



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

*St Bernadette's Church, 89 Bond St, Ivanhoe West
Mary Immaculate Church, 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe
Mother of God Church, 56 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East*

Parish Priest: Fr. Thang Vu 63 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East 9499 5440 (after hours)
Parish Secretary: Mrs Ruth Villani
Parish Office: 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079 **Phone:** 9499 1515 **Fax:** 9499 9959
Parish Website: www.ivanhoecatholics.com **Email:** catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com

Masses:

Weekend: Saturday: 6.30pm St Bernadette's **Sunday:** 9am Mary Immaculate; 10.30am Mother of God
Weekday: 9.15am **Tuesday:** Mother of God **Wednesday:** Mary Immaculate **Friday:** St Bernadette's

No. 9

28 February - 1 March 2015

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT: YEAR B

THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I hide not your face from me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

- V. 1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R.**
- V. 2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**
- V. 3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: We trust in a loving God: Lord, hear our prayer

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember Margaret Beriman, Peter Fleming, Ingrid Weinberg, Robbie Gordon, Maria Colavizza, Mike McGuire, Sarah O'Shaughnessy, Margaret O'Brien, Tran thi Kim Chi, Sung Bui, Amy Nguyen, John Coonan and Gino Villani who are in need of prayer at this time. We remember those who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember Monsignor Brian Walsh and Maureen Jose who died recently. We also remember Silvio Omizzolo and Carmel Carroll whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



Baptism: We welcome Tully Giudice who is baptised into the faith community of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe this weekend. We welcome her family, relatives and friends who have come to share this special occasion, one of many steps in the lifelong journey of faith.

This Week's Readings: 2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 **Psalm 115:10, 15-19** **Romans 8:31-34** **Mark 9:2-10**

Saint and Feast Days:

Mon 2 March: St Chad / St David in Wales

Wed 4 March: St Casimir

Fri 6 March: St Colette

Tues 3 March: St Cunegund

Thurs 5 March: St Kieran

Sat 7 March: Ss Perpetua & Felicity

Next Week's Readings: 2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B

Exodus 20:1-17 **Psalm 18:8-11** **1 Corinthians 1:22-25** **John 2:13-25**

Prayers of the Sick: Please note that names will remain on the sick list for a month.

To extend the time, please make personal contact with the Parish Office 9499 1515.

For the next two weeks in order to encourage us on our Lenten journey, we will explore some scriptural figures and their stories both from Old and New Testament.

Abraham – Father of our faith

Life in brief: originally called Abram (exalted father); a patriarch of Judaism, Christianity and Islam; originally lived in Ur – Mesopotamia; called to leave his country to an unknown land later known as Canaan; wife – Sarah, servant - Hagar; children: 2 – Ishmael (with Hagar) and Isaac (with Sarah).

Story in focus: The Sacrifice of Isaac better known as The Testing of Abraham (Gen ch 22)

It is helpful to read into this story with the controlling verse that God sets out to test Abraham: “Some time after these events, God put Abraham to the test.” To test what? Perhaps obedience or listening! Once he shows that he obeys the inconceivable divine command he has faithfully passed the test. Another possible answer is that he has to faithfully listen to God. The word Abraham first heard from God, the demand to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, remains for us as incomprehensible – why would a loving God ask Abraham to sacrifice the child in whom he just has? What about the divine promise of being the father of the multitude? In rabbinic tradition, some sages have interpreted this chapter not as a test of Abraham, but of his misunderstanding: “What, do you think I meant for you to slay him [Isaac]? No! I said only to take him up...and now I say take him down.” (Gen, Rab. 56:8)

Abraham can be our Lenten companion when we try to be obedient and faithful to God in the midst of all odds. Perhaps we can boldly pray: Lord! I trust even when I am greatly afflicted!

Moses

Life in brief: Religious leader, Lawgiver and prophet, wife – Zipporah; children: Gershom, Eliezer; notable relatives: Aaron, Miriam; disability: stutter; chosen to the Israelites from Egypt; mediator between God and his people or better the complaints listener; principal author of the first five Books of the Hebrew Scriptures, known as the Pentateuch or the Torah (*Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy*); place of death: Mount Nebo.

Story in focus: The Death of Moses (Deut ch 34)

The final chapter of the Torah begins; Moses went to Mount Nebo, in simple, bare prose, his long gaze over the land of Canaan. God’s final words to Moses: “*This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Israel and Jacob which I will give to your offspring. I will let you see it with your own eyes, but you shall not cross there.*” Then God told him to lie down, close his eyes, and fold his arms across his chest. Moses died moments later.

Elie Wiesel in his famous book, *Messengers of God*, writes:

Nobody knows his resting place...

Nobody was present at Moses’ death. And so, in

a way, he lives on inside us, every one of us. For as long as one child of Israel, somewhere, proclaims his law and his truth, Moses lives on through him [or her], in him [or her], as does the burning bush, which consumes man’s heart without consuming his faith. (Pp 204-5)

In rabbinic tradition, Moses did not consent to die without first trying to talk God out of it. After all he was good at bargaining with God! Yet finally he accepted that his place was with the rest of his generation. Dennis Olson, an American Scriptural scholar, gives us a thoughtful reflection on Moses’ death which is a recurring theme foreshadowed throughout the Torah. It provides at the end for all of Israel’s sojourns in the desert that precedes it. So Olson writes:

‘...the death of Moses is intertwined with the death and exile of the people of Israel as a whole. ...On the one hand, it provides a paradigm by which Israel may understand its own human limits, struggles, and failures as the people of God. [And]...Moses’ death provides a metaphor for the possibilities of moving through the agony of exilic death and loss to the hope of life and blessing. *Dennis T. Olson, Deuteronomy and the Death of Moses: Overtures to Biblical Theology (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994) 10-11.*

Sometimes knowing how the story ends shapes how we try to live it! For Moses’ whole life, his witnesses, his amazing journeys, his ability as the complaints listener, his intercessions for God’s people, his frustration, his joys, his hopes, his teaching... and his conclusion, we can say Moses certainly is our Lenten companion!

Elijah

Life in brief: Lived in 9th century BC during the King Ahab; occupation: Prophet; healer, miracle healer, great hero who fights against the false prophets; illness: depression; successor: Elisha.

Story in focus: Journey to Mount Horeb (1 Kings ch 19)

After the triumph over the Prophets of Baal, Elijah was pursued by King Ahab’s wife, Queen Jezebel (the sole patroness of the Baal’s Prophets) and was running for his life. As he collapsed in the wilderness, depressed, he prayed, and asked that he might die, saying: “It is enough; now, O Lord! Take away my life.” Then he heard the voice, and energy was given him: “Arise and eat!” So he did, and he journeyed to Mount Horeb, where God promised to meet him. Elijah arrived in a cave and waited. Yet God was not in the strong wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire. “And after the fire there was the sound of sheer silence [tiny whispering sound.]” When he heard this he hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave. In a nutshell, God is in the silence!

Elijah can help us to discern the voice of God in silence, in a still, whispering sound. Sometimes to connect with God, it is necessary to disconnect with all other interferences such as TV, Iphone, Ipad, Net usage. What a challenge!

Thanks from Fr Thang: We thank Fr Len Thomas who celebrated Mass at St Bernadette's Church last Friday 20 February and who celebrates Mass with us at Mother of God Church this Sunday 1st March. We are very grateful to the priests who support our parish in a variety of ways, giving generously in both time and spirit. Sincere thanks to those who ensure that all is in readiness for Masses in each of our churches.

Mother of God School Family Mass Years 3 - 6 on Sunday 1st March: We welcome children and their families from Years 3 - 6 at Mother of God School who have come to the 10.30am Mass at Mother of God.

St Bernadette's School Family Mass 3 / 4 – Saturday 7th March: On Saturday 7th March children from Grades 3 & 4 at St Bernadette's School and their families will come to the 6.30pm Mass at St Bernadette's.

St Bernadette's First Friday Devotions - Friday 6th March: After Mass there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. All are welcome to spend time in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament.

No Stations of the Cross on Friday 6th March at St Bernadette's Church

Since 6th March is the First Friday of the month, NO Lenten Stations of the Cross after Mass.

Canonical Amalgamation of Parishes: Alphington / Thornbury East & Brunswick / Brunswick East:

As from 24 January 2015, the following parishes were canonically amalgamated:

- St Anthony's, Alphington & Holy Spirit, Thornbury East
- St Ambrose's, Brunswick & Our Lady Help of Christians, Brunswick East

New details for these parishes are as follows:

Alphington / Thornbury East: Known as the 'Catholic Parish of Alphington and Thornbury East'
Office address: 45 Railway Place, Alphington 3078 (all correspondence to the main office at Alphington)
Phone: (03) 9486 3633 Email: tba

Brunswick / Brunswick East: Known as the 'Catholic Parish of Brunswick and Brunswick East'
Office address: 287 Sydney Road, Brunswick 3056 (all correspondence to main office at Brunswick)
Phone: (03) 9380 1023 Email: tba



Outreach Social Afternoon – Wednesday 4 March:

Our next Social Afternoon will be on Wednesday 4th March at 12.00pm, Mother of God Church foyer, 56 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East. Come for lunch, cards, scrabble, knitting or a chat with others. Everyone is invited and all welcome. - Sue, Helen and Eileen

Project Compassion is an important part of our Lenten journey! Project Compassion boxes & Lenten share packs are available in each church to take home for your use and thus give financial support to others in need.
- A large Project Compassion box is in each church for contributions if you wish to use this option.
- Project Compassion contributions need to be returned no later than Easter Sunday 5 April 2015.

World Day of Prayer – Friday 6th March: This annual opportunity to pray with people all over the world, which we share with the other Christian churches of Ivanhoe, will be held at Mary Immaculate Church at 10.00am on Friday, 6th March. The prayer this year has been prepared by the people of the Bahamas.

HAPPENINGS ACROSS THE PARISH

Saturday 28 Feb	10.00am	Reconciliation	St Bernadette's Church
Sunday 1 March	10.30am	Mass & Mother of God P.S. Years 3 - 6	Mother of God Church
Monday 2 March	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Session	Parish Office
Tuesday 3 March	9.15am	Mass & Mother of God P.S. Grade 1/2S	Mother of God Church
Tuesday 3 March		Mary Immaculate School Open Day	Mary Immaculate School
Wednesday 4 March	9.15am	Mass & Mary Immaculate P.S. 3/4H & 3/4C	Mary Immaculate Church
Wednesday 4 March	12 – 3.00pm	Outreach Social Afternoon	Mother of God Foyer
Thursday 5 March	7.00pm	Mary Immaculate P.S. SAC Meeting	Mary Immaculate School
Friday 6 March	9.15am	Mass & St Bernadette's P.S. T-P	St Bernadette's Church
Friday 6 March		Mass followed by First Friday Devotions	St Bernadette's Church
Friday 6 March	10.00am	World Day of Prayer	Mary Immaculate Church
Saturday 7 March	10.00am	Reconciliation	Mary Immaculate Church
Saturday 7 March	6.30pm	Mass & St Bernadette's Family Years 3 & 4	St Bernadette's Church

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION

An invitation: Several years ago our friends at the Uniting Church invited us to their **Bible study** to discuss Baptism. Three of us accepted that invitation and stayed through other studies until now when we reflect on the Sunday readings. It's not highbrow 'theology' but a chance to share what the readings mean for our lives. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, 4th March, 10.30am at Ivanhoe Uniting Church. Just come and bring your bible!! – Merle 9497 1691; merlegilbo@hotmail.net.au

From St John's, Heidelberg: During January and February, St John's Heidelberg held seminars and small group workshops in the Seasons for Growth Program. St John's have scheduled another two seminars in *Understanding Change, Loss and Grief* from 6 - 9pm on Thursdays 5 March & 12 March. The seminars are held in St John's Parish House Meeting Room. There is no charge to attend. Places are limited. If you would like more information or to book into either seminar please contact Julie Jensen on 0411 241 005 or email: julie@changesinbetween.com. More information Good Grief website: www.goodgrief.org.au/adult-program

Church Carpet at St Bernadette's – For your information: As you may have noticed, the carpet in the church is old and developing folds which have become a tripping hazard. We have investigated stretching but is too old to take the strain. Therefore in coming weeks we will be arranging for the carpet in the sanctuary to be lifted and we will return to the polished boards for the time being. - Finance and Maintenance Committees

Volunteers Needed for Children's Reading Club in West Heidelberg: The St Vincent de Paul Society provides an after school Reading Club, based at St Pius X School, Heidelberg West from 3:30 - 4:30pm each Tuesday of the school term. We are looking for volunteers who enjoy reading and spending time with children who can give a couple of hours a week to support the children with their reading.

Grades 1 - 6 children will be encouraged to enjoy books and develop a love of reading and stories, as well as improving their English and Social Skills. This is not intended as a remedial or tutoring program. If interested please contact Reading Club Coordinator, Lina Troiano 0425 741 977 or lina.troiano@hotmail.com

Free E-Book for Computer or E-Reader: Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year B-1:

This e-book which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader, offers the Gospel for every day of the Liturgical Year B-1 (Sundays Year B, weekdays Year 1), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. It contains Gospel passages not only for this present year but for any B-1 Liturgical Year in the future, together with their respective reflections. It may be passed on to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the Imprimatur of Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney. Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year B1 may be accessed at website: www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

Sacraments 2015:

The Sacramental Brochure for enrolment in Parish sacramental programs – Confirmation, Reconciliation or First Eucharist 2015 is available in each church and on the website. Enrolments are only accepted from families **who live within the parish which includes Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East, Ivanhoe West and Eaglemont.**

Please note: Only children **who do not attend** Parish primary schools or **who have transferred out** of Catholic Primary schools need to enrol in the Parish Program. *Previous enrolment at one of the three Ivanhoe Parish schools whilst living outside the parish does not guarantee enrolment in the sacramental program. It is recommended that sacramental preparation takes place in the parish where the catechist & family lives.*

Enrolment forms are available from Parish Office 9499 1515 and website: www.ivanhoecatholics.com

N.B. Closing date is Friday 27 March 2015 - It is not always possible to accept late enrolments.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND: 7 – 8 March 2015

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

S. Moorhen

Special Ministers

B. Jowett, T. Nibali

MARY IMMACULATE: Leader

Sunday 9.00am

J. Costa

Reader

O. Egan

Mass Coordinators

J. Costa

Counters

S. & P. Kelly

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

E. Mount

Lector

J. Hodge

Special Ministers

I. Chiera, B. Dolzan, J. Ellis

Altar Society: M. Anjoul

Choir Coordinator: I. Chiera

First Collection – Thanksgiving: Envelopes: \$1,096.00 Loose cash: \$410.95

Total: \$1,506.95

Second Collection – Presbytery:

Total: \$ 991.50