



11-19 Green Avenue, Kingsbury 3083
Telephone: 9460 6684
Email: principal@olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au

3/3/25

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

This week we recognise the commencement of the Lenten season as we gather on Wednesday, 5th March to celebrate Ash Wednesday (9 am). Lent is a time to turn our minds and hearts to God and to reflect on our decisions as disciples of Christ. Lent is a time for repentance and renewing our connection with God. As we begin Lent we are also reminded of our chance to practise almsgiving and as such, the eldest child from each family will be given a Project Compassion Box to take home which we will be collected at the end of Term.

CLASS MASSES

Each Term, our students will attend Mass as a class group. Last Friday, our Year 1/2 students attended morning mass together with Fr John, teachers, parents and parishioners. Both Fr John and the parishioners commented on how beautiful and reverent the students were during mass and enjoyed their responses and discussion with Fr John during the Homily. Please see elsewhere in the Newsletter for future class masses.

ICY POLES

Thank you to everyone who has donated Icy Poles to our P & F for our lunchtime sales. We have received many generous donations from school families to support this venture. We will continue to sell Zooper Doopers on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Term 1.

If you would still like to donate any Zooper Doopers, then our P & F are still happy to take donations.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting last Friday morning. It was great to have some of our new families join the meeting. Our major activity for this term will be our Easter Raffle for which we are currently seeking donations from families and local businesses. Please see the attached flyer for details.

OPEN EVENING & ENROLMENTS

OLW is holding an Open Evening and Guided Tours for prospective and current families on **Wednesday 19th March 19 from 4 pm – 6 pm**. Our School Captains will be hosting the tours of the school whilst our staff will be available in their learning spaces.

Parents please note: We have a limit of 25 places, so if your child is in 3 or 4 year old Kinder please complete and return an Enrolment Form as soon as possible. If you have other children enrolled at the school you will still need to complete an enrolment form for any new siblings.



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our first SAC meeting will be on Wednesday 12th March at 6 pm. Minutes and Agenda will be posted on our app this week.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photos will be on **Thursday, 13th March**. Students are to be dressed in full Summer School Uniform. This can include polo top and shorts for the boys with navy socks and polo top and shorts/skirt for the girls or school dress with white socks. All students are to wear black shoes (black runners are acceptable, but no sporting logos or other colours). Students will have their jumpers/jackets off for the photo. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

NAPLAN - YEARS 3 & 5

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3 and 5 sit each year. NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. Students sit assessments in Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

This year, the NAPLAN Testing will take place in Term 1 between the **12th-24th March**. Please note these dates in case you were planning any end of term holidays. Teachers will prepare students during class time to help them feel confident and relaxed during this time. An information sheet was sent home to all Year 3 & 5 families last week.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT INTERVIEWS - MONDAY, 31ST MARCH

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews for all students in Years Prep - 6 are scheduled for Term 1, Monday, 31st March. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher and gain insights about the learning in each particular year level. We urge parents to come along with their child/ren to these sessions that will take place in your child's classroom and be hosted by your child's teacher.

Bookings are now open. Bookings can be made via www.schoolinterviews.com.au using the booking code **9wzyx**. Instructions are elsewhere in the Newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: This will be a school closure day for all students. TheirCare will be operating on this day if parents wish to utilise this service.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

If your child is attending the Before and/or After School Care Program, please notify the school Office as soon as possible. We also keep a list of students who attend the Program, showing on what days of the week they attend. This reduces confusion and enables us to know where each child is after school.



SETTLING IN

I would like to congratulate our students on a very settled start to the year. Students are entering the yard in the morning with a smile on their face, ready to learn. As we continue to foster this developing independence, I encourage parents to support their child/ren by having them carry their own bag and say goodbye at the classroom door. If children are unsettled, it usually takes no more than a minute for them to settle into the day.

END OF DAY PICK UP TIME

Thank you to our parents for supporting our end of day finish time at 3.20 pm. I understand that this can be challenging for some, especially when navigating secondary school and kinder pick ups as well. It becomes difficult for us to supervise children if they are left waiting for longer amounts of time as we have meetings to get to and cannot leave the supervision to our office staff. If you are finding it difficult to get to school by 3.20 pm I ask you to utilise our Out of Hours Care service (TheirCare). There will of course be 'one off' emergencies where parents may run late, and in these circumstances, we are happy to supervise children until collected.

DISTRICT ATHLETICS TEAM

Our team has now been selected from our Athletics Trials and training has now commenced. Mrs Van Ballegooy will continue training each Wednesday and Friday up until the event on 26th March.

RED DOOR CAFE LUNCH ORDERS

Red Door Cafe will continue to run lunch orders for the OLW students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you would like to order lunch for your child, please head to the cafe on any of these mornings to place your order. Please see attached flyer for menu items.

*God Bless,
Grace Lucic*

Word of the Fortnight

Congratulations to everyone who found out that '**swelter**' means an uncomfortably hot atmosphere.

"The swelter of the afternoon had cooled."

Our phrase for the fortnight is:
'good deeds are never lost'

Find out its meaning and see if you can include it in your writing.

2025 Sacramental Dates



*Sacrament of Confirmation (Year 6)
Thursday, 5th June at 5 pm*

*Sacrament of First Eucharist (Year 3)
Sunday, 3rd August at 1 pm*

*First Reconciliation (Year 2)
Tuesday, 21st October at 2 pm*

Class Masses - Term 1

Year Prep & 5/6 Mass - Friday, 14th March at 10 am
Year 3/4 Mass - Wednesday, 19th March at 10 am



Calendar Dates - Term 1, 2025

	March
TUESDAY 4/3	Year 3/4 Excursion to Pollywoodside Shrove Tuesday
WEDNESDAY 5/3	Ash Wednesday Mass (9 am) Parents and Grandparents are most welcome to join us. Rest Day for Preps - Prep Testing (By Appointment)
MONDAY 10/3	Labour Day Public Holiday (No school)
WEDNESDAY 12/3	Preps in today NAPLAN Testing Period Commences (Years 3 & 5) School Advisory Council Meeting (6 pm in school office)
THURSDAY 13/3	School Photo Day (all students in full Summer School Uniform)
FRIDAY 14/3	Prep/Year 5/6 Class Mass (10 am)
WEDNESDAY 19/3	Year 3/4 Class Mass (10 am) Our Lady of the Way Open Evening (4 - 6 pm)
MONDAY 24/3	NAPLAN Testing Period Concludes
WEDNESDAY 26/3	District Athletics - Meadowglen Athletics Track (Epping)
MONDAY 31/3	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY (PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS)
	April
FRIDAY 4/4	Final Day of Term 1 - 1 pm Finish



Book School Interviews Online

Dear Parents,

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on **Monday, 31st March** from 9 am until 7 pm. This day will be a Closure Day for students however they are required to attend the interview with their parents. Bookings can be made via www.schoolinterviews.com.au using the School Event code shown below.

BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 28th MARCH at 5 pm

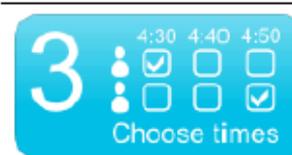
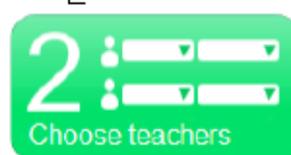
Parents of 5/6T (Mr Chris Tormey): please note that Mr Tormey will be absent on Monday, 31st March. 5/6T interviews will therefore be conducted on **Tuesday, 25th March from 9 am – 7 pm**. Students will come to school as normal on Tuesday, 25th March and will join when it is their interview time.

School event code

9wzyx

Go to <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>

Or scan the QR Code:



When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

All interviews are onsite at OLOW and they are **strictly 15 minutes**. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.

Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on 9460 6684.

Students are required to attend the Interview along with their parents



OUR LADY OF THE WAY KINGSBURY

School Tours & Open Evening

Wednesday March 19 2025

4 pm to 6 pm

Everyone is most welcome to visit our multi-award winning school and:

- Meet our friendly Staff
- Meet our Student Leaders
- Tour the School and visit all the Classrooms, Specialist Areas and explore our grounds.
- Collect an Enrolment Pack

Guided Tours with our Student Leaders are available throughout the evening!



Tel: 9460 6684

11-19 Green Avenue, Kingsbury
www.olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au



School Photos 2025 - Important Registration Information



School Photographs will be taken at

Our Lady of the Way Primary School

Thursday 13th March 2025

There is no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day

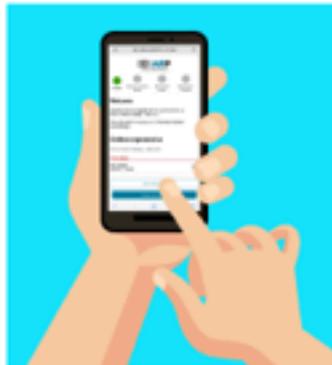
Flyers with Unique Image Codes will be issued to all students on or after photo day

When you receive your child's 2025 image code **Follow these 3 simple steps**

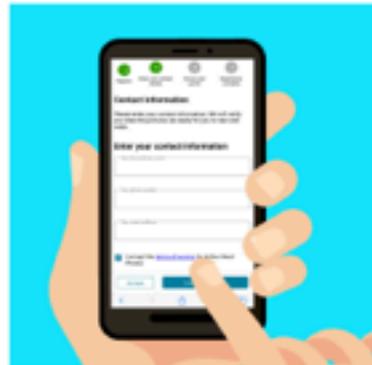
1 Go to order.arphotos.com.au and enter your child's 2025 image code



2 Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings



3 Fill in your contact details & review before confirming your registration*



*This information will only be used for distribution of personal image codes and ordering details.

That's it!

It's important to register each year to link your child's NEW images to your contact details. When 2025 images are ready to view in our secure webshop you'll be notified by email and SMS

- Create photo packages with any layout & YOUR choice of images + Multiple Image Downloads
- Order on any mobile device • Share the images with family & friends for FREE

** Please wait to receive notifications that new images are online **BEFORE ordering for 2025****

Easter

RAFFLE 2025

WE ARE REQUESTING DONATIONS OF EASTER-THEMED ITEMS,
INCLUDING:

-  CHOCOLATE EGGS, PLASTIC EGGS (PRE-FILLED OR EMPTY)
-  SMALL FIDGETS/PLUSHIES/TOYS
-  WRAPPED CANDY (TO FIT IN THE EGGS)
-  STICKERS, TRINKETS & CRAFT ITEMS
-  ALLERGY-FRIENDLY TREATS WELCOME!

**RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD IN THE COMING WEEKS
WITH THE RAFFLE DRAWN IN THE LAST WEEK OF
SCHOOL TERM**



Parents & Friends Association
OLW



RED DOOR CAFE LUNCH ORDERS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

PH: 9078 9725

TOASTIES

Cheese: \$7.00

Cheese & Ham: \$7.50

Cheese & Tomato : \$7.50

Cheese, Ham & Tomato: \$8.50

WRAPS

Chicken Schnitzel: \$11.90

Chicken, Lettuce & Mayo \$11.90

Ham: \$8.90

HOT FOOD

5 Nuggets & Chips: \$9.90

Pizza(Magarita): \$7.50

Lasagne: \$12.90

Penne Bolognese: \$10.90

1/2 Sausage Roll:\$ 6.00

Whole Sausage Roll: \$10.90

Chips:\$6.00



KINGSBURY THEIRCARE newsletter - week 5

Week 5 - Last week of Summer!

Oh how sad we are to see summer go!

This week we looked back at our summer experiences and celebrated the warm sun, beach visits and delicious icy snacks that we love to enjoy during the summertime!



Activities

- Sunburst paintings - in honour of the beautiful sunrises and sunsets that are full of bursting colour during summer, we decided to make our very own sunburst paintings! Ava,
- Hama bead creations - this activity is always super popular at the service as it gives the children amazing use of their imagination! The freedom to design any kind of picture is incredible, we always see such creative thinking and innovative bead design with this!
- Obstacle courses - now this activity was a fan favourite for a while during the summer so why not revisit it? We had so much fun not only creating a tricky obstacle course on the playground, but timing ourselves to see who could complete it the fastest!



Notices

When possible, please ensure you are booking as early as you can! Booking in advance supports us to staff the program adequately in line with our 1:15 ratio.

Additionally, if your child is away from school or if plans change, a friendly reminder to give us the heads up via a text or call!



NO HAT NO PLAY

Now that it is Term 4, NO HAT NO PLAY, everyone must be wearing a hat at OSHC.

We provide sunscreen for all children, but please ensure a hat is brought along in their bags!

Community News



  **SANTA MARIA COLLEGE**
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

REGISTER VIA QR CODE
OR COLLEGE WEBSITE



OPEN DAY 2025

Thursday 20 March 2025
2pm - 6.30pm

Visitors will enjoy presentations from our Principal and expert staff, take student-led tours, see our classrooms in action and learn about the unique Santa programs

- Our IB - MYP Program
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- A holistic wellbeing model

P. 9488 1600 E. registrar@santamaria.vic.edu.au W. santamaria.vic.edu.au

Do you have a daughter in Grade 5?
Year 7 2027 enrolment applications close Friday, 15 August 2025.

Apply today via our website
clc.vic.edu.au/enrol

Limited tour spots available, register at
clc.vic.edu.au/enrol/book-a-tour



Hear from our Principal
Stephanie Evans



Parish News



Parish of Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury

Parish Priest: Fr John O'Connor
 Kingsbury Presbytery: 13 Green Ave, Kingsbury, VIC. 3083
 Phone: 0488 020 364
 Email: Kingsbury@cam.org.au
 Parish Website: <http://www.olwkingsbury.org.au/>

Our Parish Primary Schools and churches:
 ♦ Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury (Principal- Grace Lucic): 03 9460 6684
 ♦ Holy Name East Preston (Principal –Caroline Galea): 03 9471 0883
 ♦ Holy Name Preston East: 28 Robb St, Reservoir - 03 9471 0832
 Baptisms and Marriages by appointment: Please ring 0488 020 364

UPCOMING DATES

Blessed Carlo Acutis Relic Exhibition: 18th February- 23rd February (St Thomas Moore Parish, Mt Eliza)
 5th March: Ash Wednesday Masses
 7th March: World Day of Prayer

MASS TIMES

WEEKEND

Saturday Evening: 6:00pm at Our Lady of the Way
 Sunday Morning: 9:00am at Our Lady of the Way
 Sunday Morning: 10:30am at Holy Name East Preston
 Sunday Afternoon: 4:00pm at Holy Name East Preston (Vietnamese)

WEEKDAY

Our Lady of the Way: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00am
 Holy Name East Preston: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9:00am

PRAYER GROUPS

Rosary
 Before morning Masses:
 Our Lady of the Way: 9:20am
 Holy Name East Preston: 8.30am
 Morning Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
 Our Lady of the Way: Friday at 9:15am to 9:45 am before 10am Mass

CONFESSION TIMES

Holy Name East Preston: Saturday after 9:00 am mass
 Our Lady of the Way: Saturday 5:15-5:45pm before 6pm Mass

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

Date: 1st and 2nd March: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 17:19-20

The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

Communion Antiphon: Cf Psalm 12:6

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

UNDERSTANDING OUR FAITH

LENTEN REFLECTION: JOURNEY THROUGH THE DESERT, By Vatican News

From the beginning of the 2nd century, Christians began preparing for Easter with two days of fasting and penitence. Later, this practice was applied to all of Holy Week. By 325, the Council of Nicea already testifies to a 40-day preparation for Easter, after the "model" of Jesus who spent 40 days in the desert. Lent is a time of experiencing the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert. We might think of a desert in the classic sense of sand and solitude, of dangers and ambushes. But the "deserts" that challenge us today have more to do with life's toils and difficulties, or the emptiness we feel in life. Thus, Lent is a grace-filled time, a period of time defined as, "life on a scale", a time in which we are urged to let go of the shortcuts of easy compromises, of distrust, of sin, and instead, to spend this period with Jesus so as to learn how to weigh priorities correctly. Setting aside time to listen to the Word of God and to pray is an invitation to place God above ourselves. To fast means to renounce everything that we fill ourselves with in so many ways, without ever satisfying our hearts. Prayer and the Eucharist satisfy our hearts and give meaning to life because only love satisfies our true hunger and thirst for life and happiness. Prayer opens the heart to truth; fasting teaches us how to choose what really matters in life; almsgiving is a natural consequence of these two. And we should not forget to fast from such things as selfishness, distrust, false securities, hatred, indifference.

CAN THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND? By Fr. T Nguyen

Why do you observe the splinter in another's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How do you know that you are always right and others are wrong? Today's Gospel from St Luke provides a beautiful explanation of unconditional love whereby we are to love even our enemies. This kind of love is not natural. It can come only with the blessing of God and as a result of much work and effort. But this is precisely the challenge of today's gospel to each of us. To be so positive of all people that we can accept them for who they are, that we can overcome those occasions when we misjudge others, that we can appreciate the good in others and hope they can do the same for us. When Jesus warned his own disciples about the danger of following the blind, he had the Pharisees particularly in mind, who prided themselves on being experts in the Scriptures. They were confident that they were qualified and able to tell other people how to live in obedience to God's word. Over and over, Jesus said they were blind. Observing the splinter in another's eye and never noticing the plank in your own – Jesus speaks of fraternal correction with charity, truth and humility. To speak to someone about their faults without charity, truth and humility is something like performing surgery without giving anaesthetic, resulting in a person with a wound that is hard to heal or even killing that person. In this passage, Jesus invites us to speak with others or about others with humility or without hypocrisy. If we must correct a tiny mistake of someone, consider that you have so many that are greater. The Lord says this effectively: first take the log out of our own eye, and then we will see clearly to take out the speck from others. Only in this way will you not be blind and be able to see clearly in order to truly help others. Pope Francis is very practical in providing an example of how we can talk with one another about their faults. He says that "we must proceed with much sensitivity like mothers and grandmothers when they talk to their own children and grandchildren". The Pope carefully reminds us that fraternal correction is an act of healing and comes with love, with charity, and humility. Without, it can bring offence and more damage into people's heart.

At Our Lady of the Way, Kingsbury Parish we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish.



Parish News

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

As we enter the season of Lent, join us for Ash Wednesday Mass on March 5th, marking the beginning of this sacred time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Volunteers needed for 6pm Mass if you would like to be a Special Ministers and/ or Reader, please let Fr John know. During Lent, individuals aged 18-60 are required to fast, and those 14 and older must abstain (Canon 1252). On Fridays, except solemnities, the practice of penance can be fulfilled through prayer, self-denial, or acts of charity. It encourages us to turn away from the noise and over-indulged appetites so that we may understand the hunger that can be filled—with the grace of God—only by prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor.

- Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury: School and Morning Mass at 9:00am; Evening Mass at 6:00pm
- Holy Name East Preston: at 12:00pm

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

POPE FRANCIS: "THANK YOU FOR THE PRAYERS OF COMFORT"

Pope Francis' condition remained 'critical' the evening of 23 February, his doctors said, with blood tests showing 'initial, mild renal insufficiency, at present under control'. The Pope has had 'no further respiratory crisis since last night,' said the medical bulletin published by the Vatican, but it said he was continuing to use supplemental oxygen. The 88-year-old Pope Francis, who has been hospitalised at Rome's Gemelli Hospital since 14 February and has been diagnosed with double pneumonia, 'continues to be alert and well oriented', it said. Pope Francis thanked the doctors and health care workers for their care and also thanked people for the 'many messages of affection' that he has received, particularly the letters and drawings sent by children. 'Thank you for this closeness and for the prayers of comfort I have received from all over the world,' he wrote. Many of those prayers have come from people who gather in the courtyard beneath his suite of rooms at the hospital. The immense stone statue of St John Paul II is the focal point where visitors gravitate to pray and leave flowers, candles, rosaries, cards, drawings and notes. A mother and her daughter knelt before the statue and set down four red and silver heart-shaped mylar balloons tied to a pot of flowers. 'Francis is the Pope of the frail and the weak,' said the mother, Violetta. Now that he has become weak, too, 'being here seemed the right thing.' She said she feels a special bond with Pope Francis because her daughter, Maria, was born around the same time the Pope was elected in March 2013. 'Be strong Francis. We are with you.' Let us join together in continuing to pray for Pope Francis: May our Blessed Mother protect and carry him gently under her loving grace and may the Lord grant him healing, courage and strength. St Francis of Assisi, pray for him.

ARCHBISHOP CAMPAIGN: COME FOLLOW ME

Parishes across the Archdiocese together raised \$811,178.00. Our Lady of the Way Parish contribution \$1400 not including online donations (TBC). Your generous contribution to the Archbishop's Campaign supports the vital ministries that serve all in our Archdiocese, including Priests Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College and the Archbishop's evangelisation initiatives such as World Youth Day.

METANOIA LENTEN PROGRAM

The Metanoia booklet is an exquisite 76-page booklet. It contains short daily reflections during Lent, perfect for individual or group devotional reading, in addition Sunday Scripture readings, reflections, prayers, questions and visio divina. Enrich your Lenten experience with artwork reflections. These daily reflections have been crafted by 21 clergy, religious, and lay contributors from across the globe. Metanoia is rich with insights that inspire us to live the true meaning of Lent and offers the tools to rediscover hope, mercy, and the life-giving power of God's grace. Available in the foyer for \$10 each.

ROSTER	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9am
Special Ministers	1 st Mar: J. Vandenberg & S. Minster 8 th Mar: C Zanini & S. Minister	2 nd Mar: M Leonard & S Goonetilleke 9 th Mar: D Austin & G Dowling
Readers	1 st Mar: Claire Menzies 8 th Mar: Frank Williams	2 nd Mar: Carolyn Nguyen 9 th Mar: Angelina Crupi
Cleaning	2 nd Mar: Jason C & Joseph G	15 th Mar: Cleaners

PRAYERS FOR COMMUNITY

Recent Deceased: We pray for all who died recently especially: Victor Carruana

Anniversary: We pray for all anniversaries about this time especially:

Alejandria Domingo, Kevin Barnard, Brian Kenny, Honery Almeida, Roquey Almeida, Dyphna Almeida.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion invites you to Unite Against Poverty this Lent. Project Compassion mobilises Australians to raise much-needed funds to help alleviate poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity in the most vulnerable and marginalised. Held during Lent, the six-week period before Easter, Catholic schools, parishes, and the wider Australian public participate in a diverse range of fundraising and awareness raising activities and events to support. Project Compassion Boxes and envelopes are now available. For more information please visit:

<https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au>

LITERATURE CORNER

Columban Calendars 2025 are now free and available in foyer.

The Australian Catholic Magazine - Autumn Edition, is now available. Please take a free copy today.

For news, and weekly newsletter visit: <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/>

CHURCH DONATIONS

1st Collection - Thanksgiving Offering for the support of parish running costs, initiatives, its welfare and maintenance.

Name: Kingsbury Parish Church
BSB: 083 347 A/C: 68643 0901

2nd Collection - Presbytery Offering for the support of our Parish Priest, the Archbishop, the sick and retired priests and priests in less fortunate areas of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Name: Our Lady of the Way Parish Presbytery
BSB: 083 347 A/C: 66765 5224

FORTNIGHTLY OFFERINGS

Weekend of 16th and 23rd of February
1st collection: \$ 1653.50
2nd collection: \$ 692.00

Parish News

EXHIBITION: BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS RELIC

St Thomas More Parish in Mount Eliza recently hosted a remarkable week-long parish mission, welcoming a first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis—a strand of his hair. This event, held from 18 to 23 February, marked the first time both the relic and exhibition had been displayed in Melbourne, inspiring parishioners and visitors into a deeper reflection on the mystery of the Eucharist. Visitors to St Thomas More Parish had the opportunity to venerate Carlo's relic and explore his Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition, which was displayed in the parish hall. Each evening featured a special talk highlighting different aspects of Carlo's faith, with guest speakers offering insights into his life, devotion to the Eucharist, and the transformative power of God's presence. Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager beatified in 2020, is often called the 'cyber-apostle of the Eucharist' for his devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and his use of technology to share his faith. Before his death from leukaemia at just 15, Carlo documented and compiled Eucharistic miracles from around the world into an online exhibition, which has since inspired Catholics across the globe. This year, on 27 April, Carlo Acutis will be canonised during the Jubilee of Teenagers, and there are plans for the relic and exhibition to visit at least nine other parishes in Melbourne throughout the course of the Jubilee Year. Work is underway to set up a website. For more information please collect a pamphlet in the foyer.



JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the
Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

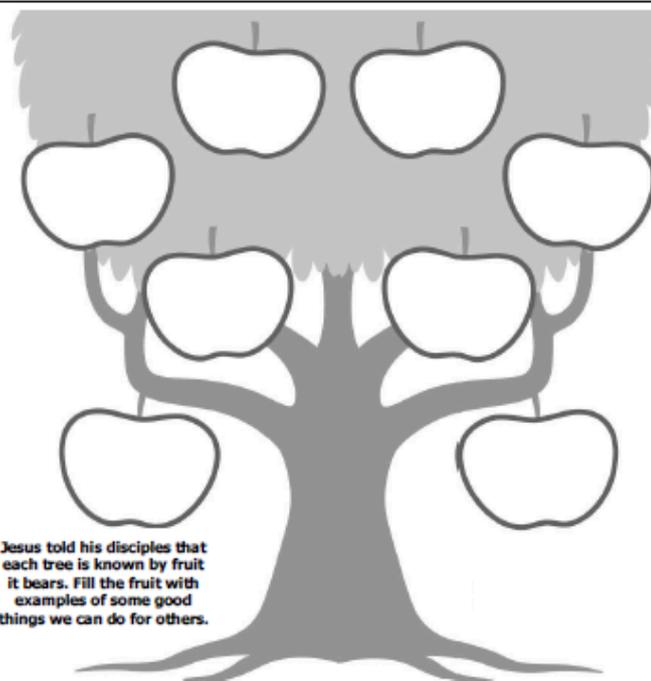
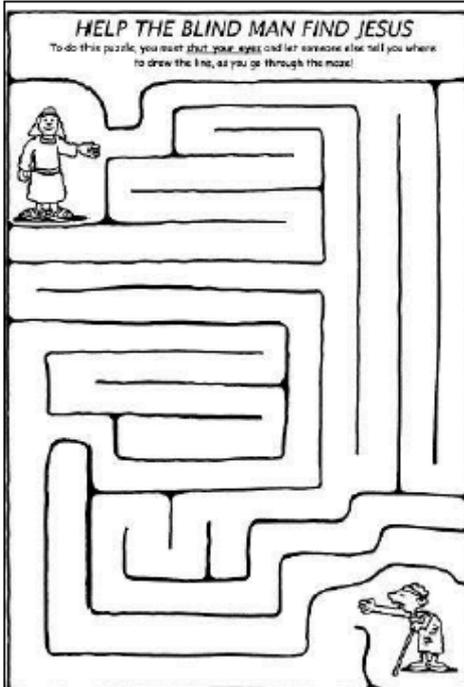
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE EVENTS AND NEWS

Start planning your Jubilee pilgrimage today. Be sure to jump onto the website of the Pilgrim Place you are visiting for details of opening hours, Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation times. The Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese has made special passports (suggested \$5 donation) available at each of the Pilgrim Places. Pilgrims can take one and get it stamped at each location for a wonderful memento of their experience and a source of reflection for the future. Every month, a different commemorative postcard of a saint or revered Catholic figure will be available. Pilgrims are invited to spread their journey over several months to collect each illustrated cards over the course of the year. Designated locations:

St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne, St Mary Star of the Sea West Melbourne, St Mary MacKillop Keilor Downs, St Luke's Lalor, St Mary Magdalene's Trentham, Polish Marian Shrine Aberfeldie/Essendon, St Dominic's Camberwell East, St Francis Xavier Mansfield, Sacred Heart Croydon, Divine Mercy Shrine Keysborough, Our Lady of Lavang Keysborough, St Patrick's, Mentone, St Macartan's, Mornington.



Parish News

The Living Word

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

2 March 2025

First Reading Sir 27:4-7

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.

The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O
Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the
night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-
tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our
God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.
(R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:54-58

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

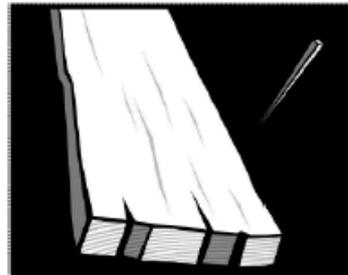
Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!



Gospel Lk 6:39-45

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

Reflection by My Catholic Life

Are you "fully trained?" What does it mean to be fully trained? Jesus makes it clear that those who are fully trained will be like their teacher. Of course, we must become like our Lord, who is the one and only Teacher. So are you like Him in every way?

Being fully trained as a Christian is different than being fully trained in an occupation. For example, a doctor is fully trained when all the necessary lessons are learned and the practical aspects of medicine are put into practice. That is why that person becomes a doctor, just like the doctors who were their teachers. But the Christian life is not something we master by learning many teachings of the faith so that, by our expertise, we can then put them into practice using our natural talents. For a Christian to be fully trained, it is necessary that the Divine Physician fully possess them, live within them, and act through them. Thus, Christian training is the practice of allowing God to become one with you so that it is God Who acts in and through you. This form of "training" first takes on the goal of freeing us from spiritual blindness. We must see Christ and come to know Him. Again, this is not a matter of simply learning various truths about God in an intellectual way. We must see and know the Person Who is Christ Jesus. This is true sight. Blindness, however, can always set in again when we take the eyes off the Lord.

Seeing Christ, however, is not enough. Seeing must be followed by doing. That is why our Lord goes on to say in today's Gospel that "every tree is known by its own fruit" and that a "good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good." Seeing Christ Himself, within your soul, will produce that "store of goodness," and this will make you more "fully trained." Only then can you produce good fruit, for it will be Christ Himself producing the good fruit in and through you.

So back to our original question: "Are you fully trained?" Do you allow Him to act in your life and, through you, in the lives of others?

God wants to use you, to live within you, and to act through you. He wants you to be like Him in every way. This is only possible when we admit our blindness, turn our eyes to Him, and allow Him to become one with us.