



## **REFLECTION:**

As Christians in the world we cannot help but be influenced by the developments that happen around us. Indeed, we believe that many of these advances are gifts from God, given to us to enjoy. But not all developments in thinking and practices are for the better.

One recent and alarming development is the false thinking that we cannot judge other people, or that we should not be judged. The wider community regularly maintains that no one is in a position to judge another's behaviour or statements. This approach holds that everyone's words and actions are of equal value. This position is many things, but it's certainly not Christian, but this hasn't stopped it from finding a home amongst us. We regularly hear statements from Christian men and women like, 'We're not in a position to judge' or 'You can't judge them' and 'If it's fine for them, then it's fine'. This thinking has a name. It's called moral relativism and it tries to claim that the morality of behaviour is only determined by the person who does the act, or the context within which the action is taken.

Our Catholic tradition teaches us that a context is very important in trying to work out if someone is to blame for what they say and do, but that a person's particular circumstances never change the fact that the words or actions are in themselves wrong. We hold that while all human beings have equal value and dignity, we do not believe that everyone's opinion and actions are of equal worth. We believe that 'right judgment' is a gift of the Holy Spirit and that it's best exercised with humility and compassion.

When I hear people say I should not judge others, I assume they are telling me that I should not condemn other people. There is a world of difference between judging and condemning. To judge is to make an assessment. To condemn is to damn. As Christians we judge because we have to keep discerning how the things of the world can be reconciled with the things we hold to be true. Condemnation is the prerogative of God alone, who sees all, knows all and loves all. In today's Gospel, however, John tells us that even God has forfeited the right to condemn the world, but has sent Jesus to be the world's light, life, truth and saviour.



The Gospel reminds us that if we feel condemned for what we have done and said, then it's because we have condemned ourselves, not because God condemns us. John tells us that even when we find ourselves lost in the darkness of our most destructive behaviour, the saving love of Christ is always available to us, inviting us to come out of the darkness into his light.

What a great metaphor the light and dark is for making the best judgments in our own lives. Alarm bells should always ring when we find ourselves not wanting anyone else to know what we have said or done. Secrecy is often the ally of sin and the more open and transparent we are, the more confident we can be that we are walking as children of the light.

May this Lenten Eucharist enable us to let go of the desire to condemn others and ourselves, and to receive again the compassionate, just and humble gift of right judgment that helps us to see the darkness for what it is, and keeps us walking in the light of Christ.

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## **HAPPENINGS ACROSS THE PARISH**

Saturday 17 March	10.00am	<b>Reconciliation</b>	Mary Immaculate Church
Saturday 17 March	6.30pm	Mass & St Patrick's Gathering	St Bernadette's Church
Tuesday 20 March	9.15am	<b>Mass &amp; MOG School – Junior &amp; Prep</b>	Mother of God Church
Tuesday 20 March	6.30pm	St Bernadette's School <b>First Reconciliation</b>	St Bernadette's Church
Tuesday 20 March	8.00pm	Richard McKinney Lenten Lecture	Mother of God Church
Friday 23 March	9.15am	Mass & St Bernadette's School Yrs 1 / 2N	St Bernadette's Church
Friday 23 March	7.00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross in Lent</b>	St Bernadette's Church
Saturday 24 March	10.00am	<b>Reconciliation</b>	St Bernadette's Church
Monday 26 March	7.30pm	Singing Practice for Holy Week & Easter	Mary Immaculate Church
Tuesday 27 March	11.45am	Mother of God School <b>First Reconciliation</b>	Mother of God Church
Wednesday 28 March	11.30am	Mary Immaculate P.S - <b>First Reconciliation</b>	Mary Immaculate Church
Wednesday 28 March	2.00pm	Mary Immaculate P.S - <b>First Reconciliation</b>	Mary Immaculate Church
Wednesday 28 March	8.00pm	Pastoral Leadership Team Meeting	Parish Office
Thursday 29 March	7.30pm	<b>Lenten Reconciliation - Second Rite</b>	Mary Immaculate Church
Friday 30 March	9.15am	Mass & St Bernadette's School Year 3	St Bernadette's Church
Friday 30 March	7.00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross in Lent</b>	St Bernadette's Church
Saturday 31 March	10.00am	<b>Reconciliation</b>	Mary Immaculate Church



**Saturday 17 March – St Patrick’s Day:**

After the 6.30pm Mass at St Bernadette’s Church on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, there will be an opportunity to gather and share supper at the Cunningham Centre, 93 Bond St, Ivanhoe.

Please bring food and / or Irish refreshments to share with others – coffee and tea provided.

**First Reconciliations:**

Children in each of our three Parish schools are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in coming weeks, as well as some catechists. Please keep the children and families in your prayers.

**Stations of the Cross at St Bernadette’s:** As part of the Lenten journey, there will be Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm on each Friday evening in Lent. All parishioners are invited to attend.

**Lenten Penitential Services:**

**Second Rite:**

- ❖ Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March Mary Immaculate 7.30pm
- ❖ Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April St Bernadette’s 7.30pm

**First Rite (Individual Reconciliation)** 10.00am Saturdays:

24<sup>th</sup> March St Bernadette’s 31<sup>st</sup> March Mary Immaculate 7<sup>th</sup> April Mary Immaculate

Reconciliation will be available after the Stations of the Cross at 10.00am at Mary Immaculate Church on Good Friday, 6 April

**Prayers of Contrition**

- ❖ Oh my God, I am sorry that I have sinned against you, because you are so good, and with your help, I will try not to sin again. Amen.
- ❖ Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, have mercy on me a sinner. Amen

**Anniversary Notice:**

An envelope was handed in to St Bernadette’s Church last weekend for an anniversary notice to be placed in the newsletter and Prayers of the Faithful for this weekend. Since no name was included I have been unable to include this particular anniversary and would be grateful if the person concerned contacted the Office so that this anniversary can be included in next week’s newsletter.

Thank you to those who clearly mark envelopes with name/s and purpose such as anniversary, recent death, thanksgiving number and name etc so that living persons are not included in anniversaries notices. – Ruth

**Singing Practices for Holy Week and Easter:**

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March Mary Immaculate Church 7.30pm
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April St Bernadette’s Church after Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm

**Project Compassion 2012:** Please take a Project Compassion box or a Lenten share pack envelopes to support Caritas which provides assistance and support to various programs for others in need many parts of our world. A large Project Compassion box is available in each church for individual contributions if you wish to use this option rather than boxes or envelopes.

Project Compassion boxes or envelopes need to be returned Easter weekend or no later than the end of April. If a **receipt is required, relevant details need to be filled in on the box lids or back of envelopes.** Receipts will be issued as soon as possible once returns are completed. Contributions are then sent to Caritas. – Ruth

**Lenten Richard McKinney Ecumenical Lectures 2012:**

Presenter: Rev Professor Howard Wallace Theme: Arthur Boyd and the Bible.

Prof. Howard Wallace, Uniting Minister and past lecturer at United Faculty of Theology and Melbourne College of Divinity has had a long interest in art and is pursuing an interest in the way that art relates to the biblical text. In these lectures he will pursue this question in relation to the work of Arthur Boyd.

All lectures begin at 8pm. Fellowship and supper after each presentation at 9.10pm. Donation: Gold coin.

- Tuesday 20 March: *‘The Golden Calf’* Mother of God Church, 56 Wilfred Road, Ivanhoe East

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION

### **Maundy Thursday Meal:**

As forecast last week, this significant event will again be held this year. Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 5.30 for 6.00pm start at Uniting Church Community Centre. Tickets \$20 are now available from Merle 9497 1691.

### **Harmony Day on 21 March - Fun with Faith:**

Manningham Interfaith Network invites you to attend Manningham Harmony Day celebration of the cultural and religious diversity of our community. This year the Theme is "Fun with Faith". The continuing message for Harmony Day in 2012 is 'Everyone Belongs'. The evening will include Mohammed (aka Mo) who is a Melbourne-based Community Worker, Comedian, and contestant on the Amazing Race Australia. The event also includes faith and cultural performances and local children's choirs reflecting unity and connecting together, followed by refreshments. Details are on Website "Events" or "News" page, Church notice. 7-9pm, Manningham Function Centre, 699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster. RSVP Dot Haynes, 9848 1710 or 0425 718 937

### **PLT Meeting 29 February 2012:**

These are some matters which arose at the recent PLT meeting.

- Enrolments have been constant for the Catechist children who attend schools other than parish schools: Confirmation will take place in Term 2 with the Parish schools, whereas Reconciliation will take place in Term 3 & Eucharist in Term 4. Parish schools will celebrate Reconciliation Term 1 and Eucharist Term 3.
- A letter was received from Br. Mark O'Loughlin with thanks for the years he and his community had occupied the 'old' convent at St Bernadette's.
- Finance Committee offered a report which will be presented to the parish towards the end of the month.
- We are looking forward to Fr. Gerry O'Collins' lecture on 15<sup>th</sup> March at Mother of God Church.
- The arrangements with the Playgroup have been confirmed and the Playgroup Co-ordinator congratulated on the success of this venture
- Current Ecumenical activities include the World Day of Prayer at MI on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March and planning for the Annual Meal on Holy Thursday at the Uniting Church Community Centre.

### **Project Compassion – Caritas Australia:**

Since the 1970's more than 2 million people have been displaced and 120,000 killed in Mindanao. This mineral-rich Philippines' island has been mired by land grabbing, economic exclusion, and disregard for customary laws and practices, breeding widespread poverty. Since 2008, Caritas Australia has supported the Mindanao Peoples Caucus to pursue justice and authentic human development in Mindanao's communities. The program builds peace from the ground up, providing humanitarian relief and encouraging participation in the peace process.

**Keeping in touch with children who are baptised into our faith community:** I'm delighted to say that two parishioners have now offered to be part of this ministry!! This means that, considering the scatter across the breadth of Ivanhoe, there's a better chance of being able to visit when families are at home.

### **Volunteers Needed for Children's Reading Club in West Heidelberg:**

The St Vincent de Paul Society provides an after school Reading Club, based at the St Pius X School, Heidelberg West. It runs from 3:30pm till 4:30pm each Tuesday of the school term. We are looking for volunteers to support the children with their reading. We are looking for men and women who enjoy reading and spending time with children who can give a couple of hours a week. For further information and interest, please contact Reading Club Coordinator: Rachel Roffey 0407 200 441 or rachel.roffey@optusnet.com.au.

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## **ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND 24 – 25 March 2012**

### **ST. BERNADETTE'S:**

Saturday 6.30pm

#### **Lector**

J. Murphy

#### **Special Ministers**

A. Pellizzari, T. Nibali

### **MARY IMMACULATE:**

Sunday 9.00am

#### **Leader**

M. Sibillin

#### **Reader**

F. Tosolini

#### **Mass Coordinators**

E. Ballao

#### **Counters**

P. & H. Nguyen

### **MOTHER OF GOD:**

Sunday 10.30am

#### **Sacristan**

E. Mount

#### **Lector**

E. Mount

#### **Special Ministers**

D. Ervin, M. Chin, B. / S. Janus

**Altar Society:** P. Mendes

**Choir Coordinator:** M. De Silva

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<b>First Collection – Thanksgiving:</b>	Envelopes: \$1,411.00	Loose cash: \$543.10	<b>Total: \$1,960.10</b>
<b>Second Collection – Presbytery:</b>			<b>\$ 899.90</b>

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