



church below the rooftops

**Happy
You
Who
Weep**

Come, child. It's evening. Come to me
 And sit with me once more.
 Let's rock here while the others sleep.
 Let's see – your sister's four;
 The baby is three months today;
 Your little brother's two,
 And I have not decided
 if I'll tell them about you.
 And you, you would be eight this year.
 I do not know your name,
 The colour of your eyes, or hair,
 Or where, or how, to blame.
 The fear was all, the fear of change,
 For I saw change as loss.
 Against my dreams, my plans, my life
 You seemed so small a cost...
 ...Oh! My little lost unknown,
 My first and neverborn,
 Forgive the ignorance that sent you
 To the dark, unmourned!
 And no, it isn't every day
 I find your shadow here;
 Most times I'm far too busy
 For reflection or for tears,
 But sometimes, when the children sleep
 And I have time alone,
 I sit down in the dark, and rock,
 and bring my baby home.

(Amanda Lewanski)

www.abortionconcern.org



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peoplespeak focuses on seeing the light of the
 gospel in daily events. By listening to the stories
 people tell of how the gospel illuminates their lives
 we become aware of the presence of Jesus within us
 and in those we meet.

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Readers' contributions welcome.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Paul teaches us that, united to Christ
 through faith and in baptism, we are
 united in his death and resurrection.
 With Christ we die to sin; with him we
 rise to a new life. We cannot wait to
 see proof of our transformation
 before we change our actions. The
 proof is in the lives we live in faith.
 To deny that we have died and been
 raised is to deny the resurrection of
 Christ. Paul insists that they cannot
 be separated. The challenge is to live
 in and out of this faith.

Both Jeremiah and Jesus introduce us
 to such a way of living. It is a way of
 paradox, a way that moves us beyond
 the self-centred standards of the
 world. The poor, the hungry, those
 who weep, and those who are
 persecuted are really the ones who
 are blessed. The victims of our social
 and economic systems, those who
 have been ravaged by war or have
 been made vulnerable by life itself
 are the ones who, if they place their
 trust in God, will be blessed in the
 end. They may appear to be the
 outcasts of this world, but, if they are
 filled with faith, they will inherit
 heaven. The wealth of this world and
 its pleasures are not the blessings
 that we might think they are. They
 can blind us to the real values of life
 and prevent us from dying to the
 world and living resurrected lives in
 Christ.

-Liturgyhelp.com

*How realistic is 'blessed are
 you who weep now, for you
 will laugh'? In the midst of
 life's troubles it is difficult to feel the
 hope that this promise offers. Jesus' life
 gives witness to this promise, however,
 and it is comforting to know that he, like
 us, sometimes wept and lost hope.*

-Liturgyhelp.com



Project Compassion Sunday
 Project Compassion promotes
 peace by pursuing justice.
 Please take home a Project
 Compassion box and/or a set of
 envelopes and give generously
 this Lent. Your donations allow
 Caritas Australia, the Catholic
 Agency for International Aid
 and Development, to work with
 communities to reduce poverty
 and hunger around the world.



PRAYER DAY: With Augustine in Lent (Fr Paul Maloney OSA)

The thought of what to do in Lent can be
 bewildering, especially as the laws of
 Fasting and Abstinence are no longer
 prescriptive. Today we have the
 opportunity to learn a way of channelling
 our love towards the suffering Saviour
 as He is revealed in the woundedness
 of those around us.

Tuesday 23rd February, 9:45am - 2:30pm
\$15 (concessions available)

Bring own lunch; refreshments provided.
 Place : Augustinian Centre,
 2 Hewitt Ave, Greystanes
 Bookings: 98966794 or
osaspirit@bigpond.com

Reflection on Sunday's Readings Project Compassion Sunday ~ 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17:5-8 *A curse on those who trust in humanity;
 a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.*

Corinthians 15:12. 16-20 *If Christ is not raised from the dead,
 your faith is in vain.*

Luke 6:17. 20-26 *Happy are the poor; Woe to the rich!*

The word of God spoken through the prophet Jeremiah declares blessed are those who trust in God, bearing fruit for God like a well-watered tree through lives of integrity.

We must renew our faith in the risen Christ. Through Christ's resurrection we are called to live in hope trusting in God's promise of eternal life.

The gospel calls us to a deep commitment to the way of Jesus. The beatitudes of Jesus reveal to us a blueprint for Christian living, teaching us what is of value in life.

The challenge of the beatitudes is for us to be more convinced that they are the basis for our personal happiness and the happiness of others. We must be moved by the teaching of Jesus to live as his disciples in the world professing our faith.

The beatitudes invite us not only to pray for a better world but also to become part of God's answer to that prayer this Lent, through generous and sacrificial giving to the projects of Christian compassion.

February Cosmology Morning

The theme of the meditation will be "The Gifts we can offer" for our gathering on **Friday 19 February at 10am till noon** at the Good Samaritan Community House,

3 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls.

The discussion will centre on

"That all may be one:

Living in Radical Amazement"

Chapter 12 of our book for study, *Radical Amazement* by Judy Cannato.

Prayer for the sick and other needs as well as morning tea will be included in the morning's gathering.

New guests are always welcome.

Enquiries: Sr. Jacinta 4757 2290.

Short Introductory Course in Canon Law:

Conducted by the School of Law Sydney of the University of Notre Dame Australia. Taught by the Very Rev Robert M McGuckin. Classes are each Thursday from 9.30am to 12.30pm for 13 weeks, commencing 25 February 2010 on the Broadway site of the Sydney campus. Students have the choice of either just attending classes (\$656.70) or also doing assessments and an exam (\$796.00). No previous knowledge required. Parishioners, lawyers, law students and seminarians are welcome to enrol. For further details and to enrol, contact the University's Prospective Students' Office on 8204 4419 or the School of Law Sydney on 8204 4300.

Fertility Educators Needed

Natural Fertility Services is looking for suitable applicants in the Parramatta and greater Sydney area to train as Fertility Educators. Some prior experience of Natural Family Planning is desirable but not essential as training is provided. Sessional work available to those who complete the training and become accredited educators. Details: Manager, NFS (02) 9390 5156.

ARE YOU AN ADVENTUROUS TEACHER?

Palms Australia, the Australian Catholic Church's volunteer sending agency, currently has requests for English, Science and other teachers to work in developing communities in Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Kiribati.

Can you imagine yourself mentoring and training local teachers in the highlands of New Guinea, or amongst the coral atolls of Kiribati?

Call us at Palms today to find out how you could make a real difference in combating world poverty!

Begin by calling us on 02 9518 9551, or send Christine an email: christine@palms.org.au or you can visit our website: www.palms.org.au

Interested in becoming a global volunteer and working cross-culturally or just wanting to reflect on issues of justice, global development and poverty alleviation?

Come to this annual Focus Workshop on 27 February at 9.30am held at the St Peter Julian's Church Hall, Haymarket, Sydney. For more information contact ben@palms.org.au mail to: ben@palms.org.au call 02 95189551 or visit www.palms.org.au <http://www.palms.org.au> for more information.

You are all invited to come and join!!

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA FILIPINO FIESTA IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH, THE HUSBAND OF MARY

WHERE: St Michael's School Ground, 155 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown
(Back of St Michael's Church)

WHEN: Sunday 14th March

ACTIVITIES: 10.45am – Holy Eucharist
12.00 Noon – Lunch
1.00pm – Grand Final; Singing Contest

Kindly confirm your availability by contacting:
Violy Bada (02 9831 3520 or 0425 397 057), email; vbada@bigpond.net.au

ST PAUL'S WORLD – A PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY

Fr Wim Hoekstra, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta has organised a Pilgrimage to Turkey commencing on Saturday, 25th September and returning on Sunday, 10th October, i.e during the September-October school holidays. Full details of the tour can be found at www.stpatscathedral.com.au and follow the link. Please also see the flyer on the parish notice board.

There will be an Information Evening to discuss the tour on Tuesday, 9th March 2010 at 7.30pm in the Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. For further information, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 8839 8400.

Administration & Promotions Assistant, Vocations Office

The Vocations Office, an agency of the Archdiocese of Sydney, is seeking applications for the role of Administration & Promotions Assistant. Further information is available at www.catholicjobsonline.com.au

Applications close 21 February 2010. Applications to Anthony Spata, Polding Centre, Level 5, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney NSW 2000 or anthony.spata@sydneycatholic.org. Please see noticeboard for further details.

TEST DRIVE THE BROTHERS' LIFE

The De La Salle Brothers are offering guys (20 - 35yrs) an incredible volunteer opportunity for 2 weeks in Balgo Hills, Western Australia. For those interested in learning about the Brothers' life whilst helping young people in need, this 'Challenge Program' (15-29 May) is for you! Applications close 29 March. For details, please visit www.delasallebrothers.com

The **Gregorian Schola of Sydney** will begin its programme for 2010 very soon. We welcome new members. If you would like to join us singing Gregorian Chant, please ring 8741 2341 or email Lawrence.Grech@bigpond.com