

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon—Fri 9:30am-2:30pm

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Jude Pirotta mssp  
Telephone: 9748 6800  
email:  
hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au

**Assistant Priest:**  
Fr Silvio Bezzina mssp

**Assisting Priest:**  
Fr Brendan Byrne sj

**Deacon:**  
Dcn Royden Dsouza

**Parish Council President:**  
Geralyn McCarthy

**Parish Secretaries:**  
Red Lusterio  
Tita Manalo

**Thanksgiving:**  
Maria Saldana

**Parish Bookkeeper:**  
Angel Hartanto  
Wed & Fri 9:30-2:30

**Sacramental Co-Ord  
Other Schools:**  
Wendy Gonsalves  
hopperscrossingnorth.sacraments@cam.org.au

**Youth Ministry Co-ord:**  
Red Lusterio 0409 184 299

**St James Primary School:**  
Telephone: 9749 1000  
Principal: Mary Abbott  
principal@sjhen.catholic.edu.au

**St Francis Primary School:**  
Telephone: 9749 9900  
Principal: Michelle Gillett  
principal@sfatarnet.catholic.edu.au

**St Clare's Primary School:**  
Telephone: 9371 8400  
Principal: Andrew Leighton  
principal@sctruganina.catholic.edu.au

**Thomas Carr College:**  
Telephone: 8734 2444  
Principal: Craig Holmes  
tcc@thomascarr.vic.edu.au

**Weekday Masses:**  
Tues—Sat 9:00am

**1st Friday Monthly:**  
Mass at 7:30pm  
Adoration at 8:00-9:00pm

**Reconciliation (Confession):**  
Saturday: 9:30am-10:00am  
5:00-5:30pm

**Sacrament of Baptism:**  
Contact Jacinta & John Fisher  
0438 793 630  
hopperscrossingnorth.baptism@cam.org.au

**Weddings:**  
By appointment only  
9748 6800



ST JAMES  
THE APOSTLE  
PARISH

**ST JAMES  
PARISH BULLETIN**  
336 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing North, 3029  
Under the Pastoral Care of the Paulist Missionaries  
www.stjamesapostlehc.com.au

## **7th Sunday in Ordinary Time 23 February 2020**

### **LENTEN REFLECTION**

We will begin the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday February 26th. While many look forward to this time for opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal, quite often many of us see it as a liturgical season to dread. We focus on “What am I going to give up?” “How long can I live without whatever it is I am going to give up?” “How many more days before I don’t have to give up whatever it is that I am giving up?” Who wouldn’t dread a liturgical season with such a narrow focus?

Over these next few weeks, we are all encouraged to begin reflecting anew on the real purpose of Lent, the power such a season can be for us, and the real potential for a deeper commitment to our Catholic faith, and most important, a deeper communion of love with God. Such a deeper understanding could give us a new attitude for Lent.

Baptism is one of Lent’s foundational focus. At the Easter Vigil, the catechumens (referred to as “the elect”) will be fully initiated as Catholics through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

It is no coincidence that on Easter Sunday, all the baptized will renew our baptismal promises. Note that I said we are going to “renew” our baptismal promises and not merely “repeat” them. “Repeating” simply recalls something that happened in the past. “Renew” is entirely different. “Renewing” our baptismal promises recognizes something still foundational in our life.

Renewing our baptismal promises opens our hearts to God’s grace. Grace reveals God’s great love for us and God’s purpose for our life. This great divine love energizes our own love and leads us to a deeper commitment to live these promises more faithfully. Easter is one time in the liturgical year for us to remember that we are baptized once for a lifetime and not merely once in a lifetime. Lent is the time set aside to prepare us to make that renewal faithfully.

Our world, our country and our Church all need us to rediscover the beauty and power of baptism and our call to be co-redeemers with the Lord Jesus Christ. Our baptism calls us to a life of holiness that reveals Jesus’ great and merciful love to all humanity and all creation. Our faith also commits us to restoring the human community and all creation to a life of justice, peace, and solidarity.

May God bless us during this season of grace.

**Fr Jude Pirotta mssp**

### **LENTEN CONCERT—ASHES TO EASTER WITH PETER KEARNEY**

Peter Kearney is an Australian Catholic songwriter/singer and guitarist whose hymns and songs include ‘Fill My House’ and ‘The Beatitudes’. His ‘Ashes to Easter’ concert weaves songs and stories and reflections on Lenten themes and looks ahead to Holy Week and Easter. Mainly for adults though upper-primary and older students could also enjoy. **Mon 23 March** at St James, Paulist Centre starting at 7:30pm. Donations welcome at end of concert.

**Weekend Masses: Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:00pm**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus' reinterpretation of the Jewish law (Torah) in today's Gospel focuses upon retaliation and love of enemies.

In the tribal situation of early Israel, where institutions of justice were barely established, the law of strict reciprocity in regard to injury ("an eye for an eye", etc.) sought to contain and limit the spiral of violence—to bring "pay back" to a closure that all parties would recognize as fair.

Jesus, however, commends a readiness to disarm violence by being prepared to accept double what the perpetrator requires. This may be unrealistic on the level of society as a whole where evil and evildoers must be resisted and restrained. If, in the face of injury and unreasonable demand, disciples of Jesus, on an individual or small group level (as, for example, in Christian non-violent protest), do adopt such a stance, their freedom to do so will stem from consciousness of the far greater generosity they have themselves received from God.

Likewise, Jesus resists the general human tendency to hate one's enemies in the name of the disposition and action of God, whose "children" his disciples know themselves to be. They will truly show themselves God's children if they reflect the divine action in this radical way.

In conclusion, Jesus offers a definition of what it means to be "perfect": "You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." The stress here falls upon the little word "as": perfection means acting towards others, including one's enemies, as the Creator acts towards all, good and bad alike.

**Fr Brendan Byrne SJ**

## THOMAS CARR COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Thomas Carr College, our Regional Catholic College, is hosting their next Open Day on Sun 22 Mar from 10:00am-2:00pm. Please email [registrar@thomascarr.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@thomascarr.vic.edu.au) to register your interest.

## CHURCH EXTENSION DONATIONS

Thank you to several Parishioners who have donated towards the up-coming Church extensions and to those using the 'Donation Point' in the Paulist Centre Foyer.

## COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

Thanksgiving:	\$	4775.55
Presbytery:	\$	1260.90
Flowers:	\$	0.00
Youth:	\$	0.00

Thankyou

## THANK YOU



Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted in packing, sorting and transporting from the four occupied spaces for the upcoming church extension.

Special thanks to our St James Primary School for providing space in the Paulist Centre for temporary worship. To Thomas Carr College for the use of the chapel for our weekday Masses and providing storage space. And to our neighbouring Parish St Peter's, Hoppers Crossing, for allowing us to store the church pews. Thank you to Brian from PJ Waste for providing the Dumpster and to Brendan McShane for the 6 tonne truck for transporting the church pews.



## PRISON FELLOWSHIP—EASTER BISCUITS

This Easter, Prison Fellowship (PF) will again provide every Victorian inmate with 10 home-made biscuits, together with a card that explains the meaning of Easter. Help PF show the prisoners of Victoria that God loves them. Biscuits to be delivered to St James by Wed 25 Mar for collection by PF.

## MOCK INTERVIEWS VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

On Mon 27 April the Thomas Carr College Year 10 Students will be participating in the Mock Interview Program as part of their learning and assessment for their Industry and Enterprise subject for Semester 1, which includes a mock interview.

The purpose of the mock interview is to create a real-life scenario where students can gain confidence and receive feedback on their performance in a simulated and supportive environment, thus preparing them for future interviews outside of the College.

In order to successfully run the Mock Interview Program we require assistance from industry professionals to make up interview panels. The program will run after school on Mon 27 April and you would be required to attend from 4:00 – 7:30 pm with a light supper provided. If you are willing to assist or would like to learn more, please contact Naomi Nolan on 8734 2482 or email [naomi.nolan@thomascarr.vic.edu.au](mailto:naomi.nolan@thomascarr.vic.edu.au).

## VOLUNTEER INDUCTION MEETING

New volunteers at St James Parish must first attend a 'Volunteer Induction Meeting' prior to starting with their ministry. These are held twice a year. The next one is on Thurs 05 Mar at 7:00pm in the Ray Centre in the St James Primary grounds.

## READINGS FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

**1st Reading:** *Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7*

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17*

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**2nd Reading:** *Rom 5:12-19*

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

**Gospel:** *Mt 4:1-11*

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

## HSI SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

Holy Spirit Interactive (HSI) School of Discipleship from 23rd February on Sundays at 6:15pm at St Peters Community Centre, 38 Guinane Ave. Hoppers Crossing. This is a faith outreach program aimed to teach members about Christian Discipleship and Mission. The school has been successfully running in Hoppers Crossing for the last 3 consecutive years and members have testified to growing both spiritually and personally. The School is for all ages. For further information, contact Deacon Royden on 0426 071 375.

## ST JAMES YOUTH

St James Youth will continue to meet at the regular time (Sundays 4:5pm-8:00pm) during church extensions. Meet in Paulist Centre.

## PRAYER LIST

Let us pray and support those in our community who are sick. We especially pray for Avis Fernandez, K.M. Boyson, Liz Kalkbrenner, Anne Tejido Ekaterina Abdelahad and Nadia Manadili, D. and Ema Camilleri, Kerrie Boyson, Meleane Ahomana, K. and A. Camilleri, Linda Noronha, Celia Pineda, C. Camilleri, Mario Ranada, Marcelo Arenas, Arn Raj, Sheillamar Cuetera, Dean Kharitou, Zenaida Porciuncula, Azucena Magcalas, Emmanuel Bernardo, Manuel G. Martinez Jnr, Michael Xue, Robert Azzopardi, Corey Cauchi, Teodora Gundayao, Emerita Sagovia, Ann Maree Daly, Connie Micallef, Paul Cutajar, Juanito Osumo, Mary Ulep Guerzon, Tchiapke Joel, Jorge Maranan Jnr, Evelyn Soneja, Maria De Brincat, Elizabeth Magnaye, Mario Ranada, Paula Richards and all those who are ill.

## CHURCH EXTENSION—UPDATE

The long-awaited and prayed for Church extensions will begin on Tues 25 Feb! Here are a few items to take note of:

### Weekend Masses:

- Weekend Masses will be in the Paulist Centre at the normal times (Sat 6:00pm, Sun 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:00pm)

### Weekday Masses:

- 9:00am Weekday Masses (Tues-Fri) will be at the Thomas Carr College Chapel (35 Thomas Carr Drive, Tarneit)
- 9:00am Saturday Mass will be in the Paulist Centre

### Reconciliation

- Saturday Reconciliation (9:30am-10:00am and 5:00pm-5:30pm) will be in the Paulist Centre

### Weddings and Funerals

- During construction, there will be no weddings or funerals at St James. Funerals will instead take place at St Peter's with Fr Jude, Fr Silvio and/or Dcn Royden officiating.

### Supporting the Move and Construction

- You can financially support this Church Extensions through the 'Donation Point' in the Foyer of the Paulist Centre. This device is for \$5 donations per tap.

We thank you all for your prayers, patience and continued support as we launch into this next phase in our Parish community's life!

## FR MARK GRIMA MSSP

We welcome and thank Fr Mark Grima, Superior General of the mssp from Rome, who is celebrating all Masses this weekend.

Let us keep Mark and his council in our prayers.

## RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

Please pray for our loved ones whom we remember especially Evalina Evangelio and Stjephan Muzek who passed away recently, George Cachia, Angelina Intertas Mendoza, Corazon Tabamo, Francia, Edward and Cedrick, Viniamor, Edliberto and Constantino Snr Dela Pena, Donsuelo Dimla, Nieves Lapina, Paul Di Pasquale, Joseph Patrick Cini, Vasalliki Hili, Angelo Giunta, Catherine Baron, Baley Lecke, Vincent and Josephine Attard, Louis, Grace, Carmen, Mary, Michael, John, Mario and Barbara Spiteri, Rey Bautista, Monica Soriano, Ron Gamble, Emy Saffarese, Nato Portelli, Jeff Ruthvern, Jake Shaw, Gloria and Mathew Montebello and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## THE SEASON OF LENT

To make this Lent a more meaningful time, consider taking part in any of the following available at our Parish:

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Wed 26 Feb Mass with distribution of ashes at 9:00am at the Paulist Centre with St James Primary, 11:45am at St Clare's Primary and 7:30pm in the Paulist Centre. Please note that the Mass at 11:45am will be held outside and in the event of bad weather, will instead be cancelled.

**THE WAY OF THE CROSS:** During Lent, time to reflect on the Stations of the Cross will be every Friday from this **Fri 28 Feb** at 7:00pm in the Church.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Project Compassion promotes peace by pursuing justice. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes available in the Foyer of the Paulist Centre **this weekend** and return by Holy Thursday.

**PAULIST MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP:** For \$5 per month, you can help with the wellbeing and education of children in Pakistan, Peru, Cuba and the Philippines. Brochures available **this weekend**.

**DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT AND EASTER:** Available in the Foyer of the Paulist Centre, a book of daily reflections to get the most out of this Lenten season, are available for \$5 each.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the Parish family that donated \$10,000 towards the Church Extension and also to another Parish Family for their donation of \$14,000. We are truly encouraged by your generosity.

## VOLUNTEERS FOR MINISTRIES NEEDED

The Parish is seeking volunteers to support various ministries in the Parish:

- The **Welcome Ministry** who extends hospitality to all Parishioners at weekend Masses.
- The **Piety Stall Ministry** who assist Parishioners in finding and obtaining items from the Piety Stall (the glass cupboards in the Narthex).
- The **Emmaus Group** who visit once a month the supported living (Mecwacare) next door and runs a Communion Service.
- The **Soup Kitchen** who assist the Missionaries of Charity in Fitzroy in providing food to men on the streets. Own transport required.

Please leave your details at the Welcome Desk or contact the Parish Office on 9748 6800 or [HoppersCrossingNorth@cam.org.au](mailto:HoppersCrossingNorth@cam.org.au) for more information about these ministries.

## PARISH MISSION—BUILDING THE KINGDOM

The Parish Mission was indeed a time of looking interiorly at ourselves and our Christian life. Fr Martin touched on the Pauline Spirituality and charism of Joseph De Piro. One participant says:

Last week's Mission was a beautiful opportunity to drink abundantly from the Well of Life, to take timeout to gather as community and feast on amazing and inspiring spiritual food: to immerse ourselves into the mystery and knowledge of our faith; the life, spirituality and charism of Joseph De Piro; self-awareness empowering positivity and healing with Christ at the centre. Fr. Martin Cilia (mssp) led a very dynamic, engaging and insightful series of workshops to challenge our awareness and to impart knowledge about the practical 'tools' which help us build the Kingdom of God in the simplicity of living the gospel in the fullness and brokenness of life as Christ to others and the wider world.

Thank you for the opportunity to share and receive. I encourage us all to embrace such opportunities to grow with an openness, gratitude and thanksgiving for the gift of God revealed to us and present within every human heart.

**Ann F.**

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH EXTENSION

Gracious God,

We praise You and thank You for the abundance of blessings You have given our St James family. We ask You to continue to pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, and to guide our renovation plans. You have called us to this mission at this time. May we hear and answer in a way that is pleasing to You.

Grant that our hearts be open to You, and that we be willing to bring this church renovation to fruition. May each of us respond in true generosity, that our church may be a beautiful place of worship built on the firm foundation set by others before us. May our participation be so generous that future generations may continue to worship and adore You here.

May our mission to build up Your Kingdom always be foremost in our midst. May we welcome the stranger, and always share Your love with others, especially those in need. Bless the work of all involved in designing, repairing and renovating our church home. May it give glory to Your name.

We pray that all who join us in worship come to know a personal and loving relationship with You. May we follow where you lead.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.