



ST MARY'S CONCORD

4th Sunday Ordinary Time

29 January 2012

30 January St Mary's School Years 1-6
7 February Parish Pastoral Council
22 February Ash Wednesday

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN Parents wishing to present a child for Baptism please note that Baptism is not celebrated at St Mary's during the season of Lent. Lent begins on 22 February 2012. All the remaining parish dates for the celebration of Baptism in January and February are fully booked. Baptisms will be celebrated again on Sundays after Easter. Bookings are now being taken for Sundays in June and July 2012.

DATES FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION 2012

Fr Paul will be away on Sabbatical Leave from late August to early December 2012. As a result to the usual dates for the celebration of 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation have changed for 2012. **1st Holy Communion** will be celebrated at a special 11.00 am Mass over three Sundays: 3, 10 and 17 June. There will be two sessions for **Confirmation**: 6.00 pm on Sat 28 July and 11.00 am on Sunday 29 July. More details will be given in February.

EXODUS JOURNEY A 21 day biblical pilgrimage from Cairo to Jerusalem departing 24 March 2012 accompanied by Fr Artur Wojtowicz, Chaplain at Concord Hospital. For more details please take a copy of the brochure in the side porch or see the church notice board.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK Communion Ministers from our parish community take Holy Communion to the sick in their homes and in various Nursing Homes in the parish. If you have a family member who is unable to come to Mass and wishes to receive Communion, please contact the parish office

THE LETTERS OF ST PAUL: Beginning last Sunday and continuing until 12 February, our second reading is taken from the *First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*. While the homily mostly takes up the Gospel reading, it may be helpful occasionally to reflect on St Paul's letter.

As background it is useful to recall that Corinth was an important trade centre in the ancient world. The city was on a plateau overlooking and controlling a 7 km wide isthmus that linked the mainland of Greece and the Peloponnesus peninsular to the south. It also separated two seas: the Aegean to the east and the Ionian or Adriatic to the west. In the middle of the 1st Century, Corinth was both a strategic and cosmopolitan city. Its population was drawn from every quarter of the Roman Empire. The Christian community in Corinth served as a base for Paul's missionary journeys and his contact with the community lasted almost a decade. Paul first arrived there about the year 50.

On these Sundays we are reading short sections from the middle chapters of the letter. For example, this Sunday we read chapter 7, verses 29-31. To make sense of this short reading we need to understand that St Paul and many early Christians believed that the Risen Jesus would come again in their lifetime. Paul's words have a sense of urgency and he encourages the people to put aside material things and prepare for Christ's coming.

In his later letters Paul would revise his understanding in the light of the experience that the end had not come as they expected. However, his essential message is still relevant for us. We too need to avoid being so caught up in the material world that we fail to prepare for and welcome the Risen Christ when he comes into our life.

SANTA SABINA COLLEGE STRATHFIELD: Scholarships & Bursaries for 2013

Scholarships for Year 7: Academic, All Rounder and Creative & Performing Arts Scholarships providing full or part remission.

Scholarships for Year 9: Academic, All Rounder and Creative & Performing Arts Scholarships providing full or part remission.

Scholarships for Year 10 and Year 11: Santa Sabina Senior Scholarships are Academic Scholarships providing full or part remission.

Scholarships are offered to all students entering Year 7 and new applicants only for Year 9, 10 and 11.

Applications: All Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the ACER examination, application, interview and audition where relevant. The ACER Exam will be held at the College on Saturday 25 February 2012. Applications close **6 February 2012**.

Bursaries will be available for a limited number of new students to assist with tuition fees. Bursaries offer the opportunity for young women to receive a Dominican education regardless of their financial situation. Registration for the ACER Exam and Scholarship applications are available online at <http://www.ssc.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/scholarshipsandbursaries.cfm>

For additional information about Scholarships or Bursaries please contact: Margaret Molloy, Registrar at Santa Sabina College

Ph: (02) 9745 7030 or email m.molloy@ssc.nsw.edu.au

FAITH SHARING GROUP that meets each Tuesday begins again on 7 February 2012 from 7.30 to 8.15pm in the chapel of St Mary's Villa. The focus each week is a shared reflection on the Gospel of the following Sunday followed by a time for shared prayer. If you are interested in joining the group please contact the Parish Office on 9747 4210 or email parish@stmarysconcord.org.au Everyone is welcome.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . Your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 23 – 25 March at St. Mary's Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, NSW. Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au Information: website www.wwme.org.au

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia. Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Days for 2012 to be held at the monastery - Sundays: 19 February, 20 May, 19 August and 18 November. For more information please contact the following; Ann Bergman 9498 2625 anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas 9456 4775 atlomas@bigpond.com.

GRIEF AND LOSS: One Day Workshop - Grief and Loss In Different Faiths And Cultures. On March 10, 2012 at Mt St Benedict, Pennant Hills, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries will host a workshop that will benefit spiritual directors, chaplains, counsellors, priests and anyone in pastoral care or bereavement counselling. Richard White, bereavement counsellor with WN Bull Funeral Directors, will explore the model of accompaniment as a way to walk with people who grieve. Following topics will be addressed - how to cope, survive and even thrive; what happens when grief is denied; what to say and what not to say and self-care for those in this ministry. There will be speakers from different faiths and cultural backgrounds presenting. Details: Tel: 9440 7980 or info@rachelvineyard.org.au or www.rachelvineyard.org.au .

Grief and Loss Conference – A Ministry Of Accompaniment. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries will host the 4th National Conference in Sydney on March 9-11, 2012 at Mt St Benedict Centre, Pennant Hills. The conference is for those in the ministry of spiritual healing after an abortion and will include training in grief and loss ministry, sharing of stories of post abortion experience and support of those grieving after an abortion, and talks and workshops by experienced practitioners in this field. Full details: tel: 9440 7980 or www.rachelvineyard.org.au

ST MARY MACKILLOP NATIONAL PILGRIMAGES

In 2012 two National Australian Pilgrimages will be conducted from 11 - 21 April and 24 October - 3 November. The pilgrimage offers you an opportunity to reflect on your own life as you walk with Mary MacKillop the journey of her life. Fly to Melbourne and then journey by coach to Hamilton, Portland, Penola, Adelaide, fly to Sydney and then home. Cost from Sydney \$2,540 pp twin share, single supplement \$410. For a brochure and further information please contact: Sister Monica Barlow on 02 8912 4818 or email mmp.ministries@sosj.org.au.

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SVdP CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS St Vincent de Paul Society is calling upon people of goodwill within the local community to help in the Vinnies shops as shop assistants. The role involves sorting, pricing, customer service and general store upkeep. You can help any day between Mon-Sun. To be successful, you need to have good interpersonal skills, love for retail and customer service, as well as a desire to help others. This is a high energy role and involves standing for long hours, light lifting and moving of donations as well as serving diverse customers. If you can help, please call Jedi on 9568 0275 to discuss. Thank you.

GO DEEPER WITH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH - Catholic Adult Education Centre 2012 Term 1 courses start 06 February. Monday nights at Lidcombe: The Early Church with Robert Haddad and Greek (New Testament) I with Thomas Flynn. Thursday nights at Lidcombe: The Sacraments with Fr Paul Rowse OP & James McDonald and The Gospel of John with Robert Tilley. For more information and to register; 9646 9010, study@caec.com.au or www.caec.com.au.

CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS. A 2 day intensive course at Lidcombe – with David Schütz (Executive Officer of Ecumenical & Interfaith Dialogue for the Melbourne Archdiocese). Dates: 19 & 20 March. For more information contact the Catholic Adult Education Centre: 9646 9010, study@caec.com.au or www.caec.com.au

SMOKERS: please do not drop cigarette butts on the ground. The Parish Precinct includes the grounds of the Church, St Mary's Villa and St Mary's School. **It is a smoke-free zone**