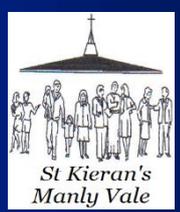




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*In the care of the Augustinians*

March 2017

**Fr Paul Maloney – Parish Priest** (Contact via Parish Office 9949 4455)

Dear Families,

Welcome to the first edition of our North Harbour Parish News for the year. We are half way through the term already and the pace of life is already speeding us towards the Easter holidays. Last Wednesday we celebrated the beginning of Lent with the traditional signing in ashes on each person's forehead - which symbolised the humbling thought that we are 'made of dust and unto dust we must return'. Such a reminder is not to daunt us but to give us a new perspective on where we stand in the great scheme of things. We can hardly believe the many overtures of love God makes towards each and every person. The Christian message is that we are not meant to live as slaves to fear, superstition, oppression or even mortality itself, but that we are called to share in the abundance of life that caused the whole universe to burst into existence in the first place. The various sacraments, ceremonies, activities and Holy days described in this newsletter are meant to provide a fabric of reverence and holiness in our lives which transforms our day to day routine into a subtle but real experience of peace and joy.

For that reason you will all be very welcome to bring your families to join in the parish meal on Holy Thursday (April 13<sup>th</sup>) that leads us into the evening Mass of the Last Supper; the next day, Good Friday, is the solemn recalling of our Lord's suffering and death (traditionally commencing at 3:00 pm); and Easter Sunday is the holiest and happiest of days when the light of immortality and life shines on all who gather to proclaim his triumph over sin and death.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for references you might need into secondary schools of your choice or just as an encouragement in your important role as Catholic parents. Warm best wishes from Fr. Paul osa

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**Adriana Bowyer – Catechist Coordinator** (Contact 0402 099 746 or [albowyer@bigpond.com](mailto:albowyer@bigpond.com))

**1. Catechists (Scripture Teaching)**

Hello parents & children and welcome to 2017. Most scripture classes have now commenced and it's so lovely to see the children so excited. The scripture teachers are also very excited and very much looking forward to another wonderful year of catholic scripture teaching.

Your child will be bringing home a letter which gives the details of their scripture teacher's name together with the day and time that scripture takes place. This letter also provides information regarding the sacramental program with important dates etc. Also attached to the letter is a form which can be filled out and returned either to your child's scripture teacher or the parish office.

As usual we will be holding a combined Easter Service in the last week of Term 1, week commencing 3rd April at each of our state schools where children from all religions will take part. Please check with your child when their Easter Service will be on as all parents are welcome to come along.

I look forward to seeing the children and their families at mass during Holy Week leading up to Easter Sunday. Closer to the end of term the children will bring home with them a flyer with the dates and times of the upcoming Easter ceremonies.

**2. Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Children's Liturgy will again continue this year at both of our churches, St Kieran's at Manly Vale and St Cecilia's at Balgowlah. It will take place at the 9.30am mass at St Kieran's and at the 9am mass at St Cecilia's each Sunday during school term. All children are invited to come along and take part in this liturgy which is aimed at the children's level of understanding. Toddler siblings are also welcome with or without a parent. The people running the children's liturgy are parent volunteers and we are always looking for helpers to join our team. If you would like more information on this please feel free to contact me anytime.

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**Janette Davidson – Sacramental Program Coordinator/Family Minister** (Contact 0408 866521 or [sacraments@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:sacraments@northharbourcatholic.org.au))

1. Is your child interested in becoming a Catholic or would you like your child to become a Catholic and participate in the 2017/2018 Children's Sacramental Program?  
Our **Baptism for Older Children Program** will be offered in **Term 2 2017 on Sunday 21 and 28 May**. Please contact Janette (details above) if you have any questions or you would like additional information. The program can be downloaded from the parish website at [www.northharbourcatholic.org.au](http://www.northharbourcatholic.org.au) under the Sacraments – Baptism of Children - tab.
2. A copy of the **2017 Confirmation Program (the start of the 2017/2018 Children's Sacramental Program)** for children in Year 2 and older can also be downloaded from the parish website at <http://www.northharbourcatholic.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program>  
The program starts with a **Sacramental Program Information Meeting for Parents** on Tuesday 9 May or Wednesday 10 May.
3. **Celebrating Lent**. Your families may find the following resources useful. They can also be downloaded from the parish website  
<http://www.northharbourcatholic.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program/for-parents>  
**Families and Lent - Acts of Love and Sacrifice**  
40 suggestions for putting Lent into practice at home and deepen your family's faith one day at a time.  
**Stations of the Cross for Families**  
An opportunity for families to reflect on how each of The Stations can be applied to our daily lives and for family conversation around important life and relationship issues.

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**Ben Marshall – Music Minister** (Contact 0411 809 072 or [benmarshall@hotmail.com](mailto:benmarshall@hotmail.com))

Music is one of the many ways North Harbour Parish connects with the community.  
Each week a number of musical groups get together to provide music at our Parish masses.  
Our YOUTH MUSIC programs are run by our music minister, Ben Marshall.  
Ben co-ordinates groups of varying ages to empower them to lead the congregation in song.  
Ages 11 - 14 (year 7, 8, 9) meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month  
Ages 15 - 18 (year 10, 11, 12) meet on the 4th Sunday of the month  
Ben is very experienced working with all abilities, so please don't be shy to contact him to get involved!

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**Deacon Francis Belcina – Youth Minister** (Contact 0400 924 073)

**Junior Altar Servers** – Boys and Girls from Yr. 3–Yr. 6 who are interested in becoming a *junior altar server* for the 9:00am (SC), 9:30am (SK) and 6:00pm (SK) masses in our parish, please register for the training sessions in March. Limited slots! (Must be accompanied by a guardian. Day and time of training to be announced soon).  
Please ask your guardian, or mum or dad to message your complete NAME & AGE to Deacon Francis. For more info message him at mobile no.: 0400-924-073; email: [youthministry@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:youthministry@northharbourcatholic.org.au) Or you may forward your details or questions to the parish office.

Please visit our parish website at [www.northharbourcatholic.org.au](http://www.northharbourcatholic.org.au) to view/download our parish Sunday bulletins which show updates on details of all parish activities and the parish sacramental programs.  
We look forward to seeing you at any of the parish family events that might suit your family.

*“We are called to acknowledge how beautiful, true and good it is to start a family, to be a family today; and how indispensable the family is for the life of the world and for the future of humanity.”* - Pope Francis February 20, 2014.

With blessings from the North Harbour Parish Team.