

St Peter's Catholic Parish

Rochedale • Springwood

Serving the Rochedale and surrounding communities since 1974

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELP CENTRE

Phone: 1800846643

MISSION STATEMENT

"Saint Peter's Parish is a community who lives in faith of Jesus Christ and, moved by the Spirit, continues to grow in our love for God and all people."

Fifth Sunday Of Lent (Year A)

29th March 2020

Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

In love, we believe in Jesus

Jesus was the incarnate God's only begotten Son and came to save us from sin. Absolutely, he loved everyone and was happy to do anything to help any of us. However, as truly human, though being truly divine, he had friends and his relationship with them was very close and lovely. Lazarus and his sisters were three of his very close friends. Let us have a look at their friendship. In the message to Jesus about their brother's severe condition, the sisters said, "Lord, the man you love is ill." Later, the gospel continues to directly describe their relationship, saying: "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." When Mary heard her sister informing her of the arrival of Jesus, she "got up quickly and went to him." After he saw Mary, at the sight of her tears, Jesus "said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?'" Then Jesus even wept. This made the Jews who were around him say, "See how much he loved him!" By reading today's Gospel, we can easily tell how deep the friendship between them was and how deep their love for one another was.

Martha saw Jesus and she said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Later, when Mary went and met Jesus, she said the same words as Martha did, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Both sisters had strong faith in Jesus. Even further, Martha and Jesus talked about the resurrection of Lazarus. At the beginning, Martha thought Jesus was talking about the resurrection on the last day. After Jesus explained what he really meant, Martha said, "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world." Martha believed what Jesus said without any doubts and hesitation. Of course, if you genuinely and deeply love someone, you always believe what he/she says, though sometimes you cannot understand their words fully.

However, Martha still didn't expect that Jesus would resurrect her brother right before her eyes and in front of everyone else on the scene, since her brother had died four days beforehand. Martha said, "Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day." This was a great moment for Jesus to teach Martha and those who were around him, and all of us. He replied to Martha with a question, saying: "Have I not told you the if you believe you will see the glory of God?" Then Jesus resurrected Lazarus, a man who had been dead for four days and who, perhaps, had smelled badly. Indeed, if you believe Jesus, you would most definitely see the glory of God.

Very clearly, what we should learn from this lovely story is that faith comes from love. If we love Jesus, we will have faith in Jesus. Then, we will follow his teaching, do his will and imitate his way in everyday life. Eventually, we will see God's glory in our lives, too. Love can conquer everything, even death itself. Love never ends.

My dear friends, Mary and Martha had lost their brother. They were in great grief. They were very sorrowful. They felt helpless. They desperately needed help. Blessedly, Mary and Martha knew where they should go to seek help. Currently, like Mary and Martha, we are in a very difficult and unprecedented situation, facing the pandemic of COVID 19. We cannot celebrate Masses as we usually do. We cannot even go out for shopping, catching up with friends, doing sports or seeing a movie. Like Mary and Martha, we may feel helpless, too. We desperately need help. Like Mary and Martha, let us go to Jesus. In love for Jesus and faith in Jesus, we believe we will absolutely see the glory of God in one way or another, sooner or later.

Fr Baiyi

To the faithful of St Peter's, Rochedale,

Apart from my homily for this weekend, I would like to write another short message to you, sharing with you how we can face and spiritually survive this difficult situation.

First of all, I understand that many of you are worrying about my health. Thank God, physically, mentally and psychologically, I am perfectly well. I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your concerns about me. Please continue to pray for me and I will keep you in my daily prayers at all times, especially in this special period. **If we keep in touch through prayer, as a parish, we will continue to be strong.**

Secondly, you may not see me in person during this period. However, there are many platforms on which we can continue to communicate and exchange ideas, opinions and views. These platforms are our newsletter, website and our parish Facebook page. We will put the latest update on our response to COVID 19 on them and I will keep writing something and put that up, too. Please keep using these digital platforms and keep yourselves informed through them. Of course, **you are always most welcome to call us, email us, comment on our Facebook page and even, write to us, expressing what you think at this particular time.**

Thirdly, as you may be aware of, we are not celebrating any public Masses now. The parish will not receive any income through collections during Mass. If this situation lasts a long time, our parish could possibly face great financial difficulties in the future. If possible, **we encourage you to continue to financially support the parish, your own spiritual home, via either electronic ways (Credit card, direct bank transfer), or sending us a cheque.**

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us fully rely on God, and support each other in any possible way. **Stay safe, positive, calm and strong in God's presence and love.**

Fr Baiyi

St Peter's Planned Giving

Via Direct Bank Transfer: If you would like to direct transfer your Planned Giving to our bank account, our BSB is 064-786 and Account number is 007021101. Please use your surname and Planned Giving (or PG) as reference. You can set this up yourself on any device where you can access your online banking.

Or via Credit Card: Please contact the Parish Office via phone or email as we can either set up a monthly credit card donation or do an individual case by case donation of as little as \$5.00 over the phone.

Direct Debit: Please contact us to set up Direct Debit through the Archdiocesan Development Fund.

Readings for next weekend: Palm Sunday

Entrance into Jerusalem: Matthew 21:1-11

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7 *2nd:* Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: (The Passion) Matthew 27:11-54

Fr Baiyi will celebrate Mass Sun 9am (no congregation)

Holy Week ceremonies will be celebrated

(no congregation). See next week's newsletter for the times you may join us in prayer from your homes.

Watch Mass online from the Cathedral of St Stephen 8am Monday to Friday and 8am and 10am Sunday at www.archbne.org/bzw

Liturgies for you at Home: Please check out the new tab on our Parish Website where you will find each week Liturgies for you to be able to use at home during this difficult time while the church must be closed. With grateful thanks to the staff of Liturgy Brisbane and Evangelisation Brisbane who are preparing and sharing these with us, you can find the prayers, readings and reflections of the Sunday in one document as well as another family version to share with young children.

Care & Concern: If you or anyone you know who is housebound or facing difficulties during these challenging times and would like to receive a phone call from Care & Concern, please contact Lynn 0403051103 or the parish office 33414421. God bless you all, look out for another and let us stand united together in prayer, love and hope.

Youth Update:

Following the suggestions of the Archdiocese, Rochedale Youth will be moving to a fully online presence.

For more information on any of our Youth events contact **Olivia**, our Youth Ministry Co-ordinator youth.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

Read the latest news from the **Catholic Leader** for free at www.catholicleader.com.au. See newsletter notice page 3

Living Lent - Acts of Loving Kindness in Troubled Times

We have heard the words: "We are **all** in this **together!**" many times over the last weeks. Many are being called to take on heroic acts. Many of us are also asked to commit to **quiet, gentle acts of loving kindness**. We **ALL** have a job to do as we continue to deepen our relationship with God and with others this Lent. Let us renew our Lenten promises to **FAST, PRAY and GIVE!**

How many of these loving acts can we tick each day in this coming week?

- 1. Check in with relatives or friends**, especially the elderly or the lonely, to see how they are going in these difficult days.
- Respect others and ourselves by **self-distancing** in a **loving and compassionate way**. Send people a blessing with a smile, friendly eyes, a nod or a wave.
- Wash our hands** slowly and mindfully. Take this opportunity to pause and ask God to bless our hands and the healing hands of all those brave men and women in the health services.
- Pray blessings** of comfort to all who are suffering: suffering from illness, loneliness, anxiety, grief, loss of employment or financial worry.

5. STAY HOME!

"And when this has passed, may we say that love spread more quickly than any virus ever could. May we say this was not just an ending but also a place to begin."

1. Christine Valters Paintner, Praise Song for the Pandemic, Abbey of the Arts, Posted 19/03/2020.

Faith Enrichment Group



Fifth Sunday of Lent 29th March 2020

Tawonga is a 10 year old girl living with a disability, and struggling with food insecurity and discrimination in Malawi. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities .

Let's Go Further, Together.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



CORONAVIRUS LATEST The Archdiocese of Brisbane provides the latest updates and advice from the Queensland Government on the Coronavirus at archbne.org/zhz

Dr Catherine Hamlin RIP: Dear Parishioners, our friend, Dr Catherine Hamlin, died on 18th March, in Addis Ababa, at the age of 96. Dr Hamlin worked hard in this African country for 61 years taking care of the many women affected by the debilitating fistula condition. She established hospitals and trained midwives. It was her wish to eradicate this condition. We give thanks and celebrate her life of utter dedication and love for the most needy women in the world. She is known as "The Saint of Addis Ababa". May she now rest in God's loving care. *The SJG*

The Catholic Leader: In these unprecedented times, The Catholic Leader has decided to share our news for free. With the recent announcement to suspend all Masses until further notice, you, our readers, will be unable to buy The Catholic Leader at parishes. So, we are making our digital newspaper free at our website, catholicleader.com.au. **This digital newspaper will be free for readers to access until parishes reopen across the Brisbane Archdiocese.**

It is our commitment to ensure that everybody has access to stories of connection, inspiration, and faith. We will also have up-to-date daily news published on our website and shared to our social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We will strive to maintain our reputation as a truthful, Catholic news service for leaders locally, across the province and beyond. Thank you for helping us to share the Good News and we pray that all Catholics who feel disconnected will find hope, purpose, and renewed faith from our content.
Sincerely, Matt Emerick, Managing editor of The Catholic Leader

Share the Dignity: The current drive for donations of sanitary products needed to help homeless women has been suspended. The plan is to make the August drive bigger and better. The donations we have currently received will be given over as soon as it is safe for this to be done. Thank you for your support.

Clairvaux MacKillop College: Due to the recent health warnings from the Australian Government regarding COVID-19, Clairvaux MacKillop College will be **cancelling 'Windows' Day Tours** scheduled for Wednesday 6th May, Friday 5th June and Friday 31st July. The College Leadership Team is working on new dates for later in the year and once these are confirmed, an email will be sent with details on how to register. Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter and we look forward to welcoming you to the College campus soon.

Lourdes Hill College is accepting enrolments for Year 7 students for 2024.(current Grade 3 students)
Go to lhc.qld.edu.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who have died: Dr Catherine Hamlin, Kathleen Larsen (*Monica O'Leary's sister*), Archangela Dibella, Archbishop John Bathersby, Winston Van Rooyen (*Joyce Lyster's brother*), Noel McDonnell, Ron Routledge

Book of Life & Mass Requests: Alice Chin, Frank Bray, Bill Ruthven, Thomas White, Lynette Bushby-Haddon, Vashti McNamara, Valentine McNamara, Pauline Earle, Hector Hewavitharana, Matthew Cogliati, Nicholas Chin, Cyril O'Brien, Dudley Maloney, Margot Vizmanos-Tovera, Jessie White

Please pray for those who are sick, especially: Ursula Williamson, Beryl Ryan, Lori Hodder, Elmor Kotzur, Kevin Fry, Maureen Sheils, Elizabeth Karipa, Morris Mirabito, Garry Capper, Paolo, Olga & Diego Tagini

Please contact the Parish Office via phone or email to add names to the list for Prayers for the Sick.

Please ensure you have the permission of the person who is sick to make their name public prior to contacting the Office.

Are you new to our Parish? WELCOME!! We'd like to formally greet you, so please contact the Parish Office on 3341 4421 or stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au.

Other Parish Contacts:

Care & Concern: Co-ordinator Lynn White 0403 051103

Family Group Facebook: St Peters Rochedale Family Groups

Memorial Wall & Gardens: Mai Jensen 0411641312

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representative:

Malcolm Carroll 0410 193 569 or sgrep.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

Social Justice Group Facebook:

St Peter's Rochedale Social Justice Group

St Vincent de Paul: New members:

John Blake 0411 196 775



Ethical Easter Eggs

Easter is not far away and the supermarket shelves are brimming with chocolate treats. Australians will spend thousands of dollars on chocolate eggs and Easter bunnies, delighting young and old.

As we all know the main ingredient in the process of chocolate making are cocoa beans. The majority of cocoa is grown in West Africa, primarily in Ghana and the Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

Do you know who picks and processes the cocoa pods?

Many of the cocoa farms belong to poor families who are struggling to make a living. Their children have to help by working long hours doing dangerous work like cutting the cocoa pods open with a machete. However, some children are being kidnapped and brought to work in slave like conditions on cocoa farms. The children work so hard but they will never taste chocolate.

There is no place for ANY child labour in cocoa production.

The chocolate and cocoa industry condemns child labour and is working hard to eliminate it. The journey is already underway and there is a clear destination in mind:

A world where children are free to be children. A world free from child labour. (World Cocoa Foundation, Richard Scobey)

The livelihoods of cocoa farmers and their communities needs to be improved by stable and fair prices that are not subject to market fluctuations. Production of cocoa needs to be modernized and increased. This is happening for some farms but the cocoa industry is huge and there is still a long way to go. This challenge is long term and the problem is complex.

For a time there were only 3 certifying companies that supported farmers and their communities:

Fair Trade



Rainforest Alliance



UTZ Certified



However, Carolyn Kitto examined the situation in 2018 and found that a number of other companies have become engaged in supporting cocoa farmers which is the best way to reduce child labour.

She listed the following:



Lindt and Sprüngli Cocoa Farming Program began in 2008.



Nestle Cocoa Plan began in 2009.



Mondeles International Cocoa Life
(producers of Cadbury and Toblerone) began in 2012.



Barry Callebaut Cocoa Horizons

Source: ("Be Slavery Free," Chocolate, Easter, Certification", Carolyn Kitto, 12/3/2018)



It has also come to our attention that *Ferrero Rocher* is making progress in using certified chocolate.

What can we do?

Pope Francis reminded us that a purchase we make is not just an economic act but also a moral one. Power lies in our dollar. We can be selective in choosing our Easter treats.

The three best logos to look for are still: Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance and UTZ Certified.

Furthermore, you can write to chocolate companies encouraging them to pursue engagement with cocoa farmers and communities so that child labour will no longer be necessary.

The Social Justice Group



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