

Companionship on the Journey

The word “companion” comes from the Latin word “companio”, which means ‘breaking bread together’ or one with whom we share bread. Sharing a meal can bring joy, comfort and a sense of belonging. Meals are often where we get to know each other, to deepen friendship or love. It’s often where we discover the deeper aspects of each other, where we ‘recognise’ each other. It was when Jesus shared a meal with the two disciples at Emmaus that they recognised him.

Jesus was their companion on the journey to Emmaus. Our life is a journey, with many smaller journeys embedded in a long pilgrimage. Sometimes the journey is gentle; sometimes it is harsh. Transitions disrupt us, they unsettle us. But they also call us to move forward, to be renewed. Many trees lose their leaves in winter, but they grow them back in spring. What enables these transitions is nourishment.

Companionship is such an important part of life. If we don’t have the nourishment of those with whom we ‘break bread together’, we start to wither, especially during times of difficulty. When we lose our leaves, we need the companionship of others to help us grow new leaves. Any change can be a struggle. It is our friendships and family relationships that have the potential to bring us joy and to fill us with life.

Benedictine monks have a strong tradition of hospitality, of welcoming strangers and travellers, weary from their journey. In times past, it was common for the monks to always have a pot of soup bubbling on the fire, so that travellers could be fed and find warmth and nourishment. That soup was known as ‘minestrone’, from the word ‘to minister’ which means to serve. Nourishment is not needed only for the body. Our hearts and souls need nourishment too. It is our presence, being truly and deeply present to one another, that nourishes hearts and souls. We can become ‘minestrone’ to each other - being servants of each other, providing emotional nourishment which brings life.



It is often through the love that others show us that we see Jesus. Jesus is our constant companion. We break bread with him every day, yet we sometimes don’t recognise him. Others help us to see ourselves, to recognise our own beauty and to embrace our own worth as someone who is God’s beloved treasure. Our faith is not just ‘me and God’. It is also ‘us and God’. Without the powerful embrace of true companionship, we often struggle to see ourselves truly. When that is the case, we often struggle to see God, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus who failed to recognise Jesus, who accompanied them in spite of their blindness. It is our companionship that helps to open our eyes to see clearly.

So, let us be true companions to one another. Open our hearts. Seek out those who are lonely. Be strength for those who feel weak. Be healing for those in pain. Walk with those who walk alone. Be joy for those who are sad. Be hope for those who despair. Simply, ‘be my companion’. Long journeys are easier when we travel together. “Love one another, as I have loved you.”

Deacon Jeff

Our Spiritual Journey: Struggles, Stuckness & Challenges

Have you ever struggled in your relationship with God?

Ever felt like God wasn’t there?

Found it difficult to pray?

In this workshop, Deacon Jeff will explore our spiritual journey, with a particular focus on helping us to understand struggle, stuckness and the challenges we face.

Location: **St George Precast Centre, Saturday 29th August, 10 am** morning tea, with a 10:30 am start (about 1½ hours).

Repeated on Wednesday 2nd September, 7 pm supper, with a 7:30 pm start.

RSVP for catering purposes by **Tuesday 25th August** to parishoffice@olqp.org.au / 9631 8135

“This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.” (Michah 6:8)

Safeguarding - keeping our young and vulnerable safe in our community.

Faith B4U...

Be THE WITNESS

THE MUSICAL

Experience the life and ministry of Jesus Christ through the eyes of Simon Peter-the disciple who walked on water, faltered in fear, denied Jesus three times yet rose to become a fearless witness of Christ

Riverside theatre, Parramatta
12th Sep at 7.30pm
Tickets: \$70.00

8 spots are available!

Contact the office

and join us to experience a timeless call!

Be the Witness

Has now partnered with Aid to the Church in Need to bring you the Holy Shroud Exhibition as part of the incredible Be The Witness Experience. This remarkable exhibition detailing the intricacies of the Shroud of Turin will be on display at St Patrick's Cathedral from Sunday 6th September to Sunday 13th September.

So come and see the show and then continue the journey as a witness by visiting the exhibition and marvelling at the incredible wonders of the burial cloth of our Lord.

Don't miss out! Contact the Parish Office at parishoffice@olqp.org.au or call 9631 8135 to be part of the Parish group booking.

Alternatively, tickets also available at bethewitness.com.au

New Choir Members Always Welcome

If you'd like to join the Parish choir, please contact the Parish Office.

We meet on a Monday night at 7:30pm in the church (not all year round). Please contact the Parish Office to check.

Let us pray...

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

Chantel Adrien, Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Charlie D'Anastas, Kathleen Davies, Jeanette Dib, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Mary Ghantous, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Martin Portelli, Jeizek Reyes, Benjie Santiago, Barbara Stanton, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Melissa Zerafa, Muna Zora

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

Bernadette Hughes, Ruby Jacob, Bartholomew Mercieca, Denis Ramundi, Mario Rupnick

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. *Funeral details are correct at time of print, but it's best to not make this your only source.*

The funeral of 9-year-old Layla De Haart will be here at OLQP at 11am on Monday 24th August. As many as possible who are able to walk a short distance are kindly asked to park off-site.

Is your Safeguarding up to date?

All Clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to be current and complete their Safeguarding Training every 2 years. This is different to a Working with Children's Check (WWCC).

Check with the Parish Office to see when you are due to update your Safeguarding Training or refer to the points below.

→ If you are new to Ministry or have not yet completed any Safeguarding training, you need to complete the Introductory Modules 1 to 3 (Cycle 1) & Sign the Acknowledgement of Code of Conduct Form.

→ If you completed Modules 1-3 in 2024 or earlier. You are now due to complete Modules 4 & 5 (Cycle 2)

→ If you completed Modules 4 & 5 in 2024 or earlier. You are now due to complete the Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3)

Safeguarding Training Modules can be completed online at:
<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

Onsite Face-to-Face Mandatory Training will be available on the 19th September at OLQP for Modules 4 & 5 (Cycle 2)

Please register at:

<https://parracatholic.org/events/mandatory-safeguarding-training-cycle-2-modules-4-5-19-september/>

Or contact the parish office at: parishoffice@olqp.org.au or phone: 9631 8135

WANTED

Helpers to assist SRE catechists in the classroom.

We need help on: **Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.**

If you can assist with this class, please contact the Parish Office Ph.9631 8135.

Positions vacant

- Senior Development Manager – Diocese of Parramatta
- More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

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

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Centenary Jubilee Celebrations at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa

Come join us as we give thanks for the past 100 years and entrust the future to the loving care of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

Date: Sunday 13th September

Time: Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10am start. The celebration is to conclude at approximately 3pm.

The day will begin with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program. Parish bus groups are encouraged.

An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall from 8:30am – 6:00pm.

To RSVP and for more information visit: www.schoenstatt.org.au

Transport may be available for a cost, please let the parish office know if you are interested.

Catholic Care WSBM

Suicide Memorial Service: 10 September.

Catholic Care WSBM, together with White Lady Funerals, invite you to a memorial service to remember loved ones who have died by suicide or tragically lost their lives.

Join us on **10 September at 11am at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills.** The service will include the opportunity to plant a rose bush in our Garden of Remembrance, followed by light refreshments.

Free to attend, please RSVP by 7 Sept to Lisa 0439 917 129 or Christy 4731 4385

OLQP Bereavement Team

We are a group of caring parishioners from Our Lady Queen of Peace. Our ministry is not a counselling service, but offers support, comfort and care shortly after the loss of a loved one.

At your request, we can join you in your home for prayer, a chat or simply a listening ear.

We also keep in touch via phone calls and cards shortly after your loss, and on significant days in the first year without your loved one, such as first birthday, first anniversary, first Christmas.

You are also invited to the Parish Memorial Mass and All Souls Day Mass.

The Bereavement Team can be contacted via the Parish Office on 9631 8135.

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

24th Monday St Bartholomew, apostle

27th Thursday St Monica

28th Friday St Augustine, bishop, doctor

29th Saturday The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr

Lost Property

If you have lost jewellery or cash, please contact the Parish Office.

All other items can be found in the lost property basket in the Narthex (main entry area of the church).

Parish Office 9631 8135 / parishoffice@olqp.org.au.

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah
22:19-23

2nd Reading

Romans
11:33-36

Gospel

Matthew
16:13-20

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Jeremiah
20:7-9

2nd Reading

Romans
12:1-2

Gospel

Matthew
16:21-27

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - 9:15am (except January
- Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed))

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

Mass for Peace - all welcome - followed by Anointing of the Sick - 1st Saturdays 9:15am (except January)

Memorial Mass - all welcome - and offered for recent losses and 1st/2nd anniversaries - 2nd Saturdays 9:15am

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 6:30pm

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

Parish Office Hours: 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 4pm Monday to Friday
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