

Dear Parishioners,

On Thursday, our nation celebrates Australia Day and this is a good time for us all to take stock of all the blessings we enjoy in this country of ours. We only have to read the daily paper to realize that the citizens of other nations are not as fortunate as we are; we have relative prosperity, we are free to travel as we please, we tolerate difference in all areas of public life, we care for our sick and less fortunate brothers and sisters in a systematic and efficient manner. Our greatest gift, however, is surely that we are able to live in peace without the threat of war, being forcibly interred or unjustly accused.

Mary, Help of Christians was chosen by the people and the first pastor of Sydney, Fr. Therry. There was a good reason for choosing our Blessed Mother for in all those early years of the settlement, when there were no churches and no priests, it was the Rosary that held the Catholic community together and gave them hope. Let us never forget her patronage and on Australia Day turn to her once more and ask her help once more. Mary, help of Christians, pray for us. —Fr. Sunny

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

We bless you, God of the universe,
for this land,
for its contrasts of landscape and climate,
for its abundance of wealth and
opportunity.
We bless you for our history,
with all its struggle in adversity,
its courage and hope,
Give us in our diversity
tolerance and respect for each other
and a passionate commitment to justice for all.
Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



HOLY HOUR FOR THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE THIS Sunday 22nd January 2 - 3pm

Please join us for one hour of prayer and reflection as we continue to pray for our priests, religious and those who are being called to this way of life by the Father. All welcome.



VOLUNTEER'S THANKSGIVING MASS AND BBQ

All parish volunteers are reminded to please RSVP for the Mass and BBQ by **THIS MONDAY 23 January** as final catering numbers need to be confirmed. Thank you.

PERPETUAL NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL Please note that there will be no novena on 25th January (this week).

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

These classes are for the children attending non-catholic schools whose family wish them to receive religious instruction and also to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation. Please note that it is a requirement of this Archdiocese that all children receive at least 2 years of religious instruction prior to receiving their first Sacrament. Therefore, if you would like your child to receive one or all of these Sacraments, please start them in classes as early as pre-primary or year 1 level.

2016 has been a very productive and enjoyable year for us all. Thank you to the children, parents, grandparents, family members, guardians and catechists for your commitment and dedication to coming along each week during the school terms. We pray that baby Jesus will bless all your families with a Christmas filled with His love, peace and joy and we look forward to seeing you next year when classes start, on **Wednesday 8th February 2017.**

PREP ENROLMENT DAY 2017: Families who wish to enrol their children for the Parish Religious Education Program classes for 2017 are required to attend the enrolment day at ONE of the times below. You will be asked to complete an enrolment form for each child and pay the annual fee of \$45 for one child and \$50 per family. New families are always welcome but please bring a copy of certificates of your child's Baptism and any other Sacraments when you come to enrolment day:

WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY 2017: 2:30-3.30pm OR 6.00-7.00pm

For any enquiries, contact Sue Goodwin on 9276 8500 or email ijprep@gmail.com



PILGRIM STATUE: This week is in the home of Mr and Mrs P and D Clift, 2 Kelby Close, Morley. Ph: 6142 7161.

CALENDAR OF SAINTS

- 24 Jan:** St Francis de Sales, Bishop (1622)
- 25 Jan:** **THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE**
- 27 Jan:** Sts Timothy and Titus, Missionaries (97AD), St Angela Merici, Founder (1540AD)
- 28 Jan:** St Thomas Aquinas, Priest (1274)

Parish Prayer Concerns

Recently Deceased: Val Bannon and Eilis Amey;

Deceased: Gertrude Harding, Charlie Chan and Hung Nguyen-Le;

Anniversaries: Leonie Findlay and Sandra Sbrocco;

The Sick of the Parish: Rona D'Cruze, Paul de Largie, Bernard Spears, Ossie Gonsalves, Priscilla Granger, Denise Bendotti and all the sick who are in need of our prayers.

*"Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!"*

NEW PARISHIONERS' MORNING TEA Sunday, 5th February after 9.30am Mass



If you have joined our parish in the past 18 months, we would like to get to know you better! We invite you and your family to join us for morning tea in the parish hall on Sunday, 5th of February after 9.30am Mass for a cuppa and chat. We are also looking for volunteers to help out for this special initiative 2 to 3 times a year. If you enjoy a friendly chat and would like to help to welcome others into our community please contact Billie at the parish office.



Fr. Paul Fox would like to thank everyone who supported their raffle to raise money for the Divine Mercy Church building fund. Results were published in last Friday's West Australian.

Around the Archdiocese

STARTING OVER SUPPORT helps families escaping abusive situations to begin again. A fundraising Garage Sale will be held on 28/29 January at 5 John St, Bayswater. Please see the poster on the News board for more information

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OPENING MASS Friday 27th January at 7.30pm, St. Bernadette's parish, Glendalough. Mass, prayer and praise and Prayer Team ministry, followed by a light supper in the parish hall. 9398 4973 or daniel.hewitt5@bigpond.com