

Pray 2010 - The Power of Prayer: The Archdiocese of Brisbane is hosting a 3-day event to provide practical teaching and experiences of different prayer forms and encourage Catholics to deepen their relationship with Jesus through prayer. **When: 7-10 July, 2010.** Details of the program and individual and group registrations at: www.pray2010.org.au/register

Calling all Choristers: Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Parish at Waitara together with Hornsby Arts Council is looking for choristers for an ecumenical performance of Handel's Messiah at 8pm on Thursday, 17 December. Rehearsals are at 7.30pm on four consecutive Tuesdays (November 24, December 1, 8 & 15). Details: Barb Angell 9985 7207, biz@angellpro.com.au

Campion College Diocesan Scholarship: The Diocese of Parramatta has launched a scholarship to Campion College, Australia's only tertiary institution to offer a Bachelor of Arts in the Liberal Arts. The scholarship provides for a fee reduction of \$7,000 per year for a period of three years. The student who receives this scholarship will be able to access FEE HELP for the remainder of their tuition fees. Details: www.campion.edu.au

The **Catholic Adult Education Centre** is offering a **two-day intensive course on Teaching Religion K-2**, to be given at Lidcombe by Sue Moffat of the Catholic Education Office, on **November 24-25**. The course will be of special interest to teachers and catechists, but also to parents and others in a position to hand on the faith to children. For more information, see the flyer on the notice board or contact the Centre on 9643 3660.

Gifted Mystic/Stigmatist, Fra' Elia Visits Sydney For The First Time

Fra' Elia, from Calvi in Italy, who has many charisms including healing, bilocation and locutions will be speaking in the Parramatta Diocese in November (and also in the Sydney and Broken Bay Dioceses). He will be speaking to the church congregation as a whole, and then he will bless the people in small or larger groups, depending on the number attending.

Venue: St Margaret Mary's Catholic Church, 342 Merrylands Rd, Merrylands.
Date: **Saturday, 21st November** Time: 10.30am.

Venue: The Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 130-136 Hyatts Rd, Plumpton.
Date: **Sunday, 22nd November** Time: 2.00pm.

Come join the growing Catholic Community receiving the daily CathNews!
This unique and informative electronic news and prayer service was designed by Catholics for Catholics. Take 5 minutes out of your busy schedule to trial this FREE service at: www.cathnews.com.au

"The greater and more persistent your confidence in God, the more abundantly you will receive all that you ask."

**St Albert the Great
Bishop, Doctor (1206-1280)**

**Happy Birthday
Liz Colton** for today
Craig Huestepp
for 18th November

Happy 28th Anniversary
Tony & Maree Crawford
for 21 November

†In memoriam†
Francis Golding ~ 15 November
Katica Bašić ~ 16 November
Kevin Eastmure ~ 21 November

Ordination of Permanent Deacons
On Saturday, 5th December, Bishop Manning will ordain three married men to the Permanent Diaconate: **Tony Hoban, Joseph Ledang** and **Owen Rogers**. Everyone is welcome at St Patrick's Cathedral at 6.00pm.

Position Vacant: Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmere, needs a part-time Finance Secretary to work 12 hrs per week (Tue & Wed).
For further details, go to go to the "Employment" Section of the Diocese of Parramatta website: www.parra.catholic.org.au
Applications close on Wed 25 Nov at 5pm.

St Patrick's School Lithgow Vacancies 2010
We currently have vacancies in the following classes for 2010 - Kinder, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6.
If you would like more information or an enrolment interview, please ring the school office on 6351 3719 or email [stpatricks@nsw.chariot.net .au](mailto:stpatricks@nsw.chariot.net.au)

He will show me the path of life.

Dotted along the magnificent eastern seaboard, wise local councils have seen fit to create rock pools where swimmers may still enjoy the wonders of the ocean, within the security of wave-washed pools.

As the days become warmer, we look forward to a dip in a pool—even a hydrotherapy pool affords comfort and relaxation. The waters support and energise in amazing ways. Refreshed spirits emerge from the waters.

Whenever I come across today's psalm, the image of a dip in a rock pool flits into my prayer. I lie back and float. I am transported by the stirring lines of this psalm. As I ponder on the words, I can imagine how greatly King David needed the faithful promises contained therein. From them he derived the necessary courage to continue to guide his people with a confident wisdom. In my much smaller kingdom, I am grateful to know this line—'He will show me the path of life'.

Take one line of the psalm that appeals to you, and float, joyfully!

- from *Daily Prayer online*

Carers for Children with special needs

What better way to reach out with God's love to the community than by supporting a local family.

Westlink Respite Services is in great need of volunteers (over 17 yrs) who would like to befriend a child or teenager who has a disability.

Care can take place in your home, the child's home or as a companion on outings in the community. This is a great opportunity for the child to make new friends and also give their family a short break. Care can be for a few hours or a whole day once a month. Carers receive a small recompense. Training and ongoing support are provided. For information, phone us on: 9832 2300 or 4751 8213

or email: bles@anglicare.org.au

We would love to hear from you!

PRAYER DAY - "Preparing a room for Christ to be born"

(Fr Paul Maloney OSA)

As Advent approaches, we take the time to prepare a welcome for Emmanuel "God with us" into our busy existence.

Tuesday, 1 December, from 9:45 am to 2:30pm. \$15 (concessions available) Bring own lunch; refreshments provided. Augustinian Centre, 2 Hewitt Ave, Greystanes. Bookings: 9896 6794 or osaspirit@bigpond.com.au

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: If you feel that you would like to try Christian Meditation, there is a welcoming group which meets each Monday morning - 10:30 at 227 The Mall, Leura. Sessions last for an average of an hour which includes listening to a tape of teaching on Meditation, meditation time and some discussion. For those who cannot make the Monday session, there is a session on Saturdays - 3:00pm at Blackheath. Enquiries: Barbara - 4787 6032

Learning to Celebrate Life

Life is not meant to be a burden. Life is not a problem to be solved. It is a blessing to be celebrated.

Every dimension of life, its gains and its losses, are reason for celebration because each of them brings us closer to wisdom and fullness of understanding.

From each and every moment of life we learn something that makes us more alive because we are now more knowing than we were before. Loss and loneliness, darkness and depression all sear the soul and cleanse it of its sense of self-sufficiency. Suffering directs it to the God of life.

But so does bounty and beauty and abundance. These give us a foretaste of wholeness. These are the palpable manifestations of the goodness of God in our lives. Both of these things come unbidden. They are not signs of either our sin or our sinlessness. They are simply signs that the God of life is a living, loving God.

Learning to celebrate joy is one of the great practices of the spiritual life. It confirms our trust in God. It affirms the greatness of creation. It seals our dependence on God. It attests to the beauty of the present and asserts our confidence in the beauty of the future. It recognizes the mercy and love of God.

Every year in celebrating our birthdays and the birthdays of those we love we are called to remember the gift of life itself. We take time out to ask ourselves what we have done with our lives. We see again the potential of every single life in the world.

When we celebrate the good things in life, we trace them to the Creator who gives without merit, openhandedly, out of the very goodness of community, love, and support that are by nature at the base of the human condition.

Joy gives us strength for the unknown. It leads us into the emptiness of life with hope in the God of surprise with a smile on our faces.

- from *The Breath of the Soul: Reflections on Prayer* - Joan Chittister OSB (Twenty-Third Publications) <http://www.benetvvision.org/>

Sacred Heart Care Group

This is just a reminder that our Care Group is here to assist parishioners in times of need. Please contact our Care Group if you think we can help.

Call Carmel Vanny 4787 8706 or Michelle Funnell 4757 2638.

St John of God Institute of Counselling/Life Skills Course

With 40 years' experience in Adult Education, the St John of God Institute of Counselling offers a 2-year experiential course in Counselling Skills, Personal Development, Basic Psychology and People Skills. The course is held in the Library at Holy Cross College, Victoria Rd, Ryde, on Tuesday evenings (only) from 7.30-9.45pm. First night and orientation is on 2 February 2010.

Catechists, Pastoral Workers, Parish Assistants, Parents, Care and Welfare Workers, Nurses and Teachers have all found the course invaluable in their lives and work. See leaflets available on church notice board. Contact Ann McDowell tel (02) 9150 4038, tarrilli@westnet.com.au

A VOCATION VIEW: *'As I keep the Lord ever in my sight ... my heart rejoices, my soul is glad ... You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in Your presence.'* Let our Vocation be, to be one with God - forever.

Blackheath Highway Action Group is urgently seeking people opposed to the upgrade of the GWH through Blackheath (to prevent the future use of the GWH as a major freight route to the Central West) to sign a prepared letter to the RTA with copies sent to Phil Koperburg who is supporting this action.

2000 letters will do it!
Please see Gabrielle after Mass.

HOUSE SITTER:

Peace of mind while you are away to care for house, garden and pets. Available 2010. 1 month to 12 months. Contact Carmel - 0408 880 464

Peru Christmas Gift Cards:

Mary MacKillop International Mission has produced Peru Gift Cards, which help you to save time with your Christmas shopping, and your donation goes directly to the project of your choice in Peru. You can help to support the work of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a Gift Card for \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50. Please call 8912 4853, perucommission@sosj.org.au

Invitation to join Christmas Carollers!

Once again, our parishioners are invited to sing at the Blackheath Community Carols in Memorial Park on Sunday, 13 December, from approximately 6.00pm to 6.20pm near the entrance to the Community Hall. We ask for your singing support at this ecumenical event. Please mark this date on your calendar. Rehearsals will occur in the church in early December.

Watch this space!



Four lovely black kittens (domestic short hair) available at the end of November. Ph 4787 8343

