

We Remember those in God's Care

**all who have died recently;*

** Laurie Taylor, and all whose anniversaries occur now.*

We Pray for

**Steve Clark Ryan, Sebastian Geisler, Tim O'Neill, Tony Ng,
and all our sick*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

We have all been greatly saddened by the events in Victoria which have unfolded before us over the past week, which have eclipsed even the devastating floods in Far North Queensland. Generous people have been plenty, and we here at Coorparoo are no doubt desirous of responding. I'm sure that individuals and families here have already done something, and our primary school has responded well. Our parish will donate most of our income from our collections next weekend. The Carmelites will donate their entire share of the collection while the parish collection will donate \$1,000, as well as 50% of the loose collection, (the other 50% is included in the Carmelite contribution.). We will advise of what this amount is the week after.

Wednesday 25 February is the start of Lent, known to its friends as Ash Wednesday, again a poignant reminder of the fires of 1983. Masses will be at 9.00 am and 7.30 pm on that day. The church will be open from 7.00 am till 5.30 pm on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. A roster for these days has been placed on the church wall near the side door. It is hoped that someone can be in the church at all times while it is open.

Finally, one of our parishioners, a young mother has made a generous offer to make her car and time available to anyone who might need a lift to shops, doctors, appointments etc. Her name is Bridget Gavin and her contact details are 3342 1425 or 0408 822377. Bridget is a very pleasant person and I am happy to endorse her generosity.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH in the care of the Carmelites since 1937



PARISH PRIEST
Laurie Timms O.Carm

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Jerome Watt O.Carm

PARISH SECRETARY
Emanuela Heaton

FINANCE
Maureen Hassett

**PRIOR OF CARMELITE
COMMUNITY:**
Frank Shortis O.Carm

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Office Hours:
8.30am - 4.30pm,
Mondays -Thursdays

15 February 2009

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Leper Within and the Helper Without

There are two main messages that I got out of reflecting on this weekend's readings from the Book of Leviticus, St Paul's letter to the Corinthians and Mark's Gospel.

But first a little context

The first two readings set up the scene nicely. It shows a society that is obsessed with rules around issues of hygiene, food and the management of disease. In the first reading we learn about the strict rules governing the management of leprosy, how the afflicted person should act and behave, where they should live and how the rest of the community should treat them. One gets the feeling that such an afflicted person would have felt very humiliated and marginalized, with a low sense of worth and dignity. Leprosy or Hansen's Disease as it is more commonly known now is caused by exposure to the Mycobacterium leprae bacterium. Most people are immune to this bacteria but those whose immune systems are compromised by a poor diet, unsanitary living conditions, and poor access to clean water are the ones that are most at risk. Indeed it could be thought of as a disease that the poor are especially vulnerable to. People who are already marginalized becoming more so from an affliction that tends to be very visible and disabling. The rules that were originally put in place to deal with such a disease were probably based on simple but sound public health principles. Keep the affected person away from the rest of the community so as to reduce the risk of infection. However like most rules, these simple guidelines evolved to become restrictive rather than simply effective and helpful. The Leper became someone who did not just simply suffer from a bacterial infection but rather a sign of a demonized outcast.

Over the years we have seen this same phenomenon associated with AIDS, Drug Addiction, Mental Illness, Homelessness and more recently Obesity. (cont.....pg 3)

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

Saturday Vigil – 6 pm;
Sunday - 7.30 am, 9.30 am, 5.30 pm

Weekdays *this week*:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday & Saturday - 9 am

RECONCILIATION

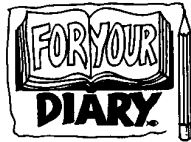
Saturdays 9.30 am – 10 am

MEDITATION

Wednesdays 6.30 am – 7 pm

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

by appointment



SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 43:18-19. 21-22. 24-25
2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Mark 2:1-12

Baptism Sunday

CLOW at 9.30 am Mass

Wednesday 25 February ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass 9 am & 7.30 pm

Thursday 26 February

Readers Preparation in sacristy, 7.30pm
Carmel Cellars in Carmel Community
Room, 7.30 pm

This week at Mt Carmel

Today is 15 February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46
1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1
Mark 1:40-45

Lay Carmelites Mass and meeting in
Carmel Community Room, 9.30 am
CLOW at 9.30 am Mass

Monday 16 February

Rosary after 9 am Mass
St Vincent de Paul meeting in Carmel
Community Room, 7.30 pm

Wednesday 18 February

RCIA meeting in Carmel Community
Room, 7.30 pm

Thursday 19 February

Mt Carmel Social Club meeting in
Carmel Community Room, 9.30 am
Readers Preparation in sacristy, 7.30pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Dates for Term 1

February 8 CLOW provides the
15 opportunity for children
22 [from Pre school to Yr 3]
to celebrate the Liturgy of
March the Word at their level at
8 the Sunday 9.30 am Mass.
15 If interested in this
22 ministry please contact
29 Leisa Crew on 3847 5033
April or 0418 187 536 or
5 leisacrew@crediflex.com

The Leper Within and the Helper Without (*cont...*)

The labeling of a treatable health condition with that of moral decay and weakness. Understanding the complexity of how Lepers were seen in ancient communities thus makes the action of both Jesus and the Leper all that more profound. Firstly the Leper dared to approach the Great Healer, as Jesus was rapidly becoming known as back then. He dared to ask him to cure him if he chose. And Jesus, notwithstanding his role in this strict society, dared to respond and help him. In this exchange between the Leper and the Helper we see two men break through the barriers of constraining social norms to reach out to one another. One to ask for help and the other to provide that help, both doing so at grave risk of social sanction. Therein lies the lessons for us in this weekend's readings.

Do not be afraid to ask for help. Be respectful and direct in your prayer and if you are asked for help by another, do not be afraid to do so, in spite of what others might think. If you are capable of helping, be like Jesus and offer a helping hand. For in so doing we do not only help them to rediscover their true self, the person inside of the label but we ourselves will also discover our inner humanity, that divine connection that we have with Jesus when we choose to follow him.

*Ben Norris
Parishioner*

Mt Carmel Social Club Annual Meeting on Thursday 19 February

at 9.30 am in Carmel Community Room.

Reports for 2008, Fees Due \$5, Planning for 2009

Bring a Plate

Anyone over 50 most welcome

Staying Connected: The latest edition of Australian Catholics features an entertaining and insightful look at how the media impacts on our lives. There are interviews with journalists on religion in the media, and a look at what we can learn from movies like WALL-E. Make sure you read the Explorations feature, which offers some interesting reflections on the ways that God speaks to us in the world.