

Dear sisters and brothers,

Today's readings are a timely examination of conscience as we prepare to begin Lent. The first reading and the Gospel today show divine power confronting one of the most dreaded of human ills: leprosy. The First Reading (Lev 13:1-2, 45-46) is part of a long list of prescriptions concerning skin diseases. The biblical legislation does not deal with leprosy as we know it today. The sufferer is seen as unclean and condemned to a living death isolated from family and community. Today's Gospel (Mk 1:40-45) shows Jesus' encounter with a leper.

The leper is supposed to shout "Unclean" to warn people to avoid him, but he approaches and challenges Jesus, 'If you want to, you can make me clean', is already a strong act of faith in the power and indeed the status of Jesus.

Approaching Jesus, the leper believes, he can raise him from the dead by the life-giving power of God. Jesus is moved to his guts (in the Greek original: splangchnistheis) by the man's plea.

By touching the leper Jesus smashes the clean/unclean barrier in all its physical, social, moral, and religious dimensions. He unmasks the whole system itself as "unclean" not the afflicted leper. Jesus embodies the divine compassion reaching out to touch and accept afflicted humanity.

'Uncleanness' or 'unholiness' is then a spiritual or moral condition not just a physical ailment. It has to do with the heart. True 'cleanness' or 'holiness' is something human beings catch by coming close to God, which is precisely what this man has achieved by having the faith, in his condition, to approach Jesus. Who are today's lepers? We are called to fast from judgement and rejection of others. Who do we categorise as losers, unclean, unworthy and sinful?

Be imitators of Christ. Imitate the one who responded first to the marginalised, to society's outcasts, to the ones who make us feel threatened and uncomfortable. How are we to imitate Christ today?

*Blessings,
Greg*

ASH WEDNESDAY

**THIS Wednesday
14 FEBRUARY**

**Masses at
7am, 9am and 7pm
(No Novena in the evening)**



40 days of grace: LENT
A yearly invitation to discover anew
God's love and mercy -
how much he loves you
and those whom we
share our world with.

prayer

fast

abstinence

Prayer

Fast

Abstinence

PRAYER

FAST

ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent, and **Good Friday** are the only two days designated by the Church as **days of fast and abstinence**.

In current Catholic practice, fasting means having only one full meal a day. Smaller quantities of food may be eaten at two other meals but no food should be consumed at any other time during the day. The law of fasting applies to people from 18 to 59 years old. Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from the use of certain kinds of food. Everyone aged 14 years and older is bound by the law of abstinence from meat.

The practice of fasting and abstinence aims at leading us to interior conversion by making us more disciplined and more charitable. We fast in order to share our time and our treasure with an attitude of love towards God and others. In addition, the practice helps us imitate the example of Jesus who fasted for 40 days in the desert. (sourced from Liturgy Lines by Elizabeth Harrington 2016)

Project Compassion Sunday 10 & 11 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or calling 1800 024 413 or via the QR code above.

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



Caritas AUSTRALIA



On sale at the piety stall and parish office **"A Resurrected Life"**, a small book of daily reflections for Lent, Holy Week and to Sunday Easter that is easy to carry, and read, while commuting or sitting at home - only \$6. Each reflection is written to help us sit with God and to trust Him to lead us forward in this holy season.

► **Parish Lenten Program—Thursdays at 9.30am in the parish library starting 15 February. All welcome.**

LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter.

Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE - sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> OR visit BruceDownes.org for more information.

PRAY AS YOU CAN, WHEN YOU CAN, ALONE or WITH OTHERS

- * set aside some 'ME time with GOD'; 10-15 minutes a day for starters, longer if you are able
- * let Our Lady help you this Lent - pray the Hail Mary, a decade of the rosary or more
- * walk with Jesus the Stations of the Cross - see Page 3

"Lent - in the words of Pope Francis"

A Centre of Liturgy Lenten Reflection for 2024 on YouTube, is well-worth viewing as we enter this season of grace - www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLinCAcByoU

Parish Religious Education Programme (PREP)



Classes commence on **THIS Wednesday 14th February (Ash Wednesday) at 4.15pm** in the parish centre. Enquiries to Sue Goodwin 9276 8500 and/or at prep@infantjesusparish.org.au



STATIONS OF THE CROSS - all welcome

- ✘ **Wednesdays 7pm**, starting on 21st February
 - ✘ Also on **Fridays 2-3pm**, starting 16 February
- Note: there will be no Wednesday Novena in Lent

2-4 MARCH 2024 WEEKEND 18+ MARIAN LENTEN RETREAT

Vincetians Retreat Centre, 625 Nettleton Rd, Karrakup 6122
Join like-minded people on a Lenten Journey following Christ and listening to the Holy Spirit like Mary. The program will include talks, fellowship, prayer and silence. This Schoenstatt spirituality retreat will begin on Saturday 2 March, 9am and finish on Monday 4 March 2pm. Cost: \$120 per participant. RSVP by **Friday 23 February**. For inquiries: Sr M Luka at srmluka@schoenstatt.org.au or 0439 537 843; or Philomena pd@theseira.family or 0417 936 757.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

Friday 1 March at 10.30am followed by lunch
St Martin's Anglican Church
77 Bramwell Rd, Noranda



This year's theme calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. The prayer service was written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women in response to the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7. They reflected collectively on this theme from the context of their suffering as Palestinian Christian women. It is hoped to inspire other women around the world to bear with one another in love during troubled times. All are welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

Parish Prayer Concerns

Recently Deceased: Carmelina Carey Esposado, Raymond Quinlan;

Deceased: Trento Trasimeno, Angelina and Romeo Carey, Catherine Won, Chin Pong King, Chow Van Kong, Arthur Chemello, Urbano and Soledad De Lara;

Anniversaries: Antonino Gorgone, Johnnie Yapp, Damiana and Alain-Martinet, Emilio and Mariangela Tassone, John Pham, Florence Wong and Cecilia Khin Si;

The Sick of the Parish: Barbara Finos and all those who are in need of our prayers.

*"Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your unfulfilling love."*



The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady

Private devotion this week.

If you would like our Lady to visit your home, please write your name down on the list in the church foyer.

St Vincent de Paul Society—Thank You

Thank you to all the Parishioners of Infant Jesus Parish as \$4,600.00 was the total given towards the SVDP Morley/Dianella conference annual Christmas Appeal.

In these difficult times, it was a remarkable figure and all members and our needy clients thank you all and trust the blessings of our newly born saviour are shared over you all. —Gus Formato

...and another Thank You from Catholic Mission

The amount donated by the Morley Parish for the 2023 Appeal was \$5,290.70. Thank you for your generous response to last year's



Catholic Mission Appeal which will go towards helping our medical missionaries in East Timor to provide life-saving healthcare to the vulnerable.



GROUPS THAT ARE MEETING IN OUR PARISH weekly/monthly

Line Dancing - great fun exercise, good music and nice morning tea to catch your breath and catch up with one another: Mondays 9.30-11am—small fee applies.

Tai Chi - a more sedate exercise session, still great fun with the group: Tuesdays 9.45-11am.

ABC - Another Book Club - first Monday monthly 6.00-8.00pm (5th Feb in the parish library) with new book "Abounding in kindness by Sr Elizabeth Johnson. For details, contact Marion at goodnesstruthbeauty@yahoo.com

Bible Study with Fr Adalbert - Thursdays at 6.30pm

Meditation Groups - Christians do meditate. All are welcome to join us and learn how. Monday group @7pm; Friday group @9.30am

Infant Jesus of Prague Prayer Group - Thursdays 2-3pm in the Church

Rosary Group - daily after 9am weekday Mass, 8.30am Saturday Mass with Cenacle Prayer on Mondays

See the foyer board for details of the many other groups in the parish.

PLEASE NOTE: Our craft group will be suspended during Lent as we haven't had enough interest for the group.

Please come and join our **Lenten Program group** which will be held at the same time Thursdays 9.30am, starting this Thursday 15 February.

Playgroup - Coordinator needed!

All is ready for toddler play but just needing a person to coordinate the weekly sessions which mainly involves set up and pack up of the resources currently stored at the parish hall. The structure of each session is entirely up to the members. Guidance and support will be given. If interested, please contact Billie at the parish office.



The Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church gives shape and meaning to the year, allowing us to order our days more toward God. But the liturgical feasts are just the beginning.



Since the 16th century, the Church has assigned special devotions to each month of the year to help us grow closer to God, His Son, and His Saints.

In February we honor the Holy Family. The Holy Family is the most perfect reflection of the love of the Trinity and sets before us the most perfect model of virtue for all Christian homes.

How to celebrate: Pray with (or for) your family during this month. At the start of each day, ask Jesus, Mary, and Joseph for the grace to follow their example of love and selflessness.

THIS WEEKEND – 11 February 2024—6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

| <u>Ministry</u> | <u>Sat 6pm</u> | <u>Sun 7.30am</u> | <u>Sun 9.30am</u> | <u>Sunday 6pm</u> |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Acolytes/Altar Ministers | John Tomczak | Chris Lambert | Chris Yapp | Chris Lambert |
| Altar Servers | Erin; Abigail; Savio and Ethan | Aaron and Frank | Andrei; Jules and Kim | Alex; Dorothy; Bryant and Alden |
| Proclaimers | Tang and Teresa | Nevellene and Aalerie | Josephine and Leah | Maureen and Fely |
| Extr. Ministers Of Communion | Chris A; Sejin; Teresa and Valerie | Michael; Debbie; Brian and Kerryn | Josephine; Annette N; Aileen and Patrick | Maureen; Thuy; Ivor and Tristan |
| Hospitality | Ann and Donna-Marie | Mavis and Catrina | Roma and Jovana | Brenda and Ancilla |
| Church Cleaning | Team A— Saturday, 17 February 2024 @ 9.30am | | | |

NEXT WEEKEND – 18 February 2024—1st Sunday of Lent

| <u>Ministry</u> | <u>Sat 6pm</u> | <u>Sun 7.30am</u> | <u>Sun 9.30am</u> | <u>Sunday 6pm</u> |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Acolytes/Altar Ministers | Peter Nguyen-Le | Chris Wray | Marion Wayne | David Ward |
| Altar Servers | Aaditya; Abhay; Matthia and Mathan | Cyril | Victoria; Manuel and Ruben | Denver; Marcus and Noah |
| Proclaimers | Donna-Marie and Megan | Shirley and Bernie | PAS Mass—Chris Andrews | Marion Wayne |
| Extr. Ministers Of Communion | Chris T; John T; Tracy and Marie | Josie; Carl; Kerryn and Kathleen | Evelyn; Magdalene; Roma and Christina | Maureen; Thuy; Ivor and Tristan |
| Hospitality | Marisol and Rose | Mavis and Catrina | Patrick and Josephine and Christie (PAS) | Joanne and Marina |
| Church Cleaning | Team B— Thursday, 22 February 2024 @ 9.45am | | | |

PLEASE NOTE - If you are unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange for someone else in your Ministry to take your place.

Our Parish Team & In Our Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Greg Burke - pp@infantjesusparish.org.au
Assistant Priest: Fr. John Pallipadan - pallipadanj@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: Fr Adalbert Imperial - ap2@infantjesusparish.org.au
Infant Jesus Primary School: Principal Mel Allen - info@infantjesus.wa.edu.au
Parish Secretary: Billie Dewitt - secretary@infantjesusparish.org.au
Reception: Theresa Choo - enquiries@infantjesusparish.org.au
PREP Coordinator: Sue Goodwin - prep@infantjesusparish.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator: Theresa Choo - sacramental@infantjesusparish.org.au
Parish Account Officer: Darren Parnell - accounts@infantjesusparish.org.au
Maintenance Manager: Andrew Davini - maintenance@infantjesusparish.org.au
Admin Assistant: Carol Smith - enquiries@infantjesusparish.org.au
Parish Safeguarding Officers: Julie Lambert - julielambert@bigpond.com
Columbarium Committee: Angela Youens - columbarium@infantjesusparish.org.au
Parish Inclusion Coordinator: Sue Baile - 0497 163 387

Morning Mass: Monday - Friday: 7am & 9am
 Saturday and Public Holidays: 8.30am
Sunday Masses: 6pm (Saturday), 7.30am, 9.30am, 11.30am (Italian), 6pm
Reconciliation: Saturday 10 - 11am and 5 - 5.30pm
Perpetual Novena in Honour of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Wednesday 6.30pm but not in Lent (Stations of the Cross 7pm)
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday 9.30 - 10.30am
Eucharistic Prayer: Friday 5.30 - 6.30pm
Baptisms, Weddings & Sacraments: Please contact the Parish Office - enquiries@infantjesusparish.org.au | Ph: 9276 8500
PARISH OFFICE: 47 Wellington Road, Morley 9276 8500
Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Facebook: infantjesusmorley **Web:** www.infantjesusparish.org.au

Supporting Our Parish Financially

First Collection EFT Details

Account Name: Carmelite
BSB: 066 132 **Account Number:** 0080 0015
Reference: Your name

Second Collection EFT Details

Account Name: Infant Jesus Parish Morley
BSB: 086 006 **Account Number:** 66860 6029
Reference: PG-Your name

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