

The Parish Overview

Parish of St Mary & St Joseph
Orange

Parish of the Sacred Heart & St Lawrence
O'Toole Molong

St Mary's (Orange), St Joseph's (Orange), Sacred Heart & St Lawrence O'Toole (Molong), St Michael's (Manildra),
St Brendan's (Mullion Creek), St Patrick's (Cargo), St Columbanus' (Cudal)

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 3rd March 2019

PARISH CLERGY TEAM

Fr Greg Bellamy Parish Priest
Fr Pius Khaoya Assistant Priest

PARISH MISSION TEAM

Ms Shannon Cain Sacramental Coordinator
Ms Amy Sullivan Director of Ministries
Ms Carla Ghisla Director of Mission
Sr Frances McAleer rsj Resident in Molong
Mr Will Tracey Youth Minister
Ms Sarah Ziegler Youth Minister

PARISH MISSION SUPPORT TEAM

Mr Michael O'Mara Business Manager
Ms Harriette Williams Executive Assistant
Ms Sandy Livermore Parish Secretary

PARISH SCHOOL TEAM

Mr Peter Meers James Sheahan Catholic High School
Mr Michael Croke Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School
Mrs Kerrie Basha & Mrs Kerry Maher St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Co-principal)
Mr Matthew French St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Molong
Ms Jacky Parmeter St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Manildra

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 6362 2378 or 6362 2032
Email: office.orange@cdob.org.au
Address: 84 Hill Street (P.O. Box 44) Orange 2800
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CatholicOrangeNSW
Office Hours: **Mon:** 11.30am - 4.30pm
Tues - Fri: 8.45am - 4.30pm
Closed - Lunch: 12.30 - 1.30pm

Today's Scripture

Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

Response to the Psalm

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Reflection

In today's readings we hear Jesus speaking in Galilee as well as a Jewish sage named Sirach writing in Jerusalem more than a century earlier. The two of them touch upon a single truth: The words that come out of us make known the hidden thoughts within us. Speech reveals the secrets of the heart.

Sirach teaches that speaking is "the test of men" and their character (Sir 27:7). One who is upright will utter words that are truthful and encouraging to others. But one whose heart is cluttered with "refuse" will be exposed, since the "fruit" of his mouth speaks volumes about the "tree" that produces it (Sir 27:6). Sirach also compares the testing of our words to clay fired in a kiln — if properly prepared, a useful vessel

emerges; but if the clay is not fully dried, it will break apart in the extreme heat (Sirach 27:5).

In a similar way, Jesus insists that a person speaks "out of the abundance of the heart" (Luke 6:45). He too compares our speech, whether good or bad, to what grows on a tree: "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit" (Luke 6:43).

Both readings urge us to make wholesome speech a habit. After all, much about who we are is brought to light through what we say. But there's an additional step: The Lord is asking us to look inward, to examine our hearts and fill them with the "good treasure" that God desires.

Why do purity of heart and speech matter so much? Because, as Jesus declares elsewhere: "by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt 12:37). They matter because they help to decide our final judgment, and this is where the Second Reading comes in. Paul reminds us that God will destroy death forever, and if we are to share in this victory and live forever with the Lord, then we must take all steps necessary to give our hearts and lips to what is good.

Next Week's Scripture

Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk4:1-13

We recognise the Wiradjuri, Gamilaraay and Wailwan peoples as the original custodians of the land on which our Parishes stand.

THE PARISH OVERVIEW



DAY BY DAY

Monday 4th March Weekday, Ordinary Time 8

- 5.00pm Exposition at St Mary's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Mary's

Tuesday 5th March Weekday, Ordinary Time 8

- 9.30am Mass at St Mary's

Wednesday 6th March Ash Wednesday

- 8.00am Mass at St Mary's
- 9.10am Mass at Mercy Hall - James Sheahan attending
- 9.15am Mass at Molong - St Joseph's Molong attending
- 10.45am Mass at St Mary's - St Mary's & Catherine McAuley attending
- 11.30am Mass at Manildra - St Joseph's Manildra attending
- 5.00pm Exposition at St Joseph's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Joseph's

Thursday 7th March Thursday after Ash Wednesday

- 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's
- 11.00am Mass at Benjamin Short Grove Mass
- 6.00pm Holy Hour at St Joseph's

Friday 8th March Friday after Ash Wednesday

- 5.15pm Reconciliation & Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Joseph's

Saturday 9th March Saturday after Ash Wednesday

- 9.30am-3.00pm Missionaries of Charity Lenten Retreat Day at St Joseph's
- 10.15am Baptisms at St Mary's
- 5.15pm Reconciliation at St Mary's
- 5.40pm Reconciliation at Manildra
- 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's
- 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Manildra

Sunday 10th March First Sunday of Lent

- 8.00am Mass at St Joseph's
- 8.00am Mass at Cudal
- 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
- 9.30am Mass at Molong
- 11.15am Baptisms at St Joseph's
- 6.00pm Mass at St Joseph's



ASH WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This year it falls on Wednesday 6th March. Mass times on Ash Wednesday are as follows:

- 8.00am at St Mary's
- 9.10am at Mercy Hall (James Sheahan attending)
- 9.15am at Molong (St Joseph's Molong attending)
- 10.45am at St Mary's (Catherine McAuley & St Mary's primary students attending)
- 11.30am at Manildra (St Joseph's Manildra attending)
- 5.45pm at St Joseph's

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. Catholics aged 14 and over who are in good health should abstain from eating meat. Catholics aged between 18 and 59 who are in good health should fast from excess food: one main meal and two small meals.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross during Lent. Stations of the Cross occur each Friday during Lent at 5.15pm in St Joseph's before the evening Mass, commencing Friday 8th March. Reconciliation is available at the same time. There is no Friday afternoon Exposition during Lent.

Stations of the Cross occur in St Lawrence's Molong at noon every Friday commencing Friday 15th March.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION 2019

First Holy Communion may be requested when a child is a baptised Catholic who is at least in Year 3. The children will celebrate the sacrament of First Reconciliation (if they have not already done so) as part of their preparation for First Holy Communion.

Wednesday 8th May - Parent Meeting in Kenna Hall at either 9.30am or 7.00pm

Weekend 22/23 June - First Holy Communion celebrated in both Orange and Molong Parishes.



PROJECT COMPASSION

During Lent, why not support Caritas Australia through the annual Project Compassion Appeal? This year's Project Compassion showcases the many ways Caritas Australia works around the world with local partners to offer hope to people most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Caritas is working with communities providing hope for a just and fair world regardless of their ethnicity, political beliefs, gender or religion. We are assisting women, children and men to break free from the cycle of poverty whilst ensuring they are the architects of their own development. Information on supporting Project Compassion is available in each of the Churches.

RETREAT DAY SATURDAY

The Missionaries of Charity would like to invite you to a Retreat Day as a Lenten preparation. Date: Saturday 9th March; Time: 9.30am-3pm; Place: St Joseph's Church. The retreat will include Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, Spiritual Talks.

LENTEEN GROUPS

The Lenten programme has been very popular this year. Unfortunately, we have now sold out of the books and there are no more available from the supplier. Apologies if you have missed out.

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is the forty day liturgical season of fasting, special prayer and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. The name "Lent" is from the Middle English Lenten and Anglo-Saxon Lenten, meaning spring; its more primitive ecclesiastical name was the "forty days," tesseractoste in Greek.

The number "forty" is first noted in the Canons of Nicaea (A.D. 325), likely in imitation of Jesus' fast in the desert before His public ministry (with Old Testament precedent in Moses and Elijah).

By the fourth century, in most of the West, it referred to six days' fast per week for six weeks (Sundays were excluded); in the seventh century the days from Ash Wednesday through the First Sunday were added to make the number forty.

THE PARISH OVERVIEW



TRY ALPHA

We want to be a parish that provides spaces for people to ask questions about faith and the meaning of life. There are so few spaces like this in our busy lives. That's why we will be committing to Alpha in 2019. Alpha is a series of free, interactive sessions exploring life, faith and meaning. Everyone is welcome and no question is off limits. Alpha involves food and informal discussion. You don't have to worry about whether you will fit-in: it's for everyone, including people who are not sure what they believe.

We would like to invite you to simply register your interest in Alpha. This is not a commitment. It's just a way to let us know you might be interested in coming along so we can contact you when we are making a start (we won't use your email address for any other purpose). You can register your interest here: <https://goo.gl/pejFi5>

PUBLISHING NAMES IN THE OVERVIEW

Due to privacy concerns, the parish can only publish the names of the sick or deceased in the Parish Overview with the written permission of the person, a close family member, or next-of-kin. Forms requesting publication of names are available in the Churches or the parish office. Unfortunately, we cannot publish names without this form being completed. People on the sick list remain for 4 weekends, after which you are more than welcome to submit the name again, with the permission of the person concerned or family member.

A BIG 'THANK YOU'

A big 'thank you' to the team that cleared away the tree at St Patrick's Church in Cargo recently. You did a fantastic job and the parish appreciates your time and effort.

A FRANK QUOTE

In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could lead to a hardness of heart, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of the boundless love of God, in order to experience His tenderness.

- Pope Francis



'AND THEN THE DOOR CLOSSES'

Catholic Education, Diocese of Bathurst invites you to attend *And Then The Door Closes - Some Reflections on RE Today* presented by Professor Richard Rymaz.

A day for teachers in Catholic schools, Catechists and other parishioners. It will be repeated in three locations across the Diocese:

DUBBO: 27 March - Parish Hall, Brisbane Street, Dubbo; ORANGE: 28 March - Kenna Hall, Hill Street, Orange; BATHURST: 29 March - St Joseph's Heritage and Conference Centre, Tenison Woods Ave, Perthville

Time: 9.30am to 3.00pm. Cost: FREE. Register by contacting Dr Angelo Belmonte: a.belmonte@bth.catholic.edu.au or phone Ronda at Catholic Education on: 6338 3000

STATEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE, PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

The news of Cardinal George Pell's conviction on historical child sexual abuse charges has shocked many across Australia and around the world, including the Catholic Bishops of Australia.

The Bishops agree that everyone should be equal under the law, and we respect the Australian legal system. The same legal system that delivered the verdict will consider the appeal that the Cardinal's legal team has lodged. Our hope, at all times, is that through this process, justice will be served.

In the meantime, we pray for all those who have been abused and their loved ones, and we commit ourselves anew to doing everything possible to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all, especially the young and the vulnerable.

February 26, 2019

KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group will be resuming on Monday 4th March at 9.30am at Kenna Hall.



OUR PRAYERS & MASSES

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

OUR PARISH INTENTIONS

For the spiritual and cultural renewal of our parish; that God will guide the Plenary Council 2020; that God will give healing to all those who have been abused in Church institutions.

RECENTLY BAPTISED

Parker Martin, Freya Puata, Harry Nugent

RECENTLY MARRIED

Rebecca Lloyd and Stephen Robinson

ANNIVERSARIES

Max Wardle, Florrie Patteson, Mick Crombie, Chris Hanrahan, Chris Collings, Jason Collings

OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

Tracey Ann Warner, Patricia LaFaro, Bernie & Josie Livermore, Harry Taylor, Santo LaFaro & Torrisi family, Frank & Joan Hennessey, Ian Livermore, Damian d'Arbon, Mary Johnston, Reg, Eric & Gerard Paul, William Crayford, William Crayford Snr, Anton, Erich, Erika & Michael Twomey, Mena Christopherson, Santo LoFaro (Italy), Gaetano Torrisi, Salvatore & Venera Torrisi, Mario & Alfio Lizzio, Pietra Faro, Alfina Cosentino, Venera Maccarone, Santo & Alfia LoFaro (Orange), deceased members of the Paul family, Karman Middleton, Chris Duff, Luke Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, Ray Fitzgerald, Brian Keegan, Ann, Robert and Ray Darley, Jean & Larry Hutchinson, Reg & Lynn Harris, Brian Bevan, David Hanrahan, Kevin Bourke, Adrian Berney, Bernie Thornhill

THE SICK AND INFIRM

Pat Frecklington, Sheila Hegarty (Ireland), Celestina Vardanega, Noni McAneney, Mary Cain, Sr Merylin, Ron Parker, Den Smith, Beth Moxham, Ray Dickson, Doug & Tori Punch, Norma Wright, Ralph Harvey, Costa Doubos, James Burgess, Deidre Powell, Patricia Crich

The Sacrament of Penance - Fr Greg Bellamy

Among the seven sacraments, two are for the purpose of healing. Anointing is a sacrament for persons who are ill in mind or body, Penance is for persons in need of spiritual healing, that is, reconciliation with God and the reception of his mercy.

The Sacrament for spiritual healing is referred to by a number of names: Penance, Reconciliation, Confession being the three most common. At its heart, the Sacrament concerns reconciliation with God through the forgiveness of sin which damages us and causes us to be separated from God.

In the Scriptures we are taught that only God can forgive sins (cf. Mk 2:7). That is why it is so controversial that Jesus claims to be able to forgive sins: he is claiming a divine power. Perhaps even more startling is the fact that Jesus shares this divine power to forgive sins with his Apostles through the gift of the Holy Spirit to them (Jn 20:22-23):

“When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

This the fundamental Scriptural basis for the Bishops, the successors of the Apostles, and priests who are their co-workers to continue this mandate of forgiving sins as the Apostles did. Although the format has changed over the centuries, the fundamentals of have remained constant: contrition, verbal confession of sins (if possible) and priestly absolution.

Contrition means actually being sincerely sorry for all my past sins. Being truly sorry for sins includes the firm intention not to do these sins again. I may fall into temptation in the future, but I am making the resolution now in the present moment to avoid future sin. Connected to contrition is a willingness to make reparation, that is, the intention to repair the damage caused by my sins which includes fulfilling the penance set by the priest.

Verbal confession of sins means actually saying out loud the kinds of sins I have committed and in the case of serious sins an idea of how frequently this is a problem for me. Verbal confession of sins is very helpful because it allows us to name and take responsibility for our actions and so begin a process of healing.

Priestly Absolution means the priest invokes the authority given by Jesus to forgive sins. It is God who forgives the sins and brings healing, not the priest himself: he is merely an instrument. Like the verbal confession of sins, there is a healing quality simply in the experience of hearing out loud that I am forgiven in addition to the grace given in the sacrament.

Many people can be quite nervous about the Sacrament of Penance. That's natural: it's a deeply personal and intimate moment with God. The priest is bound by the 'seal', which means he will never repeat what you say and he should give you encouragement and positive advice as part of the experience.

The Sacrament of Penance should be a positive experience of being welcomed back by God and reconciled to him and to the Church community. Although challenging, it is aimed towards healing rather than punishment. The sacrament is often linked to the Parable of the Prodigal Son: just as the Father welcomes his long lost son back, so does God in the Sacrament of Penance. He embraces the penitent and rejoices in his return (Lk 15:23-24):

“And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! And they began to celebrate.”

The Sacrament of Penance is an experience of forgiveness and healing. This Lent, why not experience it for yourself? The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated every Friday at St Joseph's 5.00-5.40pm and every Saturday 5.15-5.45pm at St Mary's. In Holy Week we will celebrate our 'Encounter Evening': a beautiful moment of coming before God together to receive his mercy, including the opportunity for confession.