

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

In remote northern Fiji, life has always been a struggle for 44-year-old Manaini, a mother of six and grandmother of two. Holding back tears, she shared: "The things I worry about the most is my kids' education. The requirements that need to be met are hard for me to try to achieve with my daily income." Meals were often plain and unbalanced, and store-bought food was too expensive. Leftover crops were fed to animals, and at night the village was in darkness, leaving children and the elderly unsafe. Almost a quarter of Fiji's population live in poverty, with higher rates in rural villages, where any extra income can mean the difference between children completing school, buying medicine, or covering daily essentials. Thanks to your generosity, Manaini joined training offered by Caritas Australia's local partner, "**Friend**", where she learnt food processing skills to transform leftover crops into flour and increase her weekly income.



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from our parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phone 1800 024 413.

OPEN DAYS AT OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Our local high schools are taking enrolments for Year 7, 2028 for children who are currently in Year 5. The primary schools are enrolling for Kindergarten 2027. These are the times when our local schools are open for you to have a look and ask questions about enrolments.

St Gabriels: Friday 27 February, 9:30 – 11:00am

Bethany College: Tuesday, 3 March 3.30 – 6.30pm

St Josephs: Tuesday 3 March, 9.30 – 11.00am
and 3.30 – 5.00pm

St Francis Xavier's: Tuesday 3 March, 5:00 – 6:30pm
Thursday 5 March, 5:00 – 6:30pm

Marist College: Wednesday 4 March, 3:00 – 6:00pm

Follow this link to register for attendance at the school you wish to visit:

<https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/open-days>

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION TRAINING SESSIONS

The Liturgy Office will be offering a series of Eucharistic Adoration Training Sessions from March to May. These sessions will explore the theological, liturgical and musical elements of Eucharistic Adoration.

Attendance is compulsory for all acolytes and is strongly recommended for choir members. Jubilate Deo will lead the singing component of each session. Other parishioners with an interest in Eucharistic Adoration are warmly invited to attend.

The final hour of each session will comprise of a Holy Hour, with seminarians from the Seminary of the Good Shepherd serving and Jubilate Deo leading the sung responses. Registration is compulsory at: bit.ly/45JlSkK

The nearest venues to our parish are:

- St Patricks, Sutherland – Friday 6 March, 6-9pm
- St Benedicts, Broadway – Sat. 14 March, 10am-1pm
- St Thomas Mores, Brighton Le Sands – Saturday 16 May, 10am-1pm

EUCHARIST28 PRAYER

The Archdiocese has requested that the following prayer is to be recited at Masses until the end of the Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Sydney in September 2028. Therefore, we will recite it at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful in place of our regular Prayer for Australia.

EUCHARIST28 PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too many offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ, Amen

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Love and a bouquet for Our Lady at ordination
- Analysis: Vatican II and the way forward
- Beatification approved for Archbishop Fulton Sheen
- NZ priest offers a way out of pornography addiction
- New Lourdes grotto dedicated in Belfield

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Country theme for 2026 - Nigeria

The World Day of Prayer on **Friday, 6th March**, is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women aim to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions. The day is celebrated by women and men each year in over 170 countries. The service this year has been prepared by the committee of Nigeria with the theme "*I will give you rest: Come*". The service will start at 10:30am at the **Salvation Army, 432 West Botany St, Rockdale** followed by light refreshments, finishing at about 12 noon. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD PROCESSION

A Marian Procession led by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation will take place on Sunday 22 March beginning with 10:30 am Mass in St Mary's Cathedral and followed at 12:00 Noon by the Angelus and a Marian Procession. At 1:30 pm Fervourino will be held in St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, visit: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/about-us/archdiocesan-events/day-of-the-unborn-child/>

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Dinh and Margaret Tighe

ANNIVERSARIES: Paul Chappell, Peter Asplet, Cesare Tasselli, John Morley, Umberto Cicchiello, Antonio Meola, Colleen Euston, Giuseppe Valenti, Margaret Goodwin, Nancy Parton, Ermina Di Stefano,

We especially remember those for whom Masses have been requested, those in our Memorial Books and all our deceased relatives, friends, parishioners and benefactors. May they all rest in peace, Amen.

ST MARY WACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"Goodbye forever to all old scores." 1.4.1890

