

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Fr Paul Mercovich

Presbytery: 5491 1614
Mobile: 0417 562 243

SUNDAY (A)

February 5th 2017

THE YEAR OF MERCY
5th Sunday of year

BULLETIN NOTICES

Please forward any notices for the bulletin to Kim Collins (Laffin)

By **THURSDAY 5pm**

Phone: 54912441 or 0410402027

kimlaff@bigpond.com

NEXT WEEKS MASS TIMES

2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

SATURDAY, 7.30P.M –
CHARLTON

SATURDAY 7.00PM –
WEDDERBURN*

SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –
ST. ARNAUD

SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –
DONALD

*Lay led liturgy

NEXT WEEKENDS MASS ROSTER

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: John Powell*[√]
Bernadette Zagame[√] * Mary Mcloughlin * Nursing Home•

READERS: Val Bourke

PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL: Frank Bourke

PROCESSION OF GIFTS: Brian and Dawn Mulquiny

ALTAR SERVERS: Tahli Roberts and Chelsea Good

FLOWERS: Moira Olive

HOME VISITING: Jo Russell

COUNTERS: This week: Brian and Dawn Mulquiny

Next week: Jeff and Mary McLoughlin

CHURCH CLEANING: F Byrne Lee, D Mulquiny, T Sait

**Mass Tuesday 5.30 p.m.: Wednesday 10.30 a.m. EWHS:
Thursday 9.30 a.m.: Friday 11.30 am**

OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS:

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

- PETER SAIT
- JULIE ANNE KELLY
- MATTHEW DONOVAN

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL REUNION

We will be celebrating 120 years of Catholic Education in Charlton on show weekend, 21st and 22nd October 2017.

The 2nd meeting of the School Reunion Committee was held last Wednesday. We are planning to publish a book celebrating the history of Catholic Education in Charlton.

If you have any photos, newspapers clippings or memorabilia could you please see Val Bourke (Chairperson) or Anne Kenny (Secretary)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

- Bailey Delaney
- Vin Sait
- Fr John Keane
- Ian Bruns
- Jack Ross

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC
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February 5, 2017**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I write to you as the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse commences on February 6, 2017. For the victims and survivors, for the Catholic community and for many in the wider Australian community, this hearing may be a difficult and even distressing time, as the Royal Commission reviews the evidence it has already received and seeks to understand why and how this tragedy has occurred. Deeply mindful of the hurt and pain caused by abuse, I once again offer my apology on behalf of the Catholic Church. I am sorry for the damage that has been done to the lives of victims of sexual abuse. As Pope Francis said recently, 'it is a sin that shames us'. Over the next three weeks, evidence presented during the Royal Commission hearings will be analysed, statistics about the extent of abuse will be made public, and the way forward will be explored. Many of our bishops and other Catholic leaders will appear before the Royal Commission. They will explain what the Church has been doing to change the old culture that allowed abuse to continue and to put in place new policies, structures and protections to safeguard children. Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to, 'find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated'. Throughout the coming weeks, I want to assure you of my thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to turn in prayer to the one who is always ready to listen: Jesus Christ, who brings healing and hope.

**Yours in Christ, Archbishop Denis J
Hart President, Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference**

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON SEXUAL ABUSE

The Ballarat Cathedral Notice Sheet for last weekend includes the following paragraphs from a report by Francis Sullivan on the final hearing stage of the Royal Commission regarding Sexual Abuse.

The final hearing into the Catholic Church begins in Sydney on February 6th and is expected to run for three weeks. Unlike the case studies this hearing will be less forensic in nature and more of an exploration of the causes and contributing factors for the institutional responses from Church Authorities to child sex abuse cases. This important hearing is vital to the overall assessment of the Commission will make of the Church's response to this scandal.

The history of abuse in the Catholic Church has been confronting and shameful. There is no excuse for it. There may well be reasons why it occurred but the fact that it did cannot be merely contextualized away. In its private sessions and through its data collection the Royal Commission has an estimate of the extent of the sexual abuse of children within the Church. I am sure this will be made public in the hearing and I for one am bracing myself for this revelation.

This will be the first time anywhere in the world that the data of the Catholic Church on child sexual abuse has been compiled and analysed for public consideration. The data and the evidence from expert witnesses will make for an intense examination of the abuse scandal. It will point to cultural and sociological issues in the Catholic Church in Australia - how decision making occurred, who was involved and why. It will look at where responsibility fell and to what degree accountability and compliance processes were effectively deployed. The hearing will seek to provide an understanding of how priests and religious were selected and trained in the decades past as well as in current times. All this within the general understanding that sexual abuse of children has occurred across institutions, and almost universally those institutions had cultures of cover-up and obfuscation. We have engaged in the Commission process openly and in a spirit of cooperation.

This will be the 20th public hearing involving the Catholic Church and the 15th directly focused on the Catholic Church. It will be an important exploration of a devastating chapter in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia. And it will be difficult for the Catholic community. But the revelations will provide a litmus for how we as Church recover and move on from this low point. As this hearing proceeds on and after Monday, February 6, it will undoubtedly generate much attention in the press and media generally. Be prepared. We can ask ourselves: What can we learn from this experience.

