From the Parish Priest

Dear Parishioners,

Today’s Gospel is the very beginning of Luke’s Gospel. We are reminded by St Luke that his Gospel is a faithful account of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, and teachings, “exactly as they were handed down...by eyewitnesses and ministers of the word” from the beginning. This is of course true for all four of the holy Gospels. When we prayerfully meditate on a Gospel passage and let it sink down deep, we are truly connecting with Jesus himself and all he He did and taught. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Lord teaches us, in a personal way relevant to our lives at the moment, if we but prayerfully listen intently to Him through the holy Gospels. Having listened we then need to respond in prayer ourselves to the Lord and also, very importantly, respond with concrete action in our daily lives. Once again we are always inspired and empowered in this by the grace of the Holy Spirit given to us as God’s sons and daughters through Baptism.

A key aspect of the Gospel that we are focussing on this year is the divine mercy of Jesus Christ. In this Year of Mercy I would like to draw your attention to the Brisbane South Deanery: Pilgrimage Through Lent activities that are being advertised in this Newsletter. Please especially take note of the evening we are hosting on February 25th - Mercy in Family Life - at the Marymac Centre.

For the Reflection this week we have a ‘taster’ of an excellent article, “Healing from Pornography with the Divine Comedy”. Dante’s immortal Divine Comedy should be read by every intelligent Catholic at least once in their lives and it is available in many excellent English translations. The author of this article, Matt Fradd, brilliantly links a major theme of the Divine Comedy to a serious and devastating problem for a growing number of people today. The link to the full article is: http://www.crisismagazine.com/2016/healing-from-pornography-with-the-divine-comedy

Fr Andrew Wise PS

If you haven’t yet read The Divine Comedy, the Year of Mercy is the time to do it. Named by Pope Francis as one of his favorite books, this narrative poem by the fourteenth-century Italian poet Dante Alighieri is widely considered to be the most preeminent work of Italian literature, as well as one of the greatest poems ever written. The impact of this work was so monumental that by writing The Divine Comedy in the Tuscan dialect, Dante laid the foundation for a nationalized Italian language.

But what, you may ask, does this epic poem’s 100 cantos have to do with pornography? At first glance, The Divine Comedy is a fictional recounting of Dante’s journey through the afterlife—the Inferno (hell), Purgatorio (Purgatory), and Paradiso (heaven). At a deeper level, however, it is an allegory of the soul’s journey to God, which often includes recognizing, renouncing and healing from sin.

When someone starts using pornography, their gradual descent into addiction is quite similar to the opening of The Divine Comedy, when Dante awakens from slumber only to find himself lost in the woods. I don’t mean that one cannot be immediately fascinated by pornography, but that if one continues to view it regularly, those hooks of pornography, as it were, will sink deeper and deeper into a man’s heart, until what he thought he could walk away from at any point in time, he now realizes he cannot.

The question becomes, then, what does one do to make it out of the woods, to break free from the enslavement that pornography brings? For true healing to take place, pornography users usually travel a path quite similar to Dante’s journey.

Resolve. The first action that is necessary is to recognize that you are, in fact, lost. When Dante realized he had strayed from the true path, he set his eyes upon the heights of Mount Joy and immediately began to attempt an ascent. When a man, trapped by pornography, sees what he is turning into, and how pornography has distorted his sense of self-worth, his masculine identity, his view of women and so forth, he is rightly repulsed and immediately resolves to do better, to be better. “I will never do this again,” he may say in all sincerity as he strives to be the man he was created to be.

And then after Confession...
###فش 6. Chrsim Mass

Week 5. 

Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7:30pm at the Parish Office. 

**Josephites Associates Meeting** at 10:00am at St Fabian's Hall, Yeronga. 

Contact Jay on 3848 8923 or Claire on 3848 3998. 

**7. Mercy in Prayer:** 

**Sr Mary Franzmann** pbvm 

**& Sr Ursula O’Roake sgs** 

3 March 2016, 7-8.30 pm 

St Bernard’s Church Upper Mt Gravatt 

**6. Christ Mass** 

17 March 2016, 7.00 pm 

Cathedral of St Stephen
Rosters for next week

MINISTERS OF THE WORD
Sun (MI) 7.30am Shane Fell, Jim Lucey
Sun (SJF) 9.00am Vince Kartelo
Sun (MI) 5.00pm Brett Heath, Dragica Heath

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
Sat (SJF) 6:00pm: Bert Jacobs, John Lesina, Prem Nair, Kevin Rowen, Valmai Winter
Sun (MI) 7:30am: Bertha Clark, Joan Coghlan, Paul Coghlan, Ester Evangelista, Charles Grugan, Kathleen Grugan
Sun (SJF) 9:00am: Liam Herbert, Peter Menagh, Christine Murphy, Tony Murphy, Deirdre Vokes

COUNTERS
Monday, 25th January, 2016
Nick Jabore, Bernie O’Hara

CHURCH CARE
Sacristy (SEC) Maria Monro
Sanctuary & Sacristy (MI) Mabel Saah, Alicia Cooke
Church Cleaning (MI) Noel Everding
Laundry (SEC) Mira Tedjo, Kate Ahern
Laundry (MI) Mabel Saah

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You are invited to come and spend a day as a pilgrim at the beautiful Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston.

Who: All members of the Archdiocese are welcome
individuals or a pilgrim group.

Cost: Free (includes boxed lunch + tea & coffee)

Bookings: Bookings are essential
(maximum 60 pilgrims per day).

Send/email (at least 7 days before your chosen
pilgrimage day) name(s), contact details and dietary
needs if applicable to: ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au

Please phone 3286 4011 for further information or
email enquiries as above.

PILGRIM DAYS

Wednesday 9th March - Wednesday 8th June
Sunday 13th March - Sunday 9th August
Tuesday 19th April - Saturday 22nd October
Saturday 21st May - Saturday 25th August

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 23rd January, 5:30pm Vigil at MI:
For the People of the Parish: Pro populo
Sun, 24th January, 7:30am Mass at MI:
For a Special Intention.
Sun, 24th January, 5:00pm Mass at MI:
For the Soul of Linda Triasmono
Mon, 25th January, 7:00am Mass at SE:
For the Holy Souls
Tue, 26th January, 6:00am Mass at SE:
For the Soul of Peter Byng
9:00am Mass at MI:
For Margaret Lowcock, Recently Deceased
Wednesday, 27th January, 7:00am Mass at SJF:
For the Soul of Fr Brian Burke
Thursday, 28th January, 6:00am Mass at SE:
For a Special Intention

Parish Diary & Mass Times:
25th - 31st January 2016

Monday 25th January
7:00am Mass [OF] SE
7:00pm Mass [EF] MI

Tuesday 26th January
6:00am Mass [OF+] SE
7:00am Mass [EF] MI
9:00am Mass [OF+] MI

Wednesday 27th January
7:00am Mass [OF] SJF
9:00am Mass [EF] MI

Thursday 28th January
6:00am Mass [OF+] SE
7:00am Mass [OF+] MI
9:00am Mass [EF] MI

Friday 29th January
7:00am Mass [OF] SE
9:00am Mass [EF] MI
7:30pm Holy Hour MI

Saturday 30th January
8:00am Mass [EF] MI

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:30pm Vigil [OF+] MI
6:00pm Vigil [OF] SJF

Sunday 31st January
7:30am Mass [OF] MI
9:00am Mass [EF] MI
9:00am Mass [OF] SJF
5:00pm Mass [OF+] MI

OF = Ordinary Form | OF+ = Ad orientem | EF = Extraordinary Form
MI = Mary Immaculate SE = St Elizabeth’s SJF = St John Fisher

CONFESSION TIMES:

Monday 6:45pm (MI)
Wednesday 9:40am - 10:00am (MI)
Thursday 7:30am - 8:00am (MI)
Thursday 9:40am - 10:00am (MI)
Friday 9:40am - 10:00am (MI)
Friday 7:30pm - 8:30pm (MI) During Holy Hour
Saturday 7:15am - 8:00am (MI)
Saturday 4:45pm - 5:15pm (MI)
Saturday 5:45pm by request (SJF)
Sunday 8:30am (MI)

The Angelus and the Rosary are prayed half an hour before
the early Masses, Monday to Friday, at SE & SJF.

* All night Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
(Currently suspended. Resumes February 11th)
Usually takes place each Thursday at St Elizabeth’s
Chapel beginning at 6:00pm and ending at 6:45am on
Fridays.

* Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on
Saturdays from 7:15am - 7:45am at Mary Immaculate
Church.

7:00am Mass at MI:
For the Repose of the Soul of John Ahern
Friday, 29th January, 7:00am Mass at SE:
For Jesus Youth
Saturday, 30th January, 6:00pm Vigil at SJF:
For the People of the Parish: Pro populo
Sunday, 31st January, 9:00am Mass at MI:
For the Holy Souls
**SUNDAY MASS READINGS**

**First Reading:** Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people - since he stood higher than all the people - Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amén, Amén!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah - His Excellency - and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm 18

(Said by all)

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock!

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor, and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!


Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Memorial Acclamation: Number Three

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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ARE YOU A NEW PARISHIONER? OR ARE YOU FROM ELSEWHERE IN BRISBANE BUT REGULARLY ATTEND MASS HERE AND WOULD LIKE TO BE REGISTERED AS A FRIEND OF THE BRISBANE ORATORY?

If so, please fill in the form below and place it on the collection plate or mail to our Parish Office: P.O. Box 3131, Tarragindi. 4121.

☐  I am a new parishioner

☐  I am from elsewhere but would like to be registered as a friend of the Brisbane Oratory

Name. .................................................................

Address. ......................................................................

Phone. ................................................................. Mobile. .................................................................

E-mail. ........................................................................

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