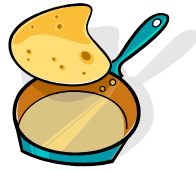


Project Compassion Sunday – Today Pancake Feast!



Today we launch our Caritas Project Compassion Appeal. Once again, during the 6 weeks of Lent, we are asked to think about, to pray for and to 'dig deep' for those throughout the world who, compared with most of us, have so very little. To launch our appeal, we shall once again be holding a **Pancake Feast** after Mass. So, instead of our usual 'free biscuits' there will be a stack of pancakes for you to purchase for a small donation!

The Challenge is World Poverty - the Time is Now!



Count your blessings

Many years ago I went to Confession and the priest said to me, 'For your penance, spend at least five minutes in the church counting your blessings.' Oh dear, I was on my knees for ages! But it really brought home to me that I really have been blessed.

That experience became the impetus for me to get involved in Justice and Peace work in my own parish as a volunteer fundraiser, and with one of the national aid agencies. I have been doing it for over twenty years now. It is enjoyable and rewarding to be involved with other people in such worthwhile activities. (Catherine)

from **peopleSpeak**

World Day of Prayer

Have you invited a friend to join you on Friday, 6th March at St Aidan's Anglican Church. This will be a great opportunity to share with other Christian men and women in your local community, knowing that you are part of a much larger gathering of Christians in more than 170 countries worldwide.

Take the opportunity to demonstrate the theme chosen by Christians in Papua New Guinea, **"In Christ, we are many members, yet one body."**

Come and affirm your faith and be enriched and encouraged by the faith of others.

St Aidan's Anglican Church, Hat Hill Rd, Blackheath. Friday, 6th March at 1.30pm. Light Refreshments to follow.

WORKING BEE

(The Memorial Festival of Barry Lott)

Next Saturday, 28 February, from 7am.

Please come along and give a hand for an hour or two.

Jobs to be done: weeding, mowing, and removing the catonias.

Prayer Day: Praying with St Paul (Fr Paul Maloney OSA)

In this Year celebrating the two millennia since the birth of St Paul we put aside some time to be touched by his passionate outpouring of love for his Master, Jesus the Christ.

Tuesday 24th February, 9:45am - 2:30pm, Place: Augustinian Centre of Spirituality, 2 Hewitt Ave, Greystanes. \$15 (Concessions available). Bring own lunch; refreshments provided. Bookings: 9896-6794 or osaspirit@bigpond.com.au

Some words and their origin -

Carnival – the period of merrymaking just before Lent - literally 'Farewell to Meat' - from the Latin 'carne' meaning 'meat' and 'Vale' being 'farewell'.

Shrove Tuesday – an English term for the day before Ash Wednesday – 'Shrove' is the past tense of the verb 'shrive', meaning to give absolution in Confession or to receive absolution in Confession. Shrove Tuesday is also Pancake Day - the most famous pancake race has been held in Buckinghamshire, UK, since 1445.

Mardi Gras – a French term, literally 'Fat Tuesday', for the day before Ash Wednesday – a time for eating delicacies before the fasting of Lent.

Lent – from the Old English word 'lencten' meaning 'Spring' (the time of year in the Northern hemisphere) – the 40 days of preparation for Easter.

menAlive Weekend Retreat: 21 - 22 March

menAlive is a Catholic ministry to men which commences with a weekend retreat that delivers relevant talks and personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion in small groups and provides a space and environment for men to reflect. For men aged 18+. Where: Don Bosco Youth Centre, 1st Floor, 8 Mamre Rd, St Marys. Cost: \$60. RSVP: 6 March.

Details: www.menalive.org.au Bookings: Alex Pace 0400 989 002, Fr Bob Bossini SDB (02) 9623 1962, ap@catholic.org

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The man who suffered from paralysis was an evangeliser both while he was afflicted and after he had been cured. Before the healing, he witnessed to his faith in Jesus by the mere fact of allowing himself to be brought to the healer. After he had been cured, his very presence announced to the world the healing power of God.

Those who are suffering have much to teach us. They can be living examples of patience in the midst of pain, human dignity in the presence of poverty or diminishment, thoughtfulness toward others even when in great need. People who have learned to accept the hardships that they cannot change often radiate a quality of peace that is astonishing. Perhaps the greatest lesson that they can teach is total dependence on God.

Whether or not we are relieved of our misfortunes, the fundamental message of the reign of God is newness of life. It is the radical shifting of human existence - those whose lives were wasteland, see them flowing with refreshing waters; those who are searching for meaning, have the word of God preached to them; those who are paralysed, stand up and walk; the promises that God made are fulfilled. Most important, those who have sinned are forgiven. The redemptive power of God is set loose in the world. We can prepare for it. We can remove the roof and lower the mat, but the radical newness comes from God. This is the good news.