

# Our Lady of Dolours

**CHURCH:** Corner of Kirk St. and Archer St.

**PARISH OFFICE:** 94 Archer St.  
PO Box 1446 Chatswood NSW 2057

**PHONE:** (612) 94121042 Fax: (612) 94121282

**EMAIL:** office@chatswoodparish.org.au

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** www.chatswoodparish.org.au

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday to Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm

## PARISH MASS TIMETABLE

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY** - 9am and 12.15pm

**SATURDAY** - 9am and 5.30pm (Vigil)

**SUNDAY** - 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS** - 9am only

**KOREAN MASS** - 7pm; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of month.

**FILIPINO MASS** - 12noon; 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month.  
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**FAMILY MASS:** 9am each Sunday

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** at 9am Family Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.

**KIDS' WORD:** Children's Liturgy of the Word at 9am Family Mass on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday during school term. Begins in Church and moves to Meeting Rooms.

**YOUTH MASS:** 5.30pm each Sunday  
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**RECONCILIATION:** 9.30am - 10.30am each Saturday. Any time by request.

**MORNING PRAYER:** 8.45am Monday to Saturday

**ROSARY** 9.30am Monday to Saturday

**EXPOSITION:** 9.30am - 10.30am each Saturday

**NOVENA: OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**  
- Saturday 10.00am with **BENEDICTION** 10.30am

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of month at 12.15pm Mass. Also during any weekday Mass before surgery or medical treatment, or any time by request.

**BAPTISMS:** See the brochure in the Church Foyer or contact the Sacramental Minister.

**WEDDINGS:** Contact a priest or sacraments minister. For a marriage/anniversary blessing at Sunday Mass. Contact Maria & Joe Woods 94113451

## CELEBRANTS FOR SUNDAY MASSES

	27/28 October	3/4 November
Vigil 5.30pm	Vince Casey	Geoff Bugden
7.30am	Geoff Bugden	Geoff Bugden
9.00am*	Vince Casey	Vince Casey
10.30am	C. Mostowik	C. Mostowik
5.30pm	Geoff Bugden	Vince Casey

\* Baptism

## YEAR C

**30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY - ORDINARY TIME**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

## READINGS

**First Reading:** Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19 we are assured that the prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

**Second Reading:** 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 On the eve of his martyrdom Paul affirms his trust in Christ.

**Gospel:** Luke 18:9-14 is the parable of the Pharisee and the publican. It was the publican who returned home justified.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

4<sup>th</sup> November  
(31<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
Wis 11:22-12:2;  
2 Thess 1:11-2:2;  
Lk 19:1-10



## DAILY READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

**MON** Rom 8:12-17; Lk 13:10-17

**TUES** Rom 8:18-25; Lk 13:18-21

**WEDS** Rom 8:26-30; Lk 13:22-30

**THURS** Apoc 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12  
**All Saints**

**FRI** From Masses for the Dead  
**All Souls**

**SAT** Rom 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29; Lk 14:1, 7-11

**With Our Lady of Dolours, we pray for:**

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Ralph Cameron, Ben Hawdon, Joan Mary O'Connor, Ian Tulloh,  
John Charles Bullen, Agnes Chue  
**Sick:** Stephen Chan, Pia Maiorana  
**Deceased Anniversary:** Anne Somssich, John Hannan, Mary Ekerick, Molly O'Grady, Syd Gallahar,  
Gregory Seery, Peter Seery, Alberto Macatangry, Simone Armstrong,  
Anthony Raffaele  
**Baptism:** Ryan Chen



**WITHIN THE PARISH**

**NOVEMBER MASSES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

If you would like the parish to pray for your relatives and friends during November, please write their names on the **cards** provided at the front of the church and place them in the remembrance box in front of the sacred space. All Masses in the Parish in November will be celebrated for these people. If you wish to make a donation for these Masses, you are welcome to do so in the second collection at Mass.

Vince, Geoff and Martin will not accept individual Mass requests because they cannot fulfil the obligation – there are not enough days in November to pray for all the requests! **Envelopes** given for Masses will be passed onto Religious Orders and the Mass will be celebrated sometime in the future.

The **Remembrance Book** at the back of the Church is to help us to pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death. Please write their name on the page corresponding to that date. For this to work, it is important that this book is not used for other prayer requests.

**REMEMBRANCE MASS- SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 9.00AM MASS**

Each year the Parish celebrates the Mass of the Lord's Resurrection for those close to us who have died. It is an opportunity for heal that death brings and find the hope that Christ gives us for our own life. You may wish to bring a flower to place at the foot of the cross.



**MASS TIMES**

**All Saints Day** (1<sup>st</sup> November) There will be an extra Mass at 6.45am, in addition to the usual weekday Masses at 9am and 12.15pm.

**All Souls Day** (2 November) There will be two extra Masses at 6.45am and another at 7:30pm, in addition to the usual weekday Masses at 9am and 12.15pm

**CWF COLLECTION**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Charitable Works Fund collection for this financial year will take place next weekend. Envelopes are available in the Church foyer. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

**CATECHISTS' CO-ORDINATOR**

Pauline Larkins has offered to help Fr Geoff with the co-ordination of the catechists in the parish while the position is being re-advertised. (Thanks!!!) If any catechist knows in advance that they cannot teach a class could you leave a message for Pauline at the Parish Offices on 9412 1042. If you need to contact Pauline urgently she can be contacted at home on 9419 5223.

We need more catechists and helpers, so if you are able to teach a class on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings please contact Pauline or Fr Geoff.

**CATECHISTS' MASS**

Bishop David Walker will be celebrating the diocesan Mass for all catechists at Corpus Christi Cathedral at St Ives on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm. Everyone is welcome. If any catechists require transport please contact Pauline Larkins at the Parish Offices on 9412 1042.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

In the last few weeks the PPC called for nominations to fill the four vacancies on the Council. Four parishioners, Rene Balboa, Dita Naguit Brendan Vahey and Cynthia Menezes, nominated and have been declared to be elected to Our Lady of Dolours Parish Pastoral Council. Congratulations and welcome! Renes and Dita have had previous experience on the Council. Brendan and Cynthia are new to the Council.

Thanks to Peter Cunningham who acted as Returing Officer and to Anna McNally the Secretary of the PPC for their help.

Thanks also to Margaret Mary Saunders, Ray Moran and Patricia Davies who have stepped down from the Council for all that they have done for the parish while they were on the PPC.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Parish Finance Committee is on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October in the Parish Offices.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVING**

begins this weekend. Did you remember to put your clock forward one hour?

**OVER 50's GROUP** Our group has been allotted 8 FREE tickets for the Premiers Christmas Gala Concert at the Entertainment Centre on Tuesday, 4th December at 11 a.m. It is a variety show with a duration of approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes. You will have to organize your own transport to and from the venue.

If you would like a ticket, please ring Gail on 9967-5300 before Wednesday, 14th November. Please note that you must be very sure that you will use them, as any unused tickets that you may take will mean that we will not be offered them again. Please think carefully before accepting them. Thank you.

Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday, 1st November at 9.30 a.m. in the Parish Meeting rooms. Look forward to seeing you then.

### **WHAT IS LITURGY?**

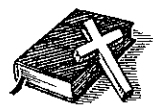
Have you heard people speak of the liturgy and wondered what they meant? Is liturgy something to do with the church, with mass or just something that the priest does? Do I really need to know? If you've ever wondered about the liturgy, we have some great news for you...

Mary Diggins has agreed to come and give a talk to the parish entitled 'Liturgy - The work of the People'. Mary is the liturgy co-ordinator at St. Ignatius College Riverview where she also teaches. Mary has extensive knowledge and experience of the liturgy and will share this with us.

The talk will be held in Meeting Room 1, on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. We encourage all parishioners to come along and listen to Mary inspire us toward a better understanding of, and participation with the liturgy of our church.

### **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Wednesday nights from 7.30 - 9.00pm Meeting Room 1 (blue room). Enquiries: Jenny and Ray on 9412 1701.



### **SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**

Our parish has accepted a great challenge. We have been requested to help support the missionary work of the Carmelite Sisters at MAUBARA ORPHANAGE, 45 kilometres west of Dili.

We are all aware of the constant turmoil since the people of East Timor gained their independence. We have all seen the graphic imagery. Many of the children at the orphanage have lost either their mother or father or both and are in desperate need. They have all been through the most traumatic experiences.

#### **They need help from us now.**

You may well ask "what can I do?"

First, remember their plight in your prayer each day. Secondly, consider some financial help.

#### **This is what your dollar can do.**

**\$1.00 provides basic necessities for 1 child for 1 day ... \$7.00 provides basic necessities for 1 child for 1 week ... \$30.00 provides basic necessities for 1 child for 1 month.**

Any contributions will help these young people to a better life and the opportunity of a decent education. Your help will rebuild their lives. At this present moment, 45 children are subsisting on A\$1,200.00 per month. Will you help them?

### **FILM NIGHT AND FUNDRAISER**

On Tuesday 20 November 7.00 for 7.30pm at the Ramsay Hall at St. Ignatius College Riverview, a DVD titled "A HERO'S JOURNEY" will be shown. The Consul General for East Timor, Mr. Abel Guterres will be our guest of honour. He will speak and field questions on the current situation in East Timor. A donation of \$20.00 per person, Students \$10.00, will cover nibbles and drinks. For enquiries and bookings, Sally Bracken Tel: 9417 4526, Julie & Paul Schofield Tel. 9416 7068 or email: [12luxor@ozemail.com.au](mailto:12luxor@ozemail.com.au).

Tickets will be on sale at all Masses on the weekends of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Information on the MAUBARA ORPHANAGE can be seen on the web site [www.mmiets.org.au](http://www.mmiets.org.au)

### **KOREAN MASS SCHEDULE**

There will be no Korean Mass 4<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The next Korean mass will be on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

# Children's Ministries



Let the children come to me

## ***A NOTE FROM ANGELA***

Well, after 3 months travelling around the countryside with my family, I am back! What can I say...the trip was a fantastic experience. We all had our moments, but the memories we already have are wonderful. I have been asked what was my favourite place? Well I can tell you that this question is not one you can really answer. Our country is so vast, yet so beautiful. There is so much and so little – all at once. It is awesome and awe inspiring. There is a real sense of spirit all around this nation, which gives you a sense of peace which only comes from God. I guess that is why our country is called the Great Southern Land of the Holy Spirit. It leaves you with a great respect for the Aboriginal sense of spirituality.

Now it's back to work and a busy time ahead with the lead up to Christmas and all the things that go with it!

## ***ATRIUM NEWS***

The children started back in the atrium this week after the holiday break. They were all keen to be back and settled into their 'work' well. It is such a privilege to witness young children entering into life with God in such a peaceful and accepting way.

We have a busy term ahead – just 8 weeks before the Christmas break. The children will be preparing for the feast of Christmas beginning with an Advent procession in a few weeks time, then each week discovering something new from the scriptures and the liturgy of the church about this very special time.

## ***KID'S WORD***

Begins again this Sunday after the holiday break. The 3-6 year olds gather in meeting room 2 while the older children gather in meeting room 1. Any queries contact Monica Gyeory on 9412 4525.



## ***CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS First Reconciliation***

Thank you to Tanya Ceravolo and her family and terrific team of helpers who enrolled 100 children in the First

Reconciliation program last weekend.

This weekend our young Reconciliation candidates are being presented at all Masses. Parishioners, please be ready to step forward as their prayer partners.

The first Parent Input Night will be held this Tuesday evening 30 October 7.30-8.30pm in Harrington Hall.

(Note: This date is also the *absolute* cut-off for any late enrolments which will be taken at 7pm, 30 mins prior to the Input session. No more enrolments will be accepted after this date.)

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Thurs 29 Nov over two ceremonies, 5pm & 7pm.

Enquiries: Paula 9419 7730.

## ***FAMILY GROUP ACTIVITIES OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2007***

What happens in a Family Group?

The groups gather about once a month, each time for a different type of social event (eg. a picnic, barbeque, games night, movie, restaurant meal, bush walk etc). This brings the group together on a regular basis to enjoy being with one another and to gradually develop supportive relationships

During the remainder of October and in November Chatswood Groups are gathering for a Korean BBQ lunch, Indian dinner, Yum Cha, train trip to Woy Woy and lunch, movie night and a Pizza night. We also had a day at the races planned but alas no horses, so had to cancel.

You don't have to be a member of a Family Group to attend one of the above activities. If you or your family are interested in joining a Family Group or attending a function for a tryout (you will be made very welcome) simply ring the Group Coordinators Jenny and Ray (9412 1701).

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE ON**  
**[www.chatswoodparish.org.au](http://www.chatswoodparish.org.au)** All enrolments forms can now be downloaded, including Parish Reference Form – the pathway is Home – Our Parish – Schools.

### ***OUR NEW YOUTH MINISTER ... a little bit about Darlene***

Darlene Bender is the new Youth Minister of Our Lady of Dolours Parish. She was an active Youth Minister in her Diocese in the Philippines. She was involved in the Diocesan Youth Ministries Organisational and Mobilization Committee which aims to organize, lead and perform youth activities within the church and the community. She has been a member of the youth choir, Readers of the Word group and Singles for Christ. She is currently doing her postgraduate studies at the University of Technology, Sydney taking Masters in Event Management and working part-time as a Youth Minister in our parish. She is also a member of Catholic Asian Student Society, which is a group of university students here in Sydney.

Darlene is into arts, particularly in computer graphics, photography and floristry. Loves to plan and organise events. She has the passion to serve her fellow youth, the community and the Church. She believes that sharing oneself with others is sharing God's love.

**HOME ROSARY** will be held on Friday, 2 November at 10 Alpha Road, Willoughby at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: 9967 2601.

**QUOTE** "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

## **Outside the Parish**

### ***A CONVERSATION EVENING WITH BISHOP DAVID***

What role will our Broken Bay Diocesan schools play in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? An opportunity to reflect and discuss. 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2007, 7.30 – 9.30pm, OLOR Parish Hall, Waitara, RSVP by 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Cathie 9847 0340  
or email [parentcouncil@dbb.edu.au](mailto:parentcouncil@dbb.edu.au)

### ***ALL SOULS MASS NORTH RYDE***

Celebrated by the priests and parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish at Christ the Redeemer Mausoleum at Macquarie Park Cemetery on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov at 2.30pm.

### ***ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC***

The Royal School of Church Music is presenting a "Composers Anniversary Concert" featuring sacred

music by Elgar (b.1857), Langlais (b.1907), Sibelius (d.1957) and Buxtehude (d.1707) on Saturday, November 10. The idea is to form an ecumenical choir requiring two serious rehearsals on the preceding Mondays. The concert will take place in St Andrews Cathedral Sydney. If you would like to be part of this choir ring Brian on 9482 5817.

### ***WANTED TENORS AND BASSES***

Choristers from around the Diocese (particularly Tenors and Basses!), either as individuals or groups, are invited to join the Massed Choir for this years Broken Bay Choral Festival. The massed choir will be directed by Mr Philip Chu will sing Elgar's Ave Verum and the first movement of Vivaldi's Gloria. The festival will take place on Sunday 11 November at Sacred Heart Pymble. Massed Choir rehearsal at 2pm and concert at 3pm. Registration is only \$5.00 and includes the score. To register please contact Justin on [cf07@ankus.id.au](mailto:cf07@ankus.id.au) or 8213 9039. Registrations close November 2.

**A HEALING SERVICE** will take place on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 7.30pm** at Sacred Heart Church, 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble at 7.30pm.

Fr Tadeusz Seremet SDS and Sr Margaret Scully will be leading a healing service. There will be a teaching on the "Healing Love of Jesus", exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for reflection and Prayer for Inner Healing, followed by the Sacrament of Anointing. Everyone is most welcome

### ***EUCCHARIST WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES***

An invitation from Diocese of Broken Bay to people with disabilities, their families, friends, carers and parishioners for Sunday, 11 November at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 165 Serpentine Rd, Terrigal at 11.30am. Celebrant is Bishop David Walker. Lunch served at conclusion. For catering purposes please RSVP Joanne O'Rourke sgs, 9488 2483.

### ***BRIDGE FOR PEACE @ FLAME***

Friday night: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2007, 7.30pm - OPEN TO ALL AGES!!! Bridge for Peace teams have been building bridges of peace to the nations through God's HEALING touch for many years. They are a Powerful Healing Ministry from New York USA and travel around the world visiting countries from Africa and Europe to Asia and now Australia.  
**Venue: Marian Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble at 7.30pm**  
**Contact: Renata 0411 081 158**

# Pastoral Principles

*Last Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October some of the leaders on the parish gathered to learn about and discuss some of the pastoral principles used in the parish. The day was organized by the PPC, facilitated by Liz Wallace from the diocese and the input was given by our Parish Priest, Vince Casey.*

*Here are some of the principles that were presented. Have you seen them working in the parish? Might they change the way you do things in the parish? Would you like to take up a greater leadership role in the parish?*

*There will be more principles next week.*

## 1. it's the people's parish

- Our Lady of Dolours Parish belongs to the parishioners. It's not Father's parish, not the pastoral associates' and not the Redemptorists' or the MSC's parish. People have invested their lives here - this is where they have bought their homes and raised their children, whereas we clergy, religious and employed staff move on.
- The role of the priests and the staff is to assist the people to shape Our Lady of Dolours into the parish they want for themselves and their kids.
- The shape the parish is taking reflects their desires and gifts. What happens here comes from the parishioners.
- The Parish Pastoral Council has real power to set the vision and agenda for the future direction of the parish. Each group or leader of a ministry can also set their own goals.

## 2. Focus: empowerment of gifts

- The parish's emphasis is on encouraging and using God-given gifts rather than fulfilling needs.
- A focus on people's gifts is uplifting and energising. Preoccupation with 'needs' is self-defeating and patronising.
- Ultimately more is accomplished when we focus on empowering gifts rather than 'answering needs'. By focusing on gifts, more needs are actually fulfilled; but they may not be the needs that we thought were priorities before we began.
- The Lord provides us with the gifts required for what we are meant to accomplish at any given time.
- The gifts are in the parishioners. The task is to uncover, affirm, encourage and develop those gifts. Gifted parishioners do need to say 'yes' to use their gifts for the work of the parish.

- People are more willing to do what they enjoy and are good at. They will spend more time and effort, achieve much more, and be happier with the result.
- Not all needs can be met; but the person with the right gift will emerge - in the Lord's time.

## 3. Parishioners' homes are the parish

- The parish is more than the church, parish office and meeting rooms. It is primarily the homes and lives of the parishioners. This is the 'domestic church' where the paschal mystery is most intensely lived everyday. This is a crucial principle which constantly needs to be affirmed and lived.
- It means that meetings can be in parishioners' homes; a parish strategy can be simple steps people can take at home like family meals and prayers; a celebration of a wedding anniversary is a celebration of parish.
- Improved family life and relationships make us a better parish. It is good to encourage initiatives that support families and to encourage couples and families to take on ministries *together*; and avoid creating 'church widows' and 'church orphans'.
- Individuals are to be discouraged from taking on multiple ministries. A goal can be that every person who comes to Mass is involved in *one* ministry. Likewise, some big tasks might only be taken on for a limited time.



## *Back from Jerusalem...*

A reflection by our sacraments minister, Teresa Pirola, who spent the month of July on a study course in Jerusalem.

*'See that window? That's where my bedroom was. And that big tree? Dad planted that when I was six!' My friend is like an excited child showing me the house in which he grew up as a kid. To my eyes it is a simple cottage with a garden in need of weeding. To him it is a castle of childhood memories and familial love. A holy place.*

We all have holy places like this: indoor and outdoor spaces that are sanctified not by their architecture or favourable climate, but by the people who walked there and the experiences they shared.

Last July I visited a holy place; in fact, 'the' Holy Land as we call it. The homeland of Jesus. That tiny strip of dry, stony, conflicted land where Jesus was born, grew up and lived out the mission that led to his crucifixion; the land where belief in his resurrection gave rise to the embryonic Christian church. Off I went, like so many students and pilgrims before me... up to Jerusalem!

I expected to be impressed. I expected to be touched. What I didn't expect was for my life to be so fundamentally changed as to lead me to rethink my whole Catholic faith.

I try to understand how this happened. Better simply to acknowledge the mysterious process of grace at work over the duration of the month I spent at the *Bat Kol* Institute\* in Jerusalem. There we were: 19 students from 11 nations, studying the Hebrew scriptures under the guidance of Jewish rabbis as well as Christian professors, praying in synagogues as well as churches, star-gazing in the Negev desert and trudging about archeological sites as well as sitting in a classroom. Not that all the experiences were pleasant ones: staring at graffiti-covered walls snaking around Bethlehem, witnessing troubled lives in a Palestinian village, tasting the memory of evil at the *Yad Hashem* holocaust memorial, enduring suffocating heat at Qumran.

And beyond the carefully packed schedule were the unscripted moments: like being able to catch up with Jewish friends from childhood days... 35 years ago we were 9 year olds growing up in New York, they trying to teach me Hebrew! We had not had contact all that time, and now we met again in Israel (and here I am trying to learn Hebrew again!)

Through this kaleidoscopic journey I caught a fresh glimpse into the world of Jesus the Jew - his Land, his Language, his Scriptures, his People. And with it came a heightened sense of sacramentality, of the

reality that 'the word became flesh'. To hear the land whisper to you, to delight in a Hebrew expression, to ponder a biblical phrase through the lens of a rabbi... is to catch a glimpse of those human, religious and environmental factors that shaped the person of Jesus.

And with this came shocking realizations: how Christian piety over the centuries has often isolated Jesus from his historical context, placed him in opposition to his own people, and painted the Jewish people in terms of messianic rejection rather than the womb that gave life to Jesus and his church.

How wonderful that Vatican II faced into this tragic situation, calling the faithful to rediscover the importance of their relationship with the Jewish people and of the scriptures we share. In fact, we cannot truly understand ourselves as Christians apart from Judaism.

It's hard to know how to share my July experiences of Israel here in such a short space, except to say that life is different now. I am attentive to scripture like never before; I study Hebrew with a thirst to pray in the language that Jesus prayed; I join in synagogue worship and feel 'anchored' afresh to a sacred past. In a new way, I delight in the fact that I too 'crossed the Red Sea' and was 'there' at Sinai. And I know I can welcome the Sabbath on Friday evening, even as I prepare to celebrate Sunday, the 'Day of the Lord', as the highpoint of Christian worship.

So no, I haven't gone 'all Jewish'. I am a Catholic in search of a way of living her religious tradition in its fullest embrace and from its most ancient depths. I have more questions than answers, but I know there is something deeply right and true about even beginning the search, no matter how small the steps.

A new breath is blowing in our Church, ever so gently, but it is here! It is among everyday Catholics and not just Vatican documents... a new grace that will awaken us to our Jewish heritage. I invite you to join me in the unfolding adventure ...

Adult Education Opportunity: Jewish-Christian Dialogue

### **Invitation**

*Vatican II signaled a dramatic change in the Church's relationship with Judaism. How? Why? What happened? What's different now?*

You are invited to a DVD presentation to explore some of these issues. The DVD is one hour duration and a brief discussion will follow. When/Where:

**Wed 31 Oct 9.45-11.15am** and **repeated on Thurs 1 Nov 8pm** (straight after All Saints Mass) **until 9.30pm**. Meeting Room 1.

\* At the *Bat Kol* Institute, based in Jerusalem, Christians study the Word of God [Torah] within its Jewish milieu, using Jewish sources and methods. [www.batkol.info](http://www.batkol.info)

## 10 WAYS TO...

# CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST RECONCILIATION

### 1. Pray 'sorry' prayers

Support your child in prayer. Pray together as a family. As well as 'thank-ing' and 'asking' prayers, include 'sorry' prayers in your time together before God.

### 2. Adorn your 'sacred site'

Place a symbol or picture at your 'sacred site' (i.e. your family prayer area). This might be a picture of a scene from a parable like the prodigal son. Open the pages of your bible to this parable (Lk 15:11-32).

### 3. Talk about it

Talk about what this day means: a celebration of God's mercy and love.

**Table topics:** Who is the most forgiving and compassionate person you know?

*Or:* Share a time when you really needed forgiveness and someone forgave you.

### 4. Practise forgiveness

This is a graced time to work at the quality of forgiveness in your own home. Practise being more gentle, compassionate and patient with one another. Let the fruits of the Spirit reign in your home.

### 5. Remember when...

Share Reconciliation memories. What was First Reconciliation day like for Grandpa? Mum? Older sisters and brothers? Give your child a sense of our Catholic story, including the positive changes in the way we celebrate Reconciliation today.

### 6. Seize teachable moments

Look for teachable moments to impart to your child a lesson about forgiveness and reconciliation. e.g. Talk about ways to resolve a playground conflict; hold a dinner table discussion about Aboriginal reconciliation.

### 7. Celebrate with the saints

Read the story of St John Vianney who was a great confessor. People flocked to him to receive Reconciliation. Encourage your child to call upon his/her favourite saint as a good companion on this part of their faith journey.

### 8. Read stories to inspire

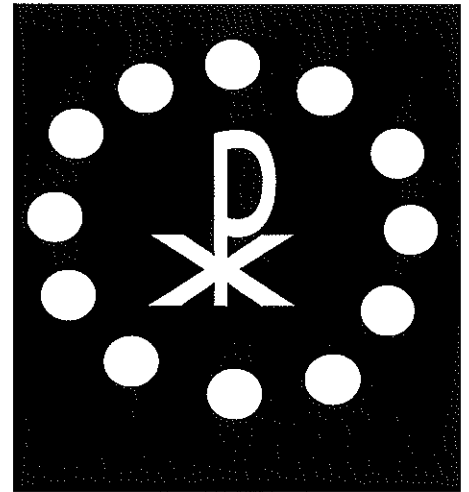
At family prayer-time, read a bible story such as the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears (Lk 7:36-48); or the parable of the lost sheep (Lk 15:1-7), the lost coin (Lk 15:8-10), the prodigal son (Lk 15:11-32).

### 9. Set an example

Undoubtedly a powerful parental witness you can give your child as to the value of Reconciliation is to participate in the Sacrament yourself. (If you are a non-Catholic parent, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.)

### 10. Party well

Conclude the big day by gifting your child with a special treat - e.g. an icecream, a special meal. Some parishes hold a party after the Reconciliation ceremony. Whatever your style, enter into the festivities and envelop your child in a spirit of celebration.



Your child's sacramental experience begins at home. Here are some ideas for enveloping your child in an atmosphere of faith and love as First Reconciliation Day approaches.

#### Helpful hint

One of the advantages of receiving Reconciliation at a young age is that children develop the habit of asking for and receiving forgiveness. How important this will be at age 13, 16, 19 - as they start to explore the adult world and perhaps make some serious mistakes - to know that they can be forgiven. With youth suicide rates so high, it is essential that our children grow up knowing that no failure is so bad that there can be no way out; every sin can be forgiven.

Likewise, it is terribly important that children see their *parents* receiving the Sacrament. Otherwise they will associate Reconciliation with 'kids stuff' and may not turn to this source of grace when they most need it in their adult lives.



**Remember how the parable of the prodigal son ends?  
Party well!**

**The Story Source**  
PO Box 1106, Maroubra NSW 2035.  
Tel/Fax (02) 9314 0867.  
storysource@ozemail.com.au