



### PROJECT COMPASSION

Amos is a Mialli/Rembarrnga man from Australia. He is participating in the Learning My Dreaming program supported by Caritas Australia.



This program focuses on strengthening the relationships between youth and Elders in the community through story telling and education about traditional Indigenous family values, culture, land and ceremony. The program fosters self-confidence and encourages participants to become role models in their community.

Your donation to Project Compassion will support the development of communities like Amos'.

The envelopes and boxes have arrived! Please remember to take one or other or both home with you today. Thank you for your ongoing support.!

just want justice... a call to action



### MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY at 8am

Change in Guest Speaker – we shall have to wait a little longer to hear about Tony Jacques' bomb disposal exploits. Tony has had a work commitment arise and can't be with us that day.

But fear not – we have yet another expert in our midst -

**Peter Ticehurst**

**Dietician Extraordinaire**

at Lithgow Hospital. Peter's topic:

**"Men and Bowel Cancer"**

– a great breakfast conversation!

We have suggested that Peter might like to turn a blind eye to the

"Breakfast Fare" – but it is delicious.

So... be there Gents!!

### MOVING THROUGH GRIEF FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF A SPOUSE

The Diocesan Sole Parent Ministry is organizing a half day Seminar on Saturday, 23 February, from 10am to 1pm at the Diocesan Assembly Centre,

1-5 Marion St Blacktown. The presenter is **Mr Richard White, Director of Bereavement Services with W N Bull Funerals.**

In this presentation, you will have the opportunity to look at various ways thinkers and psychologists have tried to make sense of grief, and at the same time you can compare your own experience of loss with the pathways and theories of these people.

Light refreshments included. Donation: \$10. Registrations essential. Sr Eileen Quade 9890 2968 or equade@bigpond.com



### The Appearing of our Saviour

You were transfigured on the mountain, and your disciples, as much as they were capable of it, beheld your glory, O Christ our God, so that when they should see you crucified they would understand that your Passion was voluntary, and proclaim to the world that you truly are the splendour of the Father.

*Byzantine Liturgy, Feast of the Transfiguration*

### The other side...

When we were young, our hopes were high, our spirits strong, and our faith firm.

Our life then was very hard, because Mark, the baby, the fourth child in the family was a spastic child unable to walk, talk or hear. When we knew he was spastic, and all that entailed, we knew that his life and ours were going to be difficult in the extreme. But when we found he was deaf also, that seemed to complicate things more. Now he was to be cut off from all the obvious means of communication, as it was impossible for him to learn the language of the deaf. He had no co-ordination in his hand movements. So here we had a beautiful child, intellectually unimpaired, but locked up within himself – no sounds, no speech, no walking and very little co-ordination of movements. But in those early days we were determined to make the best of what we had, to make the good things better, and the hard things work for us.

With God's help, we succeeded beyond our expectations. Our children were able to grow living every day with the reality of patience, love, endurance, and understanding. Thirty years on, Mark sits in his wheel chair, a fine healthy man, with a truly beautiful disposition, an extremely happy person...indeed a perfect soul. What else could any parent wish for their child, but happiness, peace and joy? Mark has succeeded in gaining all of these. They are his gift and his contentment. His main communication is with his beautiful eyes and lovely smile, the same smile for everyone. He is known, recognised, acknowledged and accepted as he is: the love that he gives and receives...

### ... of the mountain

...I do not presume to understand the ways of the Lord, but if I were asked for a reason for Mark's life of handicaps, I could answer thus: he has done great things for us. He has drawn love and compassion (not pity) from all who share his life. He has given so many the chance to understand the joy of giving. Sometimes it takes an accident or disaster to bring out the best in people, giving them an opportunity to do things they would never do otherwise. So it is with handicapped people, they are the channels through whom many great gifts are given and received. They are their own strong link in the chain of life.

Mark is God's greatest gift to me. Not just to me, to our whole family and to all who come in contact with him. He touches us all, influences everyone who shares his life.

Mark was born on the feast of the Transfiguration, and that is why I have called this story 'The Other Side of the Mountain'. (Joyce)



© The Carmelite Sisters, 345 St Andrews Road, Varroville NSW 2565. Phone 02 9820 8199; fax 02 9820 3711 email: storyeditor@carmelprint.com.au www.carmelprint.com.au **peoplespeak** focuses on seeing the light of the gospel in daily events. By listening to the stories people tell of how the gospel illuminates their lives we become aware of the presence of Jesus within us and in those we meet. **peoplespeak** is produced with ecclesiastical approval by **Carmelprint** © *Readers' contributions welcome.*

### Entrance Hymn:

#### **A JOURNEY REMEMBERED**

Kevin Bates sm

(USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

**O praise the Lord, my soul.  
My God, how great you are.  
My heart and my soul  
sing out your praise.  
My God, how great you are.**

1. You have carried me within your arms  
whenever I've known fear.  
You have waited patiently for me then  
you drew me near.  
You have run beside me even when  
I didn't want to know  
that you are my home and my joy.

2. In the doubting times  
you touched my hope  
and showed me how to be.  
In the hours of fear and hopelessness  
your truth set me free.  
In the memory of family  
I learnt to know your name,  
learnt that you are my home and my joy.

3. Lord, bless the place  
where I was born  
and those who carried me.  
Lord, bless the many smiles  
who have kindly set me free.  
Lord, bless the many little ones  
who've shown your face to me,  
You are my home and my joy.

### Homily Reflection:

#### **JESUS, FACE OF GOD**

James Maher msc

(USED WITH PERMISSION,  
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Jesus, Face of God,  
Holy Mystery,  
Truth beyond  
what we've conceived.  
Bold Reality!

Jesus, Word of God,  
Heaven's poetry.  
Wisdom born  
beyond our minds.  
Divine humanity.

(Instrumental)

Jesus, Heart of God,  
Pierced on Calvary.  
Love beyond imagining.  
Heaven's majesty.

Jesus, Song of God,  
Spirit's melody.  
Sounding deep  
within our hearts  
Transforming harmony.  
Holy Mystery.

**The Sacramental Program**  
for children will get underway  
by next month. Please  
contact Sr Lyn if you wish  
your child to receive the  
Sacraments of Penance  
(Confession),  
Confirmation and Eucharist  
(Holy Communion) this year.

### Recessional Hymn:

#### **LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE**

(Shine, Jesus, Shine)

Graham Kendrick

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Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

**Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy,  
send forth your Word,  
Lord, and let there be light.**

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever-changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here may our lives tell your story,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

#### **Palm Sunday: 16 March**

On the morning of Palm Sunday the  
**WYD Cross & Icon** will be at  
St Patrick's Cathedral. At 8.30am  
there will be a youth breakfast with  
Bishop Manning and for youth aged  
16-35. Book early - seats limited:  
tel (02) 8838 3418,  
WYDoffice@parra.catholic.org.au  
Following a Solemn Mass  
at 11am, the Cross & Icon will be  
handed over to the Maronite Church.

### **International Women's Day**

Parishes are invited to  
celebrate International  
Women's Day on Friday,  
7 March, with the  
assistance of a kit filled  
with resources to help  
parishioners pray for all  
women who contribute  
to the Church through a  
great diversity of roles  
and tasks. To print a  
copy of the kit go to:  
[http://cam.org.au/tmp  
opw0802/parishkit.pdf](http://cam.org.au/tmp/opw0802/parishkit.pdf)

### **Leading your family to health & wellbeing**

This workshop on 8 March  
is an opportunity to hear  
from two women who  
will present ideas from  
their professional research  
and experience as  
mothers. Sisters of Mercy  
Centre, 6 Victoria Rd,  
Parramatta. Time:  
9.30am-12.30pm. Cost:  
\$20. Details: CWLA - NSW  
Inc. tel 0407 419 500,  
jpcvmcgrath@bipond.com

### **Alive in the Spirit**

Presenters: Fr Vincent Savarimuthu  
and Sr Helen Cunningham OP.  
Includes Healing Prayer and Sunday  
Healing Mass. Our Lady of Lourdes  
Church, 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills.  
Saturday, 16 February: 9am-4pm;  
Sunday, 17 February: 12am-5pm.  
BYO lunch - tea, coffee provided.  
Details: Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal. Ph 9896 3711, 9838 1344.