
8.30 am	J Jordan C Walsh	Jordan & Joshua Lay Gabrielle Isaaks	K McNamara	C Lay	M Rivet M Stynes	B Oxlade P Wheeler	M Ryan R Bryan M LeFevre
10 am	D Wheelahan E Thomas	Nicholas & Ben Wheelahan Natalie Moniz	R Wood	B Burns	J Tabone	G Burns	O Bonnaire
6 pm	R Kroon J Mowbray	Benjamin & Thomas Kroon Glen Wambeek	Youth	Youth	B Mowbray	L McConnell	M Herrick

Please pray for those who are sick

Gwen Robinson, Martha Dierick, Sr Madeleine, OCD, Mila Zelinski, Fortunata Baiada, Lesley Malicki, Anisty Hewitt, Franis Riodan, Marianne Goc-ong, Thomas Meehan, Gwen Robinson, Noeleen Morris, Millie Bugden, Linda Moran, Marie Rivet, Gwen Witton, Norma Addison, Geraldine and Matthew Lowe, Kevin Armstrong, Ruby Sutherland, Valarie Marning, Marie Orth, Mary Howland, Alf Armstrong, Esmee White, Josie Newman, Paul Landrigan, Keith Gordyn, Alice Massey and Katelyn Reid.

Please pray for

Ramiro Caceres, Fay Rozario, Flory Fernandes and Alba Monteiro **who died recently** and for George Attard, Gary Cleary, Mary Armstrong, Aileen O'Donnell, Emila Boldarin, Luigie Giuseppe Boscarior, Greg Byrne, Robert Ross, Evelyn Fernandez, Mary Coghlan, Gerald and Karista Sultana **whose anniversaries occur at this time and also for** Mary Rose Guillaumier, Nora and Bernard Wilding, Mary Armstrong, Reg Levinge, Tania Felice, Dorrie Bertles, Charlie Attard, Nicola Azzopardi, Phillippa Abela, Arlene, William, Mariano and Francisco Hao, Anastacia and Martin Goc-ong, Arturo and Belinda Dubria.



Congratulations : Sreya Dias, Luka Kuster, Callan Loughman, Anton Musico, Jacob Zahra who were baptised on the 6th March, 2011.

The **Rosary Statue** will be at the home of Alice O'Hare at 17 Nerang Cr. Penrith and the Rosary will be said at 7 pm. All welcome.



Parish Garden : We would appreciate, if any Parishioner or who knows of someone with a background in Horticulture could please phone Lyn at the Parish office on 4721 2509 during office hours, to arrange to speak with the Garden Committee.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY:
Ken Olander
Margaret Condon

Lenten Devotions and New Translation of the Mass

In this Season of Lent, we will be implementing some of the new translations of the Roman Missal in Mass. As we reflect on our relationship with God and others, let us take this time to reflect and take a closer look at the Mass.

On the Fridays of Lent, in the Church, we will be giving liturgical formation (new translation of the mass) and Lenten Devotions.

18th March : 7:30pm - 8:30pm
25th March : 7:30pm - 8:30pm
1st April : 7:30pm - 8:30pm
8th April : 7:30pm - 8:30pm
15th April : 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Also after each Sunday Mass in Lent we will be playing a 5 minute video explaining the new translation. We do encourage all parishioners to come and begin a journey of rediscovering the meaning of the Mass.

PARISH OUTREACH

Sacramental Program First Reconciliation Reminder

Our family sessions will continue on Friday, 1 April 2011 at 4:00pm with all children meeting in the school hall. If for any reason you are unable to make any of these sessions, please notify me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for you to attend another group.

Also, preferences for First Reconciliation will be displayed in the Church foyer during the month of March.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the parish office on 47212509 Tuesday – Friday during school hours.

Kind regards
Anne

INFLAME YOUTH

As we all know World Youth Day is just about around the corner now and our youth are frantically trying to organise themselves for the trip to Madrid. Over the next 5 weeks the parish youth will be holding a few Barbeques to help support the funds of the flight and pilgrimage. **The Barbeques will be set up after 6pm Mass Saturday, 10am Mass Sunday and 6pm Mass Sunday.** Please, take a snag from the barbie and support our excited Aussie youth as they brace themselves for WYD 2011 Madrid, Spain.

Hi there :)

Coming up over the next few weeks Inflammation has planned:

March 13 - Just hanging out with the gang as we have a social meeting. No real plans, just meet after 7pm Mass, Sunday in the car park and the night will be decided upon. Come along and bring your friends.

March 20 - We will discuss the Eucharist and Adoration.

March 27 - Receiving a talk on Prayer; it's importance and the different ways to pray.

You can reach us by email at inflammation@stnicholasofmyra.org.au or contact Adrian on 0430230458 or...check us out on Facebook - Inflammation Youth St Nic's.

Hospital Masses : Parishioners are welcome

- **Edenglassie Lodge (Lemongrove)**
1st Tuesday of each month at 11 am
- **Governor Phillip Hospital**
1st Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm
- **Nepean Hospital**
every Wednesday at Midday
- **Jamison Gardens**
3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.30am
- **Mt View Village**
1st Friday of each month at 10am

YOUNG ADULTS

flock99

Thank you to Daniel for taking us through an introduction to Vatican II. None of us were around during Vatican II and so it was fascinating learning about why it came about and how it has impacted on the Church. We were all certainly inspired to read the Vatican II documents!

This week:

Controversy corner with Watto commences. Over the next 6 months, 'What + Why with Watto' will be focusing on some of the controversial issues in the Church, commencing this week with discussions centred around the Priesthood and addressing questions including: Why won't the Church let women become Priests? + Why can't Priests marry? Come along and share your opinion!

Upcoming events include:

Sat, March 19, 8.30-10.30am

Diocesan breakfast with the Bishop (Parramatta):
The Church's teaching on sex.

Tues, March 22, after 7pm mass
Sun, March 27, 7.15-8.30pm

Bible Study
Comments from the couch with Jude: Evangelisation
Formation with DA
Vinnies Van (Penrith + Parramatta)

Sun, April 3, 7.15-8.30pm
Fri, April 8, 7-11pm

Sun, April 17, 6pm

Diocesan Palm Sunday youth celebrations (Parramatta)

The next Vinnies Van training day will be Saturday, May 7. If you are interested in participating in this ministry then let us know – it is a great way to reach out into the community and is always an experience!

Unless otherwise stated, all events are held in not the Upper Room. Newcomers are always welcome! Come along to as many or as few of the sessions as you like. Contact us at 99flockers@gmail.com, on 0423 257 580 or check out our facebook page (flock99).



RCIA News... More information:

Ina & Norman Heffernan 47 321 751

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process that makes it possible for adults to be received into the Catholic Church.

UNDERSTANDING THE RCIA a journey for the entire parish

=====

This weekend begins the second last period of the RCIA. Over the 5 weeks of Lent we will celebrate during the Vigil Mass, the Rites associated with the preparation of those people who will be received into our Catholic Community during the Easter Vigil.

**Who Are They - Catechumen or Candidate?
What's the difference?**



CHRIST AMONGST HIS PEOPLE

Elizabeth Wang 2005
Used with permission

Catholic culture influences the way Catholics welcome new members. Adults seeking to join the Catholic Church come unbaptised and baptised. Those who have **never been baptised** are called **CATECHUMENS**, and those who have **been baptised** in other Christian denominations, and whose baptism is recognised as valid, are called **CANDIDATES**.

The RCIA also welcomes those

who were baptised in the Catholic Church but have never learned or practiced their faith.

Catechumens become full members of the Catholic Church by means of **Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist**, which are referred to as the **Sacraments of Initiation**.

Candidates for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** and candidates preparing to receive **Holy Communion** in the Catholic Church as a result of an appropriate period of catechesis become full members of the Church. Since candidates are already baptised, the liturgical rites that mark the steps of the formation process are slightly different from those of catechumens, however for the most part the plan of catechesis corresponds to the one laid down for catechumens.

During the Rite of Election this weekend, the Catechumens will 'be sent' to the Cathedral to be welcomed by Bishop Anthony. They are then called the 'ELECT', and are deemed ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter.

All Christian spirituality is rooted in community therefore throughout the RCIA process, contact with the community of the faithful, and participation in certain liturgical rites strengthen both Catechumens and Candidates in the Christian life. (RCIA 401). Evangelisation should be part of every Christian's life.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2012

St Nicholas of Myra Primary School

is now taking Kindergarten enrolments for children born between July 2006 and June 2007. Please phone 47212623 for an enrolment form or call at the school between 9am and 3:30pm Monday to Friday.

St Dominic's College

Year 7 2012 Enrolments are now open

We will be holding an Information Evening for Year 7 2012 on Wednesday 23rd March commencing at 7.30pm
Open Day Sunday 3rd April between 10am and 3.00pm.

For any enquiries please contact Fran Tyrrell on 0247311933 ext 125.

Xavier College

ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 7 2012

If you have a child who is currently in Year 6 and you would like them to attend Xavier College in 2012, please obtain an Enrolment Prospectus from the College office.

Enrolments close 20th May 2011.

Even if you have siblings at the College you must complete an Enrolment Form for your Year 6 child and forward it with relevant documentation to the College by the closing date.

Important Dates:

**Open Night on Monday 4th April 2011
from 5.00pm – 7.30 pm**

Closing Date for Applications 29th April 2011
Enquiries please contact Mrs Heterick on 4777 0900.

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WANTED – SOMEONE SPECIAL! CAN YOU HELP US TO SUPPORT A CARER

LOOKING AFTER THEIR TERMINALLY ILL LOVED ONE?
HOME Hospice Carer Mentoring provides free support for carers of the terminally ill to allow their loved ones to stay at home. Our trained volunteer mentors, who have personal experience of caring at end of life, provide guidance, information, and support. This helps ease the burden of care and empowers the carer to deal with the challenges they face.

If you: **Have cared for someone with a terminal illness (at least 2 years ago) AND**

Are passionate about supporting carers through the caring journey

Then please join us at one of the following Information Sessions to learn more about the HOME Hospice Carer Mentoring Program and how you can make a difference in people's lives.

Applications invited from all areas of Sydney, men welcome!! Orientation training will be held on 29th & 30th April for successful applicants.

HOME Hospice Carer Mentoring - Community Information Sessions

PARRAMATTA: Cancer Council Regional Office
Rotary House, 43 Hunter St
Date/Time: Wednesday 16 March, 10am-11:30am

PENRITH: Community Connection Building
Meeting Room 1,
Level 1, 114 – 116 Henry St

Date/Time: Thurs 17 March, 1pm – 2:30pm

To book: Phone Admin on 1800 132 229 or E-mail: admin@homehospice.com.au with your details, stating which session you wish to attend. Sponsored by The Cancer Council NSW and Social Ventures Australia.

DIOCESAN OUTREACH

LENTEN SERIES at MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

"Deepening Our Appreciation of Eucharist"

As many of you would know, a new translation of the Roman Missal has been approved by the Holy See and will be implemented by Advent of this year.

To prepare for this we have decided to use our Lenten Series to deepen our appreciation of the Eucharist. Each Thursday of Lent from 11am - 1pm, beginning on the 10th March, a different aspect of Eucharist will be explored. This series will take place in the Joachim Forbes Room (entry via the Museum, 7 Mount Street, North Sydney). The cost per session is \$15 or \$10 concession, and you are welcome to attend all or as many sessions as you can.

For further information please go to the Website www.marymackillopplace.org.au/spirituality/prayer_days.asp or ring 8912 4818.

"Come Away to Chill Out": (RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS)

Come away for a peaceful weekend to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. Enjoy a time of faith-sharing, meditation and prayer with like-minded peers.

Fr. Bernard Hancock OCD

Location: Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville: 96031433 / www.carmelite.com

Presenter: Fr. Bernard is newly ordained and enjoys working with young people
3 day retreat commencing P.M. Friday, 18 March 2011 until P.M. Sunday, 20 March 2011.

BEREAVEMENT DISCUSSION GATHERINGS

The Solo Parent Ministry within CatholicCare Social Services is commencing a series of monthly Discussion Sessions over 6 months at the CCSS Centre, 58 Allawah St, Blacktown. The first is on this THURS 10TH MARCH, at 10.00am, facilitated by Karolyn Ellis. If you have experienced the death of your spouse or long term partner in recent years these Discussion Groups will offer you support and assistance in this time of your continuing grief and pain. Bookings essential: Ph 99330222.

Reading the Classics in Spirituality 2011

The Spirituality of Mary MacKillop
16 March - 13 April 2011
with
Sr Pauline Wicks rsj

Further Inquiries

Please contact the Registry

Ph: 02 9752 9500

Fax: 02 9746 6022

Web: www.cis.catholic.edu.au

Invitation to the young people of the Diocese 'Prayer for our Lives and Purpose' - Every First Thursday at Seven

Come to St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, (7pm-8.15pm)

*gather with good people *communal prayer and adoration *interesting life sharing from a speaker included

OUR BISHOP ANTHONY IS THE SPEAKER THIS TIME.

All welcome to enjoy this quality time.

For more info - Fr Paul Roberts 0419219819 or Annabelle at the Youth Office 88383418

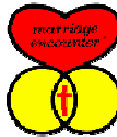
(car parking entry off Victoria Rd behind cathedral)

Volunteers Needed for Mamre House

Volunteers are needed to assist in the creche on **Mondays** from 10.00am - 2.00pm during school terms. If you cannot come on a Monday but could assist on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, this would also be appreciated.

Last year we were able to provide a **tutor** to assist each Sudanese secondary student attending Emmaus College. This entails assisting a student with their homework one day a week for about an hour in their home. We are now in need of several more tutors.

If you can assist or require any further information please phone Sr Janet (Mamre Refugee Coordinator) on 0418 690 487 Thank you.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious

asset . . . Your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 25 - 27 March at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

Information: website www.wwme.org.au

Filipino Fiesta in honour of St Joseph

At St Michael's School grounds, Blacktown (Back of St Michael's Church, 58 Orwell St, Blacktown) on Sunday 20 March 2011.

10.45 am Holy Eucharist 12 Noon Lunch
Entertainment/Singing Contest till 5 pm.

You Are Invited To A SENIORS WEEK MASS At St. Mary's Cathedral 11am, March 23, 2011

It will be celebrated by His Eminence, George Cardinal Pell During Seniors Week.

It is being organized by Life Ascending Australia, a movement that concentrates on the Christian mission of retired people and friends in today's society. For more information please phone us or visit our website. Family and friends also welcome.

Phone: (02) 9771 3609

Website: www.lifeascendin.org.au

Inside 'Catholic Weekly' 13 March 2011

- St Patrick's Day – special feature
- Website 'tells truth about school funds'
- Congo 'needs more than handouts to bring peace' – Project Compassion
- Irish bishops name St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as Eucharistic Congress patron
- Faith, music and a passion for the practice of law
- BER – Building the Education Revolution: School facilities blessed

PRAYER AND REFLECTION DAY

Twice a year the Solo Parent Ministry offers a day of Prayer and Reflection for anyone who would like to take an extended period of time to be alone with the Lord and to be guided in Meditation and Prayer. This day is open to anyone. Why not make this a special Lenten activity for yourself? Our facilitator this time is Sr Colleen O'Sullivan rsj, who is taking as a theme for the day: "God of the Unknown". We gather at Marymount Mercy Centre, 36 David Rd, Castle Hill from 10.30am to 3.00pm. BYO Lunch. \$10.00. Bookings essential. Ph 9933 0222.

The Gift of Children An Afternoon for Couples Hoping to Conceive will take place on Saturday, 19th March, at the Catholic Adult Education Centre, 3 Keating St, Lidcombe from 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm. The afternoon will feature talks, testimonies, Order of Blessing for couples seeking the gift of a child, and afternoon tea. Enquiries and RSVP to the Life, Marriage and Family Centre on 9390 5283 or mary.joseph@sydneycatholic.org.

Divine Mercy Sunday: 1 May

Prayers start 1pm with street procession with the relic of St Faustina to be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Novena, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Holy Mass at 3pm: principal celebrant – Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, veneration of the relic to follow. Religious items for sale. Where: Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 8 Diana Ave, Kellyville. Inquiries: Steve Boland 0405 206 695.

Positions Vacant (Archdiocese of Sydney):

Private Secretary to Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney (Full Time), Liverpool or Polding Centre, Sydney – closes 25 March 2011

Executive Assistant (Part Time, 4 days), Liturgy Office – closes 25 March 2011

Further details are available at www.catholicjobsonline.com.au. Applications for the above positions to be sent to Anthony Spata at anthony.spata@sydneycatholic.org.

Reflection Morning with the Bishop

Bishop Anthony Fisher OP will give a reflection on 'The Spirituality of St Dominic' on Saturday 26 March from 10am-1pm in Sacred Heart Parish Hall, cnr Sturt & Wentworth Sts, Blackheath. Entry by donation. Morning tea provided. No need to book. Details: Carmel (02) 4787 8706.

Theology on Tap

Live performance by Gary Pinto, followed by the highly anticipated talk by His Eminence, Cardinal Raymond Burke from the US. Gary Pinto has written chart-topping hits for Guy Sebastian, Jimmy Barnes & Anthony Callea. Gary co-wrote the WYD08 anthem and is preparing the Australian pilgrim song for WYD11 Madrid. Where: Sunday 13 March at PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub, 74 Church St, Parramatta. Time: 6.30pm. Details: www.theologyontap.com.au

Marayong Parish 50th Anniversary Lenten Retreat

The theme of the Retreat is *Life in Christ* and consists of eight presentations by Fr Raniero Cantalamessa. These will be video presentations beginning at 7pm. *Life in Christ* presents a discussion of evangelisation and spiritual renewal based on St Paul's Letter to the Romans. It is an attempt to go straight to the heart of what animated the Apostle when he wrote the letter - to build up the faith of the readers and reveal to them the immense treasures of Christ's redemption. The Letter to the Romans deals with the basics of Christian faith. Beginning Monday 21 March the program will take place in a Café-style atmosphere and on Monday and Tuesday evenings across four weeks. Where: St Andrew the Apostle Parish, 40 Breakfast Rd, Marayong. Details: (02) 9622 0817, saapm@bigpond.com

Sisterhood Catholic Women's Conference

The Sister conference seeks to draw women together for a weekend of prayer and praise, sisterhood time and formation in what it means to be and live as a Catholic woman in the 21st Century. Keynote speakers: Sr Mary Rachel OP, Anna Krohn from the Pontifical Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family; Karen Doyle, author and co-founder of Catholic media business Choicez Media. Other speakers: Fr Chris Ryan MGL as well as author, parenting expert and former principal of Redfield College, Andrew Mullins, and Carolyn Martin founder of The Day of Difference Foundation and mother of burns victim Sophie Delezio. Dates: 13-15 May at Collaroy. Numbers limited – book soon: \$195pp. Details and registration: www.sisterhood.org.au

Reflection Day for Women

On 21 March, Sr Mary Louise Walsh ISSM and Fr Terry Bell will host a Reflection Day on the theme: *Lent – A Time of Letting Go*. The sessions include talks, spiritual reflections and time for personal prayer all set in the peaceful grounds of Mt Schoenstatt Retreat and Conference Centre at Mulgoa. Cost: \$10 donation. BYO lunch. Where: Mt Schoenstatt, Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Time: 9.30am-2.30pm. Details: (02) 4773 8338.

Positions Vacant: Office Manager (part time)

The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, is recruiting for a part-time Office Manager, 30 hours/week (Mon-Fri). This is a new position. You will need to have MYOB Accounts Payable & Receivable experience and General Ledger knowledge. You will prepare end-of-month accounts, BAS reporting and payroll. Details: John Sheehy tel (02) 8838 3417 or download the job description from the Diocese of Parramatta's website: www.parra.catholic.org.au On the home page menu click on "About your Diocese" then "Employment". Closing date: Monday 18 March at 5pm.

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DIOCESAN OUTREACH



Caritas

AUSTRALIA

Kaluram from Nepal

Kaluram, 33, lives with his wife and three children in Nepal.

Since 2004 Caritas Australia has supported Caritas Nepal to run Farmer Field Schools to improve food production and livelihoods for more than 12,000 poor farmers from disadvantaged ethnic groups and castes.

"My field was often empty. We had no regular income and poor health,"

Kaluram explained. "We couldn't always pay school fees. Our [straw] house was a fire hazard."

Kaluram heard about the program and joined, learning early season rice and vegetable cultivation. Throughout the season, Kaluram met with 25 other farmers and a trainer in a local field to compare traditional practices with new trials. "We learnt about land preparation, nursery raising, making compost and managing pests and disease," explained Kaluram. "At first our community had big doubts on how the trials could get better yields but soon it was clear to everyone." Kaluram began implementing the new practices on his small field. It soon fed his family.

Caritas Nepal encouraged the farmers to form a Cooperative, helped them lease land and provided equipment. The farmers now pool their labour, share farming profits, provide micro-credit and train other farmers.

"For my family there have been many changes. Your support has given me the opportunity to learn and improve," Kaluram explains. "We're producing more vegetables and rice, our house has mud walls, our health is better. We're not dependent on others now."



Feast Days of the Week

Thu March 17 St Patrick (c.387 – c.461)

'Kidnapped from the British mainland around age 16, and shipped to Ireland as a slave. Sent to the mountains as a shepherd, he spent his time in prayer. After six years of this life, he had a dream in which he was commanded to return to Britain; seeing it as a sign, he escaped. He studied in several monasteries in Europe and was ordained. Then as Bishop he was sent by Pope Saint Celestine to evangelize England, then Ireland. In 33 years he effectively converted Ireland. In the Middle Ages Ireland became known as the *Land of Saints*, and during the Dark Ages its monasteries were the great repositories of learning in Europe, all a consequence of Patrick's ministry.'

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintp01.htm>

Sat March 19 St Joseph, husband of Mary

Descendant of the house of David, a carpenter, and earthly spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, foster father of Jesus Christ. A visionary who was visited by angels, Joseph was noted for his willingness to immediately get up and do what God told him. Pope John Paul II described him well:

'St Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words (Scripture does not record even one word spoken by him), but above all because he listens to the words of the Living God. He listens in silence. And his heart ceaselessly perseveres in the readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God.'



**Are you
interested in becoming
a Catholic?**

If you are an adult considering becoming a Catholic, interested in revisiting your faith, or a baptised Christian wanting to be received into the Catholic Church, to find out more.

Contact: Ina & Norman Heffernan
4732 1751 (inanorm@optusnet.com.au)

This week at

St Nic's

Monday 14 March

10 am Legion of Mary Meeting - PMR1
5 pm Tae Kwon Do - Hall

Tuesday 15 March

11 am AA Meeting - Hall1

Wednesday 16 March

7.30 pm RCIA Meeting - Hall 3
7.30 pm St Vincent de Paul Meeting - Hall2

Thursday 17 March

St Patrick, bishop
5 pm Tae Kwon Do - Hall
7.30 pm St Vincent de Paul Meeting - Hall2

Friday 18 March

5 pm AA Meeting - Hall1
7 pm Fijian Youth Group - Hall

Saturday 19 March

St Joseph, husband of Mary

Sunday 20 March

2nd Sunday of Lent : Year A

Warning Parishioners are warned while in the church to ensure their personal belongings/handbags are secured, and that they cannot be reached from behind. Please carry your handbag when going to communion.

Following proclamation of the Privacy Act 1988(Cth) at the end of 2001, this parish reviewed its records and methods for holding and collecting information about parishioners. A privacy policy has been developed in accordance with Diocesan norms and has been approved by the Parish Priest. A copy is available from the parish Office.

1st & 2nd Collection

The first collection pays for the priests of the parish and any surplus money from this collection helps fund our retired and sick priests.

The second collection (planned giving envelopes) pays for the running costs of our parish.