

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

A day of reflection, discussion and prayer will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday, 17th October, 9.30am - 4pm.

The facilitator will be **Bernice Moore**, who is an educator in Justice and Peace, a member of the team working on the Mission and Justice Program for the Bishops' Commission and works on the coordination team for Women and the Australian Church.

The day of reflection will be based on the movie 'As it is in Heaven'. This is a movie about 'ordinary people' trying to live life meaningfully in their town in Sweden's far north: singing in the church choir is the thread that unites them as they struggle with their hurts, failures, joys and love of everyday life.

No cost to participants. BYO lunch. Tea, coffee and drinks provided. Enquiries to Barbara on 4787 6032.

Bookings required by 13th October. All are most welcome!

Caritas Media Release 30 September 2009

Caritas opens appeal for Pacific tsunami.

A Caritas assessment team is en route to the worst affected areas of Western Samoa following an 8.3 earthquake 200km from the capital, Apia. The consequent tsunami has hit Western and American Samoa early this morning.

"While Australia and the Pacific Islands have cancelled their tsunami warnings, the risk to those in affected areas remains significant. There is particular concern for Samoa's low lying coastal communities, who remain vulnerable to sea surges after the tsunami", said Caritas Australia CEO Jack De Groot.

"It appears that while the quake itself damaged infrastructure in the city of Apia, the greatest damage has been done when the tsunami hit the southern coasts of Western Samoa and American Samoa", said Mr De Groot.

The Catholic Pastoral Centre at Logoipulotu in Savai'i has been converted to an emergency medical centre as patients have been relocated from the hospital.

"Caritas Australia has an ongoing commitment to this region with development projects in Western Samoa and we will assist in the relief effort as directed by our partner agency Caritas Samoa. After a tsunami there is an immediate need for temporary shelter while the threat of polluted water poses great risk for those temporarily displaced", said Mr De Groot.

Caritas Australia is accepting donations to the Pacific Tsunami Appeal and, once immediate needs are addressed, will focus on the long term rehabilitation of the affected populations.

You can support the Caritas Australia Pacific Tsunami Appeal by calling 1800 024 413 or online at www.caritas.org.au For more information call Tim O'Connor (02) 8306 3444 or 0417 284 831.

Sacred Heart Parish – Mass Times from 1st October, 2009

Sacred Heart, Blackheath	Sunday	9.30am
	Tuesday	6.30pm
	Wednesday, Friday & Saturday	9.00am
	Thursday	8.00am
Benediction	2nd Saturday after 9.00am Mass	
Communion Service	Monday	9.00am
Reconciliation	Saturday (for half an hour)	9.30am
St Paul's, Mount Victoria	Vigil Mass: 1st and 3rd Saturdays	6.00pm
St Joseph's, Megalong Valley	Vigil Mass: 2nd and 4th Saturdays	6.00pm

RCIA: Last Sunday we celebrated the confirmation of 6 young parishioners. For adults there is a journey to full initiation into the church. It is the RCIA program. Over the years our parish has been blessed to journey with a number of adults through this process. It is a great joy to announce to the parish that **Josephine Pretorius** has commenced the RCIA journey and hopes to be received into the church on Easter Saturday Night during the vigil celebrations. Throughout the journey, the parish will meet Josephine and be invited to join her through the various stages. This process is a great vehicle for renewal and growth for the whole community.

Just a reminder what RCIA is: The initials stand for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Prior to Vatican II, a person become a Catholic after several sessions with a priest. Vatican II reclaimed the RCIA process to its rightful historical status. And it is a journey into the Christian Community with various scrutinies and steps. The candidate is formed by fellow Christians and it is a journey of faith development and growth into the community by the community. If you would like to know more about the RCIA process, please speak to Michelle Davis - if you know someone who wants to become a Catholic, let Michelle know or if you would like to help in the formation process, contact Michelle on 4787 7528.

THANK YOU Fr Bob and the Sacred Heart Community for the cards, prayers and well wishes. The operation was a success. *Noeleen Cliff*

The **Catholic Institute of Sydney** will be holding its annual **Information Evening** on Friday, 23rd October. Please see the Parish Notice Board for more details.

From Bishop Manning - Swine Flu Update

Information from the public health authorities would indicate that the number of cases of H1N1 virus has sharply diminished in recent weeks. Given the risk of transmission is now very low, and, in fact the normal winter 'flu virus is also on the wane, I see it as appropriate to lift the liturgical protocols that were put in place several months ago and advise:

***Holy Water can now be restored;**

***The Sign of Peace can be exchanged; and**

***Communion under both Species can be restored.**

Reflection

In the Western world today, somewhere between one-third and one-half of marriages end in divorce. It's a statistic that we hear wheeled out as a sign of the collapse of family values in our society. However, the reverse statistic is also true: somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of marriages are lasting ones. In the last 30-40 years, divorce has transformed from being a shameful scandal to an accepted, even commonplace, fact of life. It would be uncommon not to know someone affected by divorce. Despite those who argue that divorce is too 'easy', it is an emotional and difficult decision for couples to reach and has rippling impacts on children, extended families and friends.

When the Pharisees in the gospel asked Jesus about the law regarding divorce, they really weren't interested in divorce; they wanted to check Jesus' orthodoxy - how he stood in relation to traditional teaching. Rather than respond to them directly, Jesus asks them first of all to name the teaching to which they refer. He then explains that Moses only ever wrote the instruction because the people were so unwilling to listen to God's way.

For the second time in the last few weeks, the gospel shows Jesus welcoming children and praising their attitude as the way to the kingdom of God. Children of the time had no status and were regarded as literally the property of their father. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and gave them his blessing, this was the action of a father 'claiming' the child as their own. To welcome the kingdom like a little child is to enter into living the kingdom of God without any claim to position or status; to recognise our complete dependence on others; to let go of our ideas of who is important and who is not; to allow ourselves to be 'claimed' by Jesus.

from Liturgyhelp online

PARRAMATTA CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL FORMATION 2010

This course is open to men and women of all ages seeking to deepen their commitment to Christ. Adults who live out their Baptismal call by their personal faith life, engagement in local community and serving those in need.

Course outline:

A formative process which involves the gaining of knowledge, skills and reflection on action through the integration of four elements:

1. Formation Days
2. Spiritual Direction
3. Spiritual Companionship Group
4. Each Core Unit of ten weeks is covered on Tuesday night from 6.30pm-9.00pm:
 - ◆ Exploration of Spirituality
 - ◆ Exploration of Scripture
 - ◆ Exploration of Theology
 - ◆ Exploration of Ministry

Please refer to the Parish Notice Board for further information.

Enrolling Now: Start your trade and get your HSC at **McCarthy Catholic College Trade Training Centre, Penrith. Students commencing Year 11 in 2010** will gain experience and skills in their chosen trade while completing their HSC and will have the opportunity to gain a Certificate III qualification in one of a number of trades: Automotive Mechanical Technology, Building & Construction, Metals & Engineering, Electro technology, Hairdressing, Hospitality.

The College is also seeking support from local businesses interested in offering school-based apprenticeships to students. Details (02) 4735 3211 or www.mcchs.nsw.edu.au

YOU ARE MINE

Composer: David Haas
(USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE
INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice,
be still and know I am here.

I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light,
come and rest in me.

***Do not be afraid,
I am with you.
I have called you
each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.***

I am strength for all
the despairing,
healing for the ones
who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name.
(Refrain)

I am the Word
that leads all to freedom.
I am the peace
the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain,
stand up, now walk, and live.

Come join the growing Catholic Community receiving the daily CathNews!
This is a FREE service at www.cathnews.com.au



Open Garden Today
Funds raised will be sent to the Awasa Orphanage, Ethiopia. Please see notice board for details.

BBQ at Norma's Place, Monday, 5 October. Please see the notice board for details.

Home Mass with Fr Isaac Koi will be celebrated at the home of Louise and Laurie Noyes, 8 Days Crescent, Blackheath on Wednesday, 14 October at 7.30pm. All welcome.

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers. Libbi went well in the triathlon; she raised \$620 for breast cancer. Libbi also said to say thank you for the prayers and thank you to Betty for the donation.

Alfrida Edwards

Sacred Heart Care Group



This is just a reminder that our Care Group is here to assist parishioners in times of need. Please contact our Care Group if you think we can help.

Call Carmel Vanny 4787 8706 or Michelle Funnell 4757 2638.

St Vincent de Paul Society
The Blackheath Conference will meet at 3.30pm this Tuesday, 6 October, in the meeting room.



**Cake and Craft Stall
TODAY after Mass.**