



— OUR LADY —
QUEEN OF PEACE

The Peaceful Voice

23rd March 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Hope in a Barren Place

Nicole was a professional dancer whose dancing was her outlet for trauma she had experienced growing up. While teaching a dance lesson, she ruptured her hamstring. Her career was in tatters. Her one coping mechanism was gone, her future seemed over, and she reacted by pushing away those closest to her, becoming anxious and depressed.

The Gospel we hear this weekend, relates stories of victims encountering forces beyond their control. Why do these terrible things happen? Their despair echoes that of Nicole, and of any of us who have experienced grief, depression, anxiety and pain which seems to have no end. Jesus responds first by recognising that there is no escape from the reality of suffering and death. We will all perish in this life. But it is not because some people deserve it, and we are not being punished by an angry God.

Jesus does not leave us with the finality of darkness, but says the way forward is to repent. Repentance is linked with the Greek word, *metanoia*, a total change of heart and mind. Jesus is inviting us to radically reorientate ourselves from a space where only darkness and barrenness consumes us. The Gospel's fig tree is in a barren place, bearing no fruit for years, and there is no escape except to be cut down. Yet the one who tends the vineyard, representing God, asks for one more year. God aches for our healing, for our wholeness, and gently digs around the garden of our heart. Even when we stop hoping, God continues to believe and hope in us, as do those who are close to us, and the broader community.

One sign of hope is the mental health organisation, Beyond Blue, offering support to Australians. This is also where Nicole's story can be found (see beyondblue.org.au). Nicole's partner gently encouraged her to find help. She had the courage to share her dark place with her GP who offered no judgement but only pathways of healing. These included finding ways to share her experience with those closest to her so they could support her better. She has since cultivated many



Photo by Dmitry Ratushny on Unsplash

lifegiving approaches, and when some days are overwhelming she allows herself to stop and experience the emotions, and recognise there are just days where she doesn't feel great. God continues to nourish the soil around our heart, and invites us to gently and courageously repent, to seek new ways of seeing, feeling, thinking, and believing, so we may be open to the breath of goodness this world offers.

In your Reflection

Where is God offering you repentance or metanoia?

Taken from Seeds of Hope Lenten Program

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If you would like to purchase a copy of the Lenten Program to accompany you through the remainder of Lent, please visit the parish office or join one of our Lenten Groups on Tuesday mornings at 10am or Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Youth Room.

Caritas Australia - Project Compassion

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.

You can support through donation boxes or by scanning the QR code.



Photo by Caritas Australia



Faith B4U...

This Lent at OLQP...

Stations of the Cross for Lent

With Rosary, Adoration, Benediction.

Stations will continue over the next three Fridays

7.00pm - FRIDAY 28th March, 4th April, 11th April

Following Stations, each time, **at 7.30pm**, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, plus Rosary and Benediction, concluding by just after 8pm.

Reconciliation (one to one)

Every Saturday, 4pm - 4:45pm (excluding the days listed below)

Extra Reconciliation (one to one)

5 April, 3pm - 4:30pm | 9 April, 7pm - 8:30pm |

12 April, 3pm - 4:30pm | 15 April, 7pm - 8:30pm |

Good Friday 18 April, after Stations until 12pm

Reconciliation & First Communion

As a parish team we look forward to supporting you, however we are able as you prepare and guide your children in the next steps of their sacramental lives of faith.

Enrolment is open for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion for children in Year 4 and above.

Visit www.olqp.org.au for dates and to complete the enrolment form.

Enrolments for Sacrament of Confirmation will open in July 2025 for children in Year 6 and above. **Enquires to: sacraments@olqp.org.au | 9631 8135**

Adult Jubilee Pilgrimage Info Session

Thinking about joining the Diocese of Parramatta's Adult Jubilee Pilgrimage? Come to our information session to learn more about this life-changing journey. Join us on **Wednesday, April 9 at the Bishop Bede, Heather Centre from 6.30pm – 8.30pm**. Any questions or enquiries please **contact met@parracatholic.org**

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, John Attard, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, Margaret John, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Delma Ryan, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

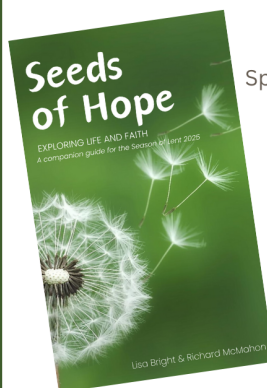
FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Nancy Ciccone, John Fyffe, Sylvester Joseph, Mary Saliba

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. *Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.*

Richard Bulkiewicz, Antonia Simiana

Lenten Reflection Groups



Spend time with others reflecting on scripture this Lent with the theme of hope in this Jubilee Year.

Each week we will reflect on the Gospel for the following Sunday.

Tuesdays 10am - 11am
4, 11, 18, 25 March, 1, 8 April
Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm
12, 19, 26 March, 2, 9 April
in the Youth Room next to the Church.

Reflection Guides available for purchase at the Parish Office - \$5.

Register for a group via the sign up sheets in the Church or the Parish Office or call - 9631 8135. All welcome.



Be part of the Children's Liturgy Team

Share the joy of celebrating our faith with the children of our parish!

Children's Liturgy is celebrated at 8.30am and 10.30am Sunday Masses during the school term.

Call the Parish Office on 9631 8135 for more information to become a leader or helper for this enriching ministry.

The FaithFeed

Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Baulkham Hills Parish in the Hills Deanery – all are welcome!

The FaithFeed will be held on **Saturday 29 March**. Doors open 7:00PM for a **7:30PM start**. The night will feature faith stories, live music, activities and great conversation.

RSVP via parracatholic.org/events-faithfeed

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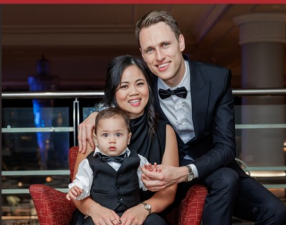
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Safeguarding is a priority at OLQP

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on **Thursday 3 April at St Aidan's Parish Centre, Rooty Hill for Cycle 2 (Modules 4-5)**. More training opportunities will be available throughout May.

Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you volunteer at the parish and are unfamiliar with Safeguarding, please contact the parish office for more details.

A small gift makes a BIG DIFFERENCE

Over the next 6 weeks of Lent, you can support refugees and people seeking asylum by donating these essential items.

WEEK 3: Dried Red Lentils

All donations support JRS (Jesuit Refugee Services Australia). Donated food can be placed into the JRS basket located in the Narthex (main church entrance) OR brought to the Parish Office.

Hospitality Ministry

After many of our Masses, we have a wonderful ministry of gathering and hospitality, where our community share conversation and a cuppa.

To help us continue this ministry of hospitality, it would be great to have some people to join our teams.

Can you help?

Maybe you are able to help out once a month? Please contact the Parish Office to leave your details.

If there are other ways you would like to help, please let us know.

For our current teams

Can all ministers for hospitality please complete the sign-in and sign-out sheet in the kitchen. This helps us in our commitment to ensure safe and responsible places for all.

Could you also please complete the roster sheet that is with the sign in sheet.

And if you haven't been to hospitality after Mass before, come along as together we continue to grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

25th Tuesday **The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD**

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Exodus

3:1-8, 13-15

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians

10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel

Luke

13:1-9

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Joshua

5:9-12

2nd Reading

2 Corinthians

5:17-21

Gospel

Luke

15:1-3, 11-32

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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