



St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

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📧 office@stsimonsparish.com.au 🌐 www.stsimonsparish.com.au

PARISH PERSONNEL

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Kevin Dillon

Mobile: 0421 777 360

Email: frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

Mrs Loretta Hughes (Tues, Thurs)

Mrs Abbie Ferdinands (Mon, Wed, Fri)

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Marialisa Mandarino (Wednesday)

BUSINESS & OFFICE MANAGER:

Mr Peter Evans (Mon - Thurs)

SECRETARIES:

Mrs Felicia Ahumada (Mon - Wed)

Mrs Christina Liew (Thurs, Fri)

ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL:

Mrs. Maree Fatouros (Acting Principal):

9755 4222

NAZARETH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL:

Mr Sam Cosentino: 9795 8100

PARISH OFFICE OPEN:

9.00am to 4.00pm

Tuesday to Friday

WEEKEND MASS:

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am

OTHER MASS TIMES:

Monday to Saturday: 9.15am

Tuesday: 7.00pm

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.45am

BAPTISMS:

First Sat 11.30am, Third Sun 12.15pm

WEDDINGS:

Contact Parish Office

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

When required, and 9.15am

Mass on the First Friday of the Month

MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARIES:

To be arranged through Parish Office

PARISH COUNCIL:

parishcouncil@stsimonsparish.com.au

MASS ON RADIO:

Mass from St. Simon's is broadcast

on Light FM - 89.9 at 7am Sundays

HALL HIRE:

St. Simon's Hall is available for hire

Saturday evenings and Sunday Lunch.

For enquiries, contact the Parish Office

during Office Hours. Phone: 9764 4058.

March 17th 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

Well what can I say? What can you say? What can any of us say?

For nearly forty years, I have been writing a "message" on the front page of parish bulletins, starting in St. Mary's, Altona in 1981, followed by Ivanhoe, Mitcham, then Geelong, and now St. Simon's. Most weeks they are a commentary (hopefully some sort of "Christian" commentary) on a current news item. Like many "editorials", they are usually unsigned - but parishioners certainly know that I am the writer.

But from time to time, like this week (and last week), I'll place my name at the end of the message, because what is written is more, well, personal.

In the bulletins for the past two weekends, I have tried to find some words of meaning within the dark reality that has saturated our media - print and electronic. "Meaning", not so much "comfort" - even though "comfort" is what we would like to have. "Comfort" is feeling things might not be as bad as they seem, and to be convinced that it will hopefully be so much better tomorrow or the next day.

But "meaning" is different. It's not warm and fuzzy - but it's very rational, and might help us work our way through what has probably been the most disconcerting and troublesome challenge to our Catholic Faith we could ever have imagined (or more likely, never have imagined!).

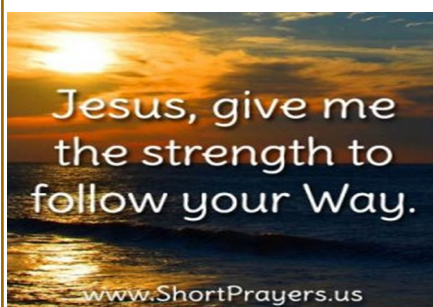
Shame, sadness, anger, disillusion are all words that have been used to describe the myriad of emotions and reactions over the past two weeks, the varying perspectives notwithstanding.

Just tonight (Thursday) I have spent an hour on the phone with a remarkable man who has suffered for forty years as a result of his abuse. Yet over that tortuous journey, he has eventually returned to his faith in Jesus and to the Gospel to which he was so strongly committed until both were brutally wrenched away from him at thirteen years of age.

Yet today he is a man of faith. He speaks of Jesus constantly. He makes his day-to-day decisions by genuinely asking "*What would Jesus do?*". And as best he can, he follows up with the answer to that question. His faith commitment is church-connected. Unsurprisingly, however, his church today is not the Catholic church of his upbringing.

Many who have suffered as he has cannot readily find the person of Jesus in their life, let alone in the Church. But some have, and amazingly it is they who can be a shining light of encouragement for the many, many people who are struggling with their Church (and for many the Faith) at this time.

"*Jesus, give me the strength to follow you*" is a simple prayer that can be prayed in many other words - but with the same meaning.



Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons said it well more than fifty years ago:

*"Let's hang on to what we've got,
don't let go now, we've got a lot.
Got a lot of faith between us,
so hang on, hang on, hang on -
to what we've got! "*

Fr. Kevin Dillon

Rosters for weekend of 23rd & 24th March 2019

Mass Times	6.00 pm	8.00 am	9.30 am	11.00 am
Reader 1	David West	Brian Philp	Janina Woronczak	Alf Kakala
Reader 2	David West	Brian Philp	Janina Woronczak	Buena Dinuzzo
Commentator	Graeme Smith	Phil Mawdsley	Seamus O'Connor	Estela Banac
Help Desk	Victoria Kong	Elaine Gannon	Maggie Braganza	Denise H/Mary R
CLOW	Judy Clarisse	N/A	Audrey Lee/Greg Woo	Giuliano Family
Bus Driver	John Duhau		Flowers:	N/A (Lent)
Mass Recorder	Shanti Jayamanne		Homily Typist:	Janet Forster
Altar Society	Elaine Gannon & Linda Eksteen			
Church Cleaning	Nicole Saldutto, Sharon Melder, Vincent Pius, Victor Dare			
Counters	Peter Evans, Michael Fernando & Brian Philp			

PARISH DIARY

Monday Mar. 18

9.15am: Mass (Church) - **Rosary after Mass**
 7.30pm: Lenten Reflection (Chapel)
 7.30pm: Youth Lenten Reflection (Parish Office)

Tuesday Mar. 19

9.15am: Mass (Church)
 7.00pm: Mass (Chapel)
 7.30pm: Lenten Reflection (Chapel)

Wednesday Mar. 20

9.15am: Mass (Church)

Thursday Mar. 21

9.15am: Mass (Church)
 10.00am: Lenten Reflection (Chapel)
 7.30pm: Lenten Reflection (Chapel)

Friday Mar. 22

9.15am: Mass (Church)
 10.00am: Lenten Reflection (Chapel)
 7.30pm: Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday Mar. 23

9.15am: Mass (Church)
 9:45am: Reconciliation (Church)
 6.00pm: Mass (Church)

Sunday Mar. 24

8.00am, 9.30am & 11.00am: Mass (Church)
 4.00pm: Bach's St Matthew Passion (Church)



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Recent Death:

Thelma Francisca La'Rive (Loretta's mum), Frank Conlan,
 Lidia Gregoric, **Sally-Anne Petrie's mum**

Anniversary:

Defelice Family, Attard Family, Yolande Riviere

BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community:

Amelia MAUNDER, daughter of Samuel & Marliene;
 Archer WILDING, son of Adam & Rosanna;
 Georgia SPITERI, daughter of Kevin & Melinda

MEETING / TRAINING

Refurbishment C'ttee - Mon. Mar 18 at 5.30pm (Office)

Share the Care - Mon. Mar 18 at 7.30pm (**Church Foyer**)

Craft Group - Tue. Mar 19 at 1.30pm (Church Foyer)

Liturgy Committee - Tue. Mar 19 at 5.30pm (Parish Office)

RCIA - Tue. Mar 19 at 7.30pm (Church Foyer)

Finance Committee - Thu. Mar 21 at 5.30pm (Office)

NEW VOLUNTEER ROSTERS

Thanks to all parishioners who contribute each week in assisting us through the various ministries in our parish.

New Rosters are now available at the Help Desk.

GOOD FRIDAY

BACH'S ST MATTHEW PASSION

On Good Friday this year, we will be playing a recording of Bach's magnificent St Matthew Passion in the church from 12 noon to 2:55pm, finishing just before the 3pm Good Friday Service.

Peter and Zoe Evans will run a study/reflection group during Lent for anyone interested in exploring this musical telling of Christ's Passion.

The sessions will run **4.00-5.00pm each Sunday in the Church, and finish on Palm Sunday 14 April**, with one more introductory week followed by four weeks examining the Passion in full.

Please register your interest with Peter at:

peter@stsimonsparish.com.au or call him on 0427 511 037.

THANK YOU

Heartfelt thanks to all my parish family at St Simon's for your uplifting messages of love and support at the passing of my darling mum. **Loretta.**

KIDS EMPOWERED COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

When: Sat Mar 30 & Mar 31 from 1.00-4.00pm

Where: St Simon's Chapel

Contact: Yolanda - 0432 477 021 for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nicholas Mackey, Matthias Chan, Anne Garvey,
 Stefan Ekanayake, Albert Bussac, Sasha Felsingier,
 David Mirra, Christeen Fernando, Filomena Gilbert,
 Katrina Vo, Francis Orbien, Kirk Dias

DOCTOR FOR LIFEBOAT

"Lifeboat" assists victims of church-related sexual abuse with practical and pastoral care, and has over 100 clients across Australia. We are seeking the involvement of a supportive General Practitioner for occasional referrals. An understanding of the challenges of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder would be especially helpful. Any GP seeking more information about "Lifeboat's" work can contact Fr. Kevin on frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au or 0421 777 360.

HELPING OUR REFUGEE FAMILIES & FRIENDS

On Saturday **23 March** there will be a Forum for Parishes at Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne, from 9.30am-1.00pm. The Forum, a periodic service from Welcome the Asylum Seeker program at Catholic Social Services Victoria, will review the current situation facing asylum seekers and potential changes in 2019. The forum will focus on enabling participants to increase or renew support in their parish, drawing upon the experience of parish leaders who have already achieved lasting support.

Cost: \$20, includes lunch. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/ZWMI>; enquiries to Adrian Foley, Adrian.foley@css.org.au, Tel 0497 780 233

THE JOURNEY OF AGEING

Consultation forum with Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians & Ambassador for Elder Abuse Prevention.

When: Wed **March 27** 10.00am-1.00pm (lunch provided).

Where: Ringwood Bowls Club,
2-12 Loughnan Road, Ringwood.

RSVP by Mon March 18 for catering purposes
- the-journey-of-ageing-registration.eventbrite.com.au

DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

Information session by Sr Nicole Rotura

When: 7.00pm on Thursday, **March 21**, 2019

Where: St Joseph's Church, 212 Boronia Road, Boronia
Tel: 0430 194 590 for more information.

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Community Fun Day

When: Sunday, **March 17**, 10.00am-2.00pm

Where: 5 Brenock Park Drive, Ferntree Gully

BORONIA & BASIN COMMUNITY FETE

Incorporating St. Joseph's &
St. Bernadette's Primary Schools & Parish
212 Boronia Rd, Boronia
10am - 4pm
30 March 2019



POST FETE "BLOWOUT" SALE



Sunday March 24, 9.00am to 1.00pm

At St Simon's church grounds.
Sale of numerous quality goods not sold at the Fete last November, plus donations received since. Furniture, books, DVD's, gadgets, bric a brac. Bargains for all.
Tell your friends and bring them along.

THANKSGIVING PROGRAM REVIEW

Thanks to all who have responded to our Thanksgiving mini-campaign. So far we have had 43% of cards returned by existing givers. It's important that everyone yet to return their card do so by **Mon. March 18, even if you are keeping your pledge the same.** We need this detail to be confident as we prepare budgets for the Church refurbishment, as the Refurbishment and Finance Committees are meeting this week. If you don't return your card, we will assume your pledge is unchanged. Thanks! Peter Evans

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE

3 Kia cars to be won!

Thank you for all your support in selling the tickets. Please note that tickets (sold or unsold) need to be **returned latest by March 29.**

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE

Bring your family and friends to our next Scheduled Tour on Sunday **March 24** departing 10.00am. Mater Christi girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. Visit materchristi.edu.au to book your tour.

Mater Christi College is seeking Homestay Hosts for International Students. Being a Homestay Host can be a very rewarding experience and often leads to lifelong associations. For more details including guidelines, payment and the application process, visit the College website or call 9757 0810.

COLLECTIONS: Mar 10th, 2019

Presbytery \$1667.65
Loose donations \$421.30

Stewardship - Envelope. (2nd Collection) \$2,550.31
Stewardship - Credit Cards / Direct Debit (cumulative Average) \$3,570.34
2016 campaign pledge (weekly) \$6,120.65

Thank you for sharing your treasure.



Weekly Pledge	Received	Cumulative
\$2,550.31	\$2580	84.4%

March 17th 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

First reading

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Taking Abram outside, the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.' 'Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

Second reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched

bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.



*Next Week's Readings:
3rd Sunday of Lent
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12;
Luke 13:1-9*

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