



July – November 2016
Pastoral Care Newsletter

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Hello! I hope this Newsletter finds you well.

MASS DATES

Anointing Mass

- Saturday, 3 September at 10.30am.

To experience, as community, the prayerful and healing power of our faith through the sacrament of 'Anointing of the Sick'. Mass is followed by morning tea.

Aged Care/Nursing Home Masses

Ferndale Gardens: 33 Jersey Ave, Mortdale

Shangri-la: 107 Carrington Ave, Hurstville

Fairlea: 11 Hawk St, Penshurst

Gannon Gardens: 53 Gloucester Rd, Hurstville

August – Mass begins at 10.30am

- Tuesday, 9 August – Ferndale Gardens
- Tuesday, 16 August – Shangri-la
- Wednesday, 17 August – Fairlea
- Tuesday, 23 August – Gannon Gardens

November – Mass begins at 10.30am

- Tuesday, 8 November – Ferndale Gardens
- Tuesday, 15 November – Shangri-la
- Wednesday, 16 November – Fairlea
- Tuesday, 22 November – Gannon Gardens

Nunyara: 8 – 12 Neilson Avenue, Peakhurst

- First Tuesday of the month at 11am in the chapel

Visitors MUST sign in/out when visiting a care facility.



DECLAN CRAFT

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

We had three sessions of Crochet in June. Thanks for the amazing attendance and of course... the laughs!

Here are upcoming activities all held in the Meeting Room under the Church. Bookings are essential. Please check the bulletin, website and advertising around the church for further information. *The following may be subject to change.*

Jewellery Making with Paulineke Nolan

July 16, 23; 10am to 12.30pm

Cards/Games Morning

August 27; 10am to 12.30pm

Handmade Cards with Kim Corallo

October 1, 8, 15; 10am to 12.30pm

Acrylic Painting with Ingrid Micallef

November 5, 12, 19; 10am to 12.30pm

Colouring & Doodling Workshop with Ingrid Micallef

November 26; 10am to 12.30pm

Trusting new life...

*Spirit of new life,
grant unto this day
the grace to recognise new life
breaking through in unlikely events,
and, in so recognising it,
to be ready to trust it and delight in it;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

(Australian Prayers, Bruce D Prewer)



PASTORAL CARE RECORDS

Visitation ministers & bereavement group...

VERY IMPORTANT... Please contact me if there are changes within your ministry, if you require information, support or if your visit situation has changed. Pastoral Records and updates are necessary and always appreciated.

REFLECTION

The Prayer of Charity

God is found in solitude and silence! Few reputable spiritual traditions dispute this. Longstanding in Christian tradition is the dictum that nobody makes progress in the spiritual life unless he or she prays, alone and in silence, for an hour a day.

Moreover, even pop psychology insists that the key to psychic health and mental hygiene is regular withdrawal from the rat-race, a substantial and sustained period of silence every day.

I am not one to argue with that. That an hour of silence every day would do marvels for our spiritual, psychic and even physical health is, I believe, indisputable.

What's more problematic is finding the time to do it. In spite of good intentions, practically, realistically in fact, most of us cannot (or, at least, certainly do not) find the time to take an hour a day away from everything for solitude and prayer. Pressures beset us from within and without and we simply do not, on a daily basis, pull away for an hour of silence and prayer.

Many of us feel uneasy about this and our anxiety is often compounded by feelings of guilt when we are accused, by ourselves or by others, of being workaholics, addicts and persons who cannot find any meaning outside of their work.

What's to be said about all of this? Is it impossible to make progress spiritually and to stay healthy psychologically without substantial daily periods of

silent withdrawal?

One should always be uneasy when he or she does not have, on a daily basis, a regular period of silent prayer and withdrawal. But, as in everything else, we must be careful not to become fundamentalistic about this. The call to find God in silence and withdrawal too can become an idol. Let me try to explain:

Carlo Carretto, one of the leading spiritual writers of our century, tells the story of how, after spending nearly 25 years alone as a hermit in the Sahara Desert, he realized that he was not nearly as contemplative, prayerful and unselfish as had been his mother who, for most of her adult life, had been so busy with the duties of raising her children that she had virtually no time alone for solitude and prayer.

During most of the years of her adult life, her life had been so completely taken up in responding to the needs of others, her family, the church and the community at large, that she rarely had time for an hour of prayer and solitude. Yet, despite her busyness, she consistently grew in prayer and unselfishness.

Carretto draws an interesting conclusion from this. Rather than suggest that there was anything wrong with what he did as a hermit in the desert, he hunches that there was something very right about his mother's total self-abnegation all those years when her whole life was taken up in responding to the needs of those around her.

That self-giving did for her exactly what countless hours of formal prayer might have done. It helped break her narcissism, displaced her from her own selfishness and consecrated her through a true baptism – immersion into the demands of charity. She prayed by conscription!

When Jesus consecrated Peter, he set him on a rock and, three times, asked him: "Do you love me?" Each time that the question was asked, Peter protested loudly that he did. Finally, after Peter's third pledge of love, Jesus said to him: Because you said this, your life will radically change. "Up to now you girded your belt and you walked wherever you liked." Now, because you have given yourself in love, "others will put a belt around you and lead you where you would rather not go!"

All true prayer, formal or ether, does exactly that. It puts a belt around us and takes us where we would rather not go. In the case of Carretto's mother, as in the case of millions of other dedicated (and hurried, hassled, tired and guilt-ridden) women and men, the demands of life-of children, marriage, vocation, job, church politics, neighbourliness, and mortgage payments—when responded to with a gracious heart, do exactly what proper formal prayer and solitude will do—they put a belt around you and walk you where, by your own choice, you would never walk.

They walk you where the deep demands of God and love call you to be.

God is found in silence and solitude... the saints are right in suggesting an hour of silence and prayer every day. Sometimes, though, and perhaps for many of the years of our adult lives, duties of state, circumstance and the only edict that can never be idolatrous—the demand to respond in charity—conscript us to a life of prayer that has very different contours but the same results.

by Ronald Rolheiser OMI (16/03/1992)

Visit his website on www.ronrolheiser.com/index.php

PRAYER

Footprints...

One night a man had a dream.

He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene,

he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of his life.

This really bothered him

and he questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way.

But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life,

there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The Lord replied.

"My precious, precious child,

I love you and would never leave you.

During your times of trial and suffering,

when you see only one set of footprints,

it was then that I carried you." **Mary Stevenson**

Dear Lord,

We acknowledge your presence in our lives;

you are with us in our suffering, our healing,

our sadness, our joys, our loneliness, our celebrations...

Thank you, Lord, for faith, hope and love. Amen!

Wishing you all the very best and may each day bring you joy and peace... Keep smiling!

Yours faithfully,

Paulineke

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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.