



LENTEN PASTORAL MESSAGE 2025 — BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD



My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During Lent, the Church invites us to a special time of prayer, fasting and abstinence, and almsgiving. Each action represents a particular invitation. Prayer is an invitation to a renewed relationship with God - to express our needs and the needs of those around us, trusting in God's goodness and love. The spiritual practice of fasting and abstinence, whether from food or some other goods, is an invitation to a renewed focus and a realisation of our dependence on God. Finally, almsgiving is an invitation to turn our attention from ourselves and towards the needs of others, "willing the good of the other"¹ for their own sake.

In the first reading of Ash Wednesday, the prophet Joel reminds us that God desires us to come back to him with all our hearts. This is true for us too, especially as we enter our Lenten journey in this Year of Jubilee. Our Lenten observances are about the good they produce in us—turning back to God—and not simply their external effects. As the prophet says, "let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn"². The Jewish practice of tearing their garments, or "keriah", symbolises mourning, an expression of grief, or religious observance. The symbolism of torn garments matters very little if it does not lead us to have broken hearts, causing us to "turn to the Lord [our] God again"³.

When we hear "broken hearts", we can think of the heartbreak of the ending of a relationship or the loss of a loved one, but brokenheartedness before God is quite different. Consider the hard heart of the Pharaoh in Egypt, who remained unmoved even after the many signs of God—he could not see his error, nor would he turn to God⁴. On the other hand, a broken heart symbolises the desire to turn towards God, a heart open to healing. As painful and humbling as it can be, this is our reason for

Lent. In embracing brokenheartedness—a posture of humility—our hearts can become open. Then, with a renewed spirit, we can meet Jesus in his triumph of Palm Sunday, pray with him in sorrow through his passion, and joyfully celebrate his victory over death on Easter Sunday. **We become students of prayer, fasting and abstinence, and almsgiving with particular fervour in Lent, that we might find ourselves open-hearted in Holy Week and ready to receive the gift of the Easter Triduum, deeply conscious of our need for God.**

In this Jubilee year, our Lenten journey takes on an extra significance as "Pilgrims of Hope". As I said in our diocesan Lenten program, *Metanoia*, "Christian hope, the Holy Father reminds us has enduring power that 'does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love'. In this confidence, we walk with trust, even amid the uncertainties of life and press towards the promise given to us—eternal life in and with Christ ... this is hope!" As strange as it may seem, as people of faith, Lent is a time of hope because we trust that the work God desires to accomplish in us, God will see through to completion⁵.

My dear sisters and brothers, Lent is not for us a punishment, but an invitation to see the fruit of our hope in God! I hope and pray that this may be a time of healing and renewal for you, and may we all rediscover the depth of God's love and the hope that does not disappoint.

With every blessing,

Brian Mascord

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG



Lent 2025

5 Cf. Phil 1:6

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Holy Family Catholic Parish

INGLEBURN & MINTO

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
2 March 2025

Holy Family Church
136 Oxford Rd
Ingleburn

Holy Trinity Church
57 Guernsey Ave
Minto

Parish Office: 136 Oxford Rd
(PO Box 111) Ingleburn NSW 2565
Website: www.hfi.org.au
Email: ingleburn@dow.org.au
Hours: 8.45am-2.45pm Tues-Thurs
Phone: (02) 9059 4134

Reflection

Our readings today are filled with proverbs and wise sayings. These words are meant to help us focus on what is right and good. We have, in our First Reading, a sampling of a large number of proverbs offered in Sirach. In this sampling, Sirach is advising the reader to trust a person by the fruit that they bear. The advice encourages the student to listen to a person speak before following their ways.

Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians is a continuation of last week's reading on the belief in the resurrection and the bright promise that awaits all of us.

The Church ties beautifully the words of Sirach with the Gospel today. Jesus says: A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good ... for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. There are many who are quick to speak, but God knows the content of their hearts. Before we place our trust in another, we should let them speak. Let them continue to talk. After a while, you will see patterns in their words. After a while, you will be able to discern their hearts.

Of course, pouring over the New Testament, we hear the Lord speak and never do we hear him contradict himself. For example, Jesus tells us not to judge. "Pull the plank out of your own eye before pulling the splinter out of their eyes." Jesus would not say these words, unless He himself did not forgive. But He did. He said on the cross, "Forgive them father ..." We place our trust in Jesus, above all, because His words are true and always consistent.

"Come back to me with all your heart" Joel 2:12

Ash Wednesday

5 MARCH 2025
a day of fast and abstinence

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|---|---------------------|
| HOLY FAMILY | HOLY TRINITY |
| 9.15am - School Mass (open to all parishioners) | 6.00pm |
| 7.00pm | |

 Holy Family Catholic Parish

| SERVICE TIMES | | | |
|---------------|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Holy Family | Mass | Wed - Fri | 9am |
| | | Tue | 7pm |
| | | Sat | 5pm Vigil |
| | | Sun | 9am and 5pm |
| | | Tues | 7.30pm |
| Holy Trinity | Rosary | First Friday of each month | 9.30am |
| | | Tue Sat | 6.30pm - 7pm 9am - 10am |
| | | Mon | 7pm |
| Holy Trinity | Mass | Wed | 6pm |
| | | Sun | 8am |

1 Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Secunda Secundae, Q23

2 Joel 2:12-13

3 Ibid

4 Exodus 7-11

What's On In Our Parish

March

- 1 Church Cleaning - "Team A"
- 2 Parish Welcome Mass with Holy Family School
9am Mass followed by morning tea (bring a plate)
Samoan Mass - 12pm
- 4 Ash Wednesday (Holy Family 9.15am/7pm,
Holy Trinity 6pm)
- 10 Sacrament of Reconciliation, Session 1 - 6.30pm
- 15 Church Cleaning - "Team B"
- 15 & 16 Social Gathering Weekend after all Masses
- 17 St Patrick's Feast Day (Holy Family 9am Mass)
Sacrament of Reconciliation, Session 2 - 6.30pm
- 19 St Joseph Feast Day
(Holy Family 9am/7pm, Holy Trinity 6pm)
- 24 Sacrament of Reconciliation, Session 3 - 6.30pm
- 25 Annunciation of the Lord
(Holy Family 9am/7pm Mass - Rosary 6.30pm)
- 31 Sacrament of Reconciliation, Session 4 - 6.30pm

Liturgical Dates

March

- 17 St Patrick, *Bishop*
- 19 St Joseph, *Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 25 The Annunciation of the Lord

SERVING AS PARISH MINISTERS

As a parish, we need to continue to build the various parish ministry teams. Please give some consideration to joining one of our Parish Ministries: Acolyte, Altar Servers, Lectors (Readers), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

If you would like to join one of the Ministries, please contact Father Henry.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 2 March - 9am

Parish and School Welcome Mass - please bring a plate of finger food to share

Wednesday 5 March Ash Wednesday

Holy Family 9.15am (with Holy Family School - everyone is welcome) and 7pm
Holy Trinity 6pm

Monday 17 March St Patrick's Feast Day

Holy Family 9am Mass

Wednesday 19 March St Joseph Feast Day

Holy Family 9am and 7pm
Holy Trinity 6pm

Tuesday 25 March Annunciation of the Lord

Holy Family 9am and 7pm (6.30pm Rosary)

Friday 4 April - 5pm for enrolled students only Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Saturday 3 May - 9.30am to 12noon

Liturgy Workshop for current members of all Ministries

LEGION OF MARY

7.30pm every Wednesday Church Meeting Room

BIBLE READING

9.45am 2nd & 4th Wednesday
Parish Meeting Room

STATIONS OF THE CROSS-LENTEN PROGRAM

Every Friday of Lent
Stations of the Cross @7pm in the Church
Lenten Program @7.45 in Parish Meeting Room.

CHILDRENS LITURGY

During 9am Mass 2nd and 4th Sunday

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

6.30pm 2nd and 4th Friday Parish Meeting Room

With joyful hearts, during February, we welcomed the newly Baptised into our Holy Family Parish community:



Carter McGeoch, Sofia Thelmo, Aria Aslan, Lara Aslan, Ethan Ienna, Reynald Kumar, Fred Lapham, Marija Rosa Rakvin, Samuel Morell-Koroi and Catherine Jose.

We ask God to bless these children, their parents, Godparents and families, to surround them with your goodness and lead them in Your light each day of their lives.

RCIA PROGRAM



A new **RCIA** program has commenced. If you, or anybody you know, is interested in being baptised, or becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please speak with Father Henry or contact the parish office.

Would you like to be part of the RICA team and help with the preparation of baptism of adults in our parish? If so, please speak with Fr Henry or contact the parish office.

Visiting the Sick and Homebound: There are an increasing number of people who, whether due to age or ill health, are not able to attend Church, but would like to receive Holy Communion. If you, or someone you know, is in this situation, please contact the Parish Office so that a visit can be arranged.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

PLEASE REGISTER VIA THE PARISH WEBSITE

If your child is in Year 3 or above, and has been Baptised, they are eligible to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in our parish.

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be held on Friday, 4 April 2025.

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, 22 June 2025.

Additional information and registration form is available from the parish website.

SEASON OF LENT 2025

Stations of the Cross and Lenten Program

Every Friday during Lent (commencing Friday, 7 March)

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7pm in the Church

followed by the Lenten Program at 7.45pm in the Parish Meeting Room



2025 Lenten Booklet - "Metanoia": Copies of the 2025 Diocesan Lenten Book, "Metanoia" are available for purchase from the table in the Church foyer for \$4.50.



We pray ... For world leaders and policy makers to work to foster peace and justice in all nations. For those impacted by natural disasters. For those feeling overwhelmed and challenged in mind, body, soul and spirit. For all the forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory.

For the sick and homebound: *May the saving power of the risen Lord bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies and send strength to their carers. Amen.*

For our sick relatives, friends and parishioners and all who have nobody to pray for them; Ann Marie Praud, David Harrison, Marie Crotty, Gina Macalalad, Erwin Andrade, Rose Davis, Joelle Cadoue, Hoydee Rios, Richard Valovalo, Tom Cudmore, Frank Cudmore, Pearl Savage, Ofelia Gonzales, Akata, Doris Benjamin, Moy McConnell, Assunta Limpin, Regina Montoya, Bernardina Velenzuela, Walter & Nell Glynn, Elsa Mendoza, Najwa, Celeste Paguia, Liza Lambo, Bill Clarke.

For our recently dearly departed: *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

Rebecca Forwood, Brian Smith, Lucia Rosalejos, Maritess Vinoya, Anna Dalli, Yvonne and John Gatta, Josephine Trimarchi, Angelina Smith, Assunta Limpin, Tojo Sebastian, Tino Lauofo, Pulimutath Chacko, Maria Lourdes Navarro Yap, Tanya Carney, Ricardo Villarosa, Gervacio Santos, Ma. Consuelo Balangon, Eleazar Makilan, Adrienne Mulvihill, Phil Eyles, Rodrigo Bautista, Sue Mahony, Alison Bowling, Peter Thinh Duc Nguyen.

For those whose death anniversaries occur at this time: *Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace. Amen.* For all of our family member and friends; Lucia Rosalejos, Hilaria Jordan, Charles Thorley, Angelica Carvalho, Peter O'Connor.



Project Compassion Sunday 1 and 2 March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

Please donate today.



You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes

or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us,
as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.