St. Theresa’s Parish Newsletter  
-Easter Edition-

Cuppa After Mass – By Mary Calleja

The sharing of a cup of tea or coffee after mass at Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and St. Theresa’s churches once every 6 weeks, is starting to pick up with more parishioners joining in staying back after mass. While enjoying a cuppa and piece of cake or sandwich, parishioners enjoy chatting to one another and getting to know more about the people that they sit next to each week. While I was taking some of these photos, it made me feel so good to see everyone enjoying chatting with one another, like one big happy family!

Luke’s Gospel Exposed – By Maria Abela

It was an urban setting in the east of the Roman Empire. This community is made up of socio-economic extremes, the very rich and the very poor (outcasts), therefore Luke emphasizes the sharing of wealth. She began explaining how Luke’s gospel came to be written about 80 years after Christ. Mark’s gospel is believed to be the source, as one of the first written. There is also some unique material found only in Luke’s gospel, such as the Good Samaritan parable. She explained why the same stories can have different origins of the listeners they were preaching to. Luke’s parables illustrate this point with the Good Samaritan, an outsider who responds to the story of the prodigal son “the lost sons”, as Jesus is talking to the listeners who represent the elder son (the Jewish part of the community) as well as those who are returning to the father’s love after sinning.

She explained that Luke used parables to stress to his community the importance of welcoming all, not judging others and making a wonderful response to God’s love.

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING! (Highly recommended by Father Barry)

I invite parishioners to join us on the trip of a lifetime - the 2013 Celtic tour of Ireland (commencing 20 September). For 15 days we will discover the beauty of Ireland’s north and south. We begin our adventure in Dublin, heading north to Belfast, Derry, making our way down the west coast, travelling through Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork and beyond. Experience the magical scenery and listen to Ireland’s musicians including the Benedictine monks of Glenstal Abbey and our host: singer song writer Maria Forde. If this small sized tour appeals to you please visit our website: www.mariaforde.com contact Chris at Emerald Travel on 03 96709696; chris@emeraldtravel.com.au or call Maria on 0411158593. Seats are limited to 20.

WORLD YOUTH DAY Rio 2013 Registration for WYD closes on 31st March. If you would like to join the pilgrimage now is the time to register. See postcards / flyer in pamphlet rack.

Easter Sunday

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Celebrate that your generosity to Project Compassion continues aid and development work reflective of the life of Jesus Christ, and shaped by the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching principles, in over 35 countries around the world. You have offered new life to your brothers and sisters struggling with poverty and injustice.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion 2013 appeal.

CUPPA AFTER MASS Join us next weekend 6th & 7th April after each Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Please bring a plate to share.

REQUIEM MASS for Charlie Spiteri, Wednesday 3rd April, 11.30am at Mother of God. Rosary on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm.

ANNIVERSARY MASS for Francesco Geracitano on Tuesday 9th April, 7.00pm at Queen of Heaven.

EVENING PRAYER GROUP Thursdays, 7.00pm at Queen of Heaven. All welcome.

CLEANERS Saturday 6th April

St T: No Cleaning        QoH: L Galea        MoG: G&J Wrzesinski, J&T Badzaj

THANKSGIVING Weekly Pledge: $1525.

Last Week’s Giving: $3303

Presbytery Collection: $603

Credit / Debit Card Donations for March $808

Weekly Pledge: $1525.

Next Week's Giving: $2120

CoC Cleaning

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Mystery of the Resurrection – By Father Barry

The Gospel we read at the Easter Vigil Mass this year (Luke 24:1-12) introduces us to the Mystery of the Resurrection. Firstly, we find the women, despite the fact that Jesus has told them that he would be crucified, and on the third day rise again, coming to the tomb clearly expecting to find the dead body of Jesus.

A heavenly apparition reminds them of the words of Jesus and a beginning of understanding dawns on them, and they return to relate their experience ‘to the eleven and to all the rest’.

These too, despite the teaching of Jesus before his death, are slow to understand, and the women’s words seem like an idle tale to the apostles. Peter, at least, is moved enough to go to the tomb and see for himself. When he sees that the tomb is indeed empty he goes home ‘amazed’. It seems that he is still not too sure what has happened. In further resurrection stories in Luke, and in the other three gospels, we see the eleven and others coming to understand that Jesus is indeed risen from the dead, and to have faith that he is truly alive. However, in all of the gospel accounts of the appearances of the risen Jesus it is clear that there is something of human experience and something that is beyond human experience. He is there but those who know him don’t recognize him. Then they do recognize him and he seems to disappear. Jesus, whom they have known before his death on the Cross is truly alive, and yet his life now is different. The new life with which Jesus is living is beyond our present human experience. However, it is also something that we can share in here and now through faith.

St. Theresa’s Primary School news – Rob Costin (Principal)

Term one has been fantastic at St. Theresa’s. We have enjoyed many inspiring learning experiences and the children are working well.

We have had many great opportunities to be involved with the community during first term and we thank the parents in the school for their fantastic support over the past nine weeks. Last Friday night we held our Community Market and we welcomed many visitors to the school. The evening was a great success and it was fantastic to see the enjoyment on the faces of the children and visitors as they wandered around the many stalls and met new locals and old friends.

Our grade 6 children who are being confirmed early next term went to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in the city to celebrate Catholic Education week with representatives of all catholic schools in the diocese. This mass celebrated by the Archbishop was a fantastic celebration of Catholic education and a good way to provoke thought for our students. We took the opportunity to meet with Bishop Vincent Long at the mass as he will be Confirming the children straight after the Easter break.

As usual the new term will bring with it many learning opportunities and new experiences. We look forward to school camp, celebrating Confirmation and Reconciliation with the children and watching the students as they grow in their learning. We wish every member of the parish community a happy and holy Easter break and look forward to our many opportunities to work together that will come in the new term.

Mother of God School news - Gerard (Principal)

Throughout this term we have been exploring the notion of ‘Servant Leadership’ with our Year 5 & 6s. We have been looking at the many great qualities amongst the senior kids and how they can use those qualities in leadership here at school. We spent a day down in Williamstown at St Joseph’s Convent where we listened to John 13:14 “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet!” and explored what that meant for us. We played leadership games on the beach. We made commitments to ourselves and the group to show leadership as best we could. And we had fun!

Now we look to new leadership in the church with Pope Francis I, he has excited us with his renewed vision of servant leadership. We wait in hope to see what that looks like in the months and years to come. We hope that Easter is a time of great joy and peace for all in our community.

KIDS CORNER

Congratulations to Michael and Maria Abela (MoG) on the marriage of their daughter Rachel to Marco!

Also pictured is Michael’s parents Jo & Frances Abela (left), Maria’s parents Tony and Muriel Hughes (right). Stuart, Daniela and Daniel in front. They were married at Tatra in the Dandenongs on the 8th December 2012.