

# ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Fr Paul Mercovich

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SUNDAY (A)

## March 5th 2017

THE YEAR OF MERCY  
1st Sunday of Lent

### BULLETIN NOTICES

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

By **THURSDAY 5pm**

Phone: 54912441 or 0410402027

[kimlaff@bigpond.com](mailto:kimlaff@bigpond.com)

### NEXT WEEKS MASS TIMES

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Francie Lanyon\*√

Marg McGrath√ \* Sandra Patton \*

**READERS:** Jo Russell

**PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL:** Volunteer

**PROCESSION OF GIFTS:** Billy Fitzpatrick Family

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Jacob Olive and Joseph Monaghan

**FLOWERS:** No flowers in Lent

**HOME VISITING:** Margaret Fradd

**COUNTERS: This week:** Frank and Nance Sait

**Next week:** Brendan Bourke and Paul Fitzpatrick

**CHURCH CLEANING:** J McGrath; B Good; Julie McGrath

Weekday Mass Times ..... Lay Led Liturgy

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:

- JO FANNING
- JOHN O'BRIEN
- BERNIE BENNETT
- CON FANNING
- MOIRA TORMEY

#### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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

### PROJECT COMPASSION 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 5 2017



Like many of her neighbours in her rural village in the Philippines, Dinia struggled to feed and educate her children. She now has the skills to earn a better income for her children and help her neighbours. Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help people in rural areas of the Philippines build better futures for their families and their neighbours. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

# South Sudan bishops warn of famine

Amid a growing humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, local bishops have issued a pastoral statement appealing for help and seeking to give hope to their people, Vatican Radio reports. "Our country is gripped by a humanitarian crisis – famine, insecurity and economic hardship," the bishops wrote. "Our people are struggling simply to survive. While there have been poor rains in many parts of the country, there is no doubt that this famine is man-made, due to insecurity and poor economic management. Hunger, in turn, creates insecurity, in a vicious circle in which the hungry man, especially if he has a gun, may resort to looting to feed himself and his family. "Millions of our people are affected, with large numbers displaced from their homes and many fleeing to neighbouring countries, where they are facing appalling hardships in refugee camps." The bishops also spoke of constant harassment of Church personnel by government officials and a climate of fear targeting Church media, including in one incident personnel of a Catholic bookshop. "We are concerned that some elements within the government appear to be suspicious of the Church. In some areas the Church has been able to mediate local peace deals, but these can easily be undermined if government officials are removed and replaced with hardliners who do not welcome Church efforts for peace. Priests, sisters and other personnel have been harassed. Some of the programs on our radio network have been removed. Churches have been burned down. "Less than two weeks ago, on 14th February, security officers attempted to close down our Catholic bookshop," the bishops noted.



## STATEMENT FROM THE JUSTICE AND HEALING COUNCIL Case Study 50 - Catholic Church authorities in Australia

Copies of this Statement presented to the Royal Commission by Francis Sullivan, CEO, Truth Justice and Healing Council, are available online from the Justice and Healing Council or see Fr Paul if you want to read the full statement.. Included below is a quote from the Statement:

*The most significant and far reaching change is the establishment in November last year of a new and independent body to set standards within the Church for child safety.*

*The company, Catholic Professional Standards Limited, will audit and report on the compliance by bishops and religious leaders with the standards. It is a not for profit company, with its own governance structure, and with a board made up of lay professionals.*

*Professional standards will apply across all aspects of Catholic Church activities and will cover not only children but anyone who comes into contact with the Church. The Company will audit the performance of bishops and religious leaders on how their services comply with the standards. The audit reports will be made public. In this way the leaders will be held accountable.*

*This is a dramatic change to the accountability of bishops and congregational leaders. The significance of this change will have ramifications for many years to come.*

We continue to pray for victims and survivors of sexual abuse and their families. We remember them especially during these weeks as the Royal Commission reaches its conclusion. We cannot change what has happened in the past, but it is our solemn duty to do all in our power to identify and eradicate systemic factors that have either led to abuse or accommodated it in the past.

Although the revelations are disturbing and upsetting for us all, the set of statistics below revealed from data from the Royal Commission can give us some hope that we are in fact much more vigilant in our efforts to effect change. The figures below show what proportion of the total number of priests who ministered in the Ballarat Diocese within a particular decade were alleged perpetrators subject to an allegation of abuse falling within that decade.

BALLARAT	1950s%	1960s%	1970s%	1980s%	1990s%	2000s%
		3.2	6.6	3.8	2.5	2.0
	0.0					

The media can tend to support and foster a public perception that sexual abuse continues to occur even now on the same level it has in the past. These statistics refute that claim, and support the fact that the Diocese of Ballarat over the past 20 years has worked hard to change a culture that has assisted the development of a harmful and unsafe environment within our Church Community.

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL REUNION

**We will be celebrating 120 years of Catholic Education in Charlton on Show Weekend, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.**

**Thank you to those who have provided photos. We need photos prior to 1983 & if anyone has class photos of 2004 we would appreciate a copy.**

**Did you know?**

**Excellent entries have been received for the juvenile boxing tournament to start on Thursday. On Saturday night the star attraction will be clever boxing displays by boys from St Vincent de Paul's Orphanage.**

**Some of the local boys who competed were: P. Spain, R. Blanchard, V. Dabron, W. O'Connor, K. Carlson, C. Monaghan, J. Bridget, K. Fanning .Information from Charlton Tribune 09/09/1936**

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