



Hello! I hope this newsletter finds you well.

2018 sure has started off with a bang! We said farewell to Fr Steve and welcomed Fr Chris. We've farewelled some friends who are now with our Lord. We've welcomed new life and those who have been welcomed into our faith community. Our parish and faith journey continues to evolve and be enriched by those who walk alongside us.

As the Liturgical year progresses we are experiencing many celebrations through Lent, Easter, Pentecost...let's also take up the opportunity to pause during the Ordinary times...

Let the hope of Lent, the resurrection of Easter and the fire of Pentecost bring us renewed love, faith and energy.

MASS DATES

Aged Care/Nursing Home/Retirement

Fairlea Aged Care 11 Hawk St, Penshurst

- Tuesdays: 20/3/18; 15/5/18; 21/8/18; 6/11/18 at 10.30am

Ferndale Gardens 33 Jersey Ave, Mortdale

- Tuesdays: 13/3/18; 8/5/18; 10/7/18; 9/10/18 at 10.30am

Greglea Village 192 Penshurst St Penshurst

Ecumenical Service

- Fridays: 6/7/18; 7/9/18 at 2pm

Nunyara Uniting 8 - 12 Neilson Avenue, Peakhurst

- Tuesdays: 6/2/18; 3/4/18; 5/6/18; 7/8/18; 2/10/18; 4/12/18 at 10.30am

Regis Gannon Gardens 53 Gloucester Rd, Hurstville

- Tuesdays: 27/2/18; 22/5/18; 24/7/18; 25/9/18 at 10.30am

Roberts Lodge Uniting 168-178 Boundary Rd, Peakhurst

- Friday: 31/8/18 at 2pm (TBC 2 weeks prior)

Shangri-La 107 Carrington Ave, Hurstville

- Wednesdays: 11/4/18; 13/6/18; 12/9/18; 14/11/18 at 10.30am

NOTE: Visitors MUST sign in/out when visiting a facility.

Anointing Mass

- Saturday, 29 September at 10.30am. Followed by morning tea.

To experience, as community, the healing power of faith, prayer and the sacrament of 'Anointing of the Sick'.

Remembrance Mass

- Friday, 2 November (All Souls Day) at 7.30pm, followed by supper in the meeting room

This annual Mass is a gentle and prayerful celebration remembering, as community, the life of our loved ones who have died.

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart." Helen Keller

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop



REFLECTION MORNING ADVANCED NOTICE

Facilitated by Peter Carroll SDB

- Saturday, 25 August; in the Church. Includes morning tea.

An opportunity to experience some 'time-out', spiritually, prayerfully and socially and of course, catch up over a cuppa.

Invitation is open to all but especially those involved in the pastoral life of the parish and those who are involved in the many areas of care for others.



DECLANCRAFT

Something social & creative for those in their 40s & up...

Further information will be in the parish bulletin, on the parish website and advertising around the church.

Games morning (1 session)

- Saturday, 17 March; 10am to 12pm

Acrylic painting (4 sessions) with Ingrid Micallef

- Saturdays: 5, 12, 19, 26 May; 10am to 12.30pm

Crochet (3 sessions) with Paulineke Nolan

- Saturdays: 16, 23, 30 June; 10am - 12.30pm

Macramé (3 sessions) with Ingrid Micallef & Paulineke Nolan

- Saturdays: 28 July, 4, 11 Aug; 10am - 12.30pm

Games morning (1 session)

- Saturday, 8 September; 10am to 12pm

Colouring-in & Doodling (1 session) with Ingrid Micallef

- Saturday, 13 October; 10am to 12.30pm

Handmade Cards (3 session) with Kim Corallo

- Saturday, 10, 17, 24 Nov; 10am to 12.30pm

BEREAVEMENT GROUP GATHERING

- Monday, 17 September at 7.30pm, in the Presbytery. Includes a light supper.

For those involved, please come to catch up, share in prayer and organise the Remembrance Mass.

PASTORAL CARE RECORDS & SUPPORT

Visitation ministers & bereavement group...

Please contact me if there are changes within your ministry, if your visit situation has changed and if you require information and support. Pastoral Care Records must be current and therefore continually updated.

The parish is here to support you in your ministry. We thank you for your continued care and participation.

REFLECTION

Seeing in a deeper way...

Ron Rolheiser OMI, 16 March 2015

Sometimes you can see a whole lot of things just by looking. That's one of Yogi Berra's infamous aphorisms. It's a clever expression of course, but, sadly, perhaps mostly, the opposite is truer. Mostly we do a whole lot of looking without really seeing much. Seeing implies more than having good eyesight. Our eyes can be wide open and we can be seeing very little.

I've always been intrigued by how scripture describes Paul immediately after his conversion. We always assume that it tells us that Paul was struck blind by his vision, but, I think, the text implies more. It tells us that Paul got up off the ground with his eyes wide open, seeing nothing. That doesn't necessarily equate with physical blindness. He may well have been seeing physically, but he wasn't seeing the meaning of what he was getting himself into. Someone had to come and open his eyes, not just so that he could see again physically but especially that he could see more deeply into the mystery of Christ. Seeing, truly seeing, implies more than having eyes that are physically healthy and open. We all see the outer surface of things, but what's beneath isn't as automatically seen.

We see this, for instance, in what's contained inside the healing miracles of Jesus. In the Gospels, we see Jesus perform a number of healings. He heals lame people, deaf people, mute people, people with leprosy, and two women who for different reasons are unable to become pregnant. What's important to see in these various miracles is that, almost always, there's more at issue than mere physical healing. Jesus is healing people in a deeper way, that is, he is healing the lame so that they can walk in freedom and in service of God. He is healing the deaf so that they can hear the Good News. He is healing the mute so that they can open their mouths in praise. And he is healing those who are haemorrhaging interiorly so that they can bring new life to birth.

We see this most clearly at those times when Jesus heals people who are blind. He's giving them more than just physical sight; he's opening their eyes so that that can see more deeply. But that's only an image. How might it be unpackaged? How can the grace and teachings of Jesus help us to see in a deeper way? Here are some suggestions:
By shifting our eyes from seeing through familiarity to seeing through wonder.

G.K. Chesterton once affirmed that familiarity is the greatest of all illusions and that the secret to life is to learn to look at things familiar until they look unfamiliar again. We open our eyes to depth when we open ourselves to wonder.

By shifting our eyes from seeing through paranoia and self-protection to seeing through metanoia and nurture.

It is not incidental that the first word out of Jesus' mouth in the Synoptic Gospels is the word "metanoia", a word

that opposes itself to "paranoia". We open our eyes to depth with we shift from a posture of self-protection to a posture of nurture.

By shifting our eyes from seeing through jealousy to seeing through admiration.

Our perception becomes distorted whenever we move from the happy state of admiration to the unhappy state of envy. Our eyesight is clear when we delight in admiration.

By shifting our eyes from seeing through bitterness to seeing through eyes purified and softened by grief.

The root of bitterness is wound and the way out of bitterness is grieving. Tears clear our eyesight because they soften a heart hardened by wound.

By shifting our eyes from seeing through fantasy and auto-eroticism to seeing through appreciation and prayer.

One of the key movements within our spiritual lives is the movement from fantasy to prayer, a movement that ultimately frees us from wanting to press to ourselves all that's beautiful to appreciating beauty for its own sake. We can only really see and appreciate beauty when we stop lusting for it.

By shifting our eyes from seeing through relevance to seeing through contemplation.

Our longing for relevance makes us look out at the world with restless, dissatisfied eyes. We practice mindfulness and see the richness of the present moment only when our disquiet is stilled by solitude.

By shifting our eyes from seeing through anger to seeing through forgiveness.

Nothing taints our eyesight as much as anger. It's the most debilitating of all cataracts. And nothing cleanses our vision as much as forgiveness. Nobody holding a grudge sees straight.

By shifting our eyes from seeing through longing and hunger to seeing through gratitude.

Longing and hunger distort our vision. Gratitude restores it. It enables insight. The most grateful person you know has the best eyesight of all the people you know.

Love is the eye! So say the medieval mystics, in wisdom that needs to be added to the medical vocabulary of contemporary optometry. Seeing straight has more dimensions than we normally imagine.

Visit Ron's website on www.ronrolheiser.com/index.php

PRAYER

Peaceful hearts...

As we journey each day may we continue to
allocate time to be still with you

reflect on our day

be thankful for the blessings

allow peace, your peace, enter into our hearts.

Amen.

Thank you and take care.

Yours faithfully,

Paulineke wpnolan@internode.on.net; 0419 426 123

Pastoral Care... responding to the needs of St Declan's Parish

Pastoral Care aims to provide spiritual nourishment, social interaction and support to parishioners who are bereaved, lonely, aged, infirmed, sick, disabled and are unable to take part in parish Eucharistic celebrations by:

- involving parishioners to minister to others & share their faith
- creating a community of care
- developing a strong parish network.