



# 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.

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**BAPTISMS:** See the brochure in the Church Foyer, go to our website (above) 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

	8/9 March	15/16 March
Vigil 5.30pm	Satheesh R.	Satheesh R
7.30am	Claude M.	Vince Casey
9.00am	Claude M.	Vince Casey
10.30am	Vince Casey	Satheesh R
5.30pm	Vince Casey	Satheesh R
7.30pm	Korean Mass	

## YEAR A FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008

### READINGS

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 37:12-14 we are told that during the exile in Babylon when Israel looked a dead nation, a prophet foretold that they would be raised up to new life.

**Responsorial Psalm:** With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**Second Reading:** Romans 8:8-11 Paul explains that without the grace of Christ, all people lie dead in sin.

**Gospel:** John 11:1-45 we hear how Jesus took the occasion of the raising of Lazarus from the dead to teach that he is the resurrection and the life.

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

16<sup>th</sup> March - Palm Sunday

Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

### DAILY READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

**MON** Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62;  
Jn 8:1-11

**TUES** Num 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

**WEDS** Dan 3:14-20, 24-25, 28; Jn 8:31-42

**THURS** Gen 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

**FRI** Jer 1:4-9; Acts 13:46-49; Lk 10:1-12,  
17-20 St Patrick

**SAT** 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24 or Lk 2:41-51  
St Joseph

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School  
 Phone: 9419 2645  
 Email: [info@old.dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@old.dbb.catholic.edu.au)

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

**Recently Deceased:** Paul Brown, Fr John (Jack) Rivett, Almiro Fullipe  
**Deceased Anniversary:** Gerard Roberts, Josephine McClay, Carmel Hogan, Dennis Commins, Paul Johnson, Giuseppe Vaccaro, Francesco Consalvo, June Parbury, Dudlev Rebello.



**WITHIN THE PARISH**

**DARLENE: FAREWELL AND THANK-YOU**

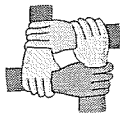
Darlene Bender, our Youth Minister is finishing her employment in the parish this weekend. Darlene's student visa is expiring and for her new visa she needs to work in an area of her studies – event management. We thank Darlene for her gentle presence in the parish and for her care for our youth, especially in the preparations for WYD. Darlene will continue to be involved in the parish, especially in the planning for WYD and has asked not to have a special farewell. (Apologies to anyone who came prepared for a farewell after the Sunday night Mass) We will say goodbye to Darlene at the Youth Mass this weekend.

**BLESSING OF THE TABERNACLE**

There will be a blessing of our refurbished tabernacle at the 10.30am Mass this Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**HELPING HANDS**

The Easter Liturgies are fast approaching and there are many "little" things that need doing. **Can YOU help?**



1. On Palm Sunday (16 Mar '08), could you welcome people at the doors as they arrive for the 10.30am Mass and advise them to gather beside the Church, near Meeting Room 1 for the Blessing of palms and procession?
2. Before 8pm Mass on Holy Thursday (20 Mar '08), could you help with bringing in 12 chairs for the "Washing of the Feet" from Meeting Room 2 and returning them after Mass?
3. Assist with removal of notices, banners, posters etc., from noticeboards and shelves after the Holy Thursday liturgy and replacing them on Holy Saturday before the Easter Vigil?
4. Could you welcome people at the doors as they arrive for the Easter Vigil (8pm on Sat, 22 Mar '08) and hand out the candles? Also, help tidy Church after Mass?

If you can help, please ring Monica on 94121323.

**Lent Week 5**

We begin our week with Sunday Eucharist: *Jn 11: 1-45* 'Lazarus, come out!' Where am I entombed and in bondage like Lazarus? We will have special prayers of healing at Mass seeking the life and freedom Christ offers.

<b>9 March</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Formation:</i> Kids' Word (9am Mass, MR 1&2) <i>Liturgy:</i> Prayers for healing at all Masses for those preparing for baptism and for us all. <i>Formation:</i> RCIA - Presentation of the Lord's Prayer
Mon 10 Mar	<i>Liturgy:</i> Stations of the Cross (after 12.15 Mass) <i>Spirituality:</i> Charismatic prayer meeting (7.30pm, MR2)
Tues 11 Mar	<i>Formation:</i> Discussion Group (after 9am Mass, MR2)
Wed 12 Mar	<i>Adult Ed:</i> Bible study (7.30pm, MR1) <i>Liturgy:</i> Second Rite of Reconciliation (7.30pm)
Thur 13 Mar	<i>Liturgy:</i> Second Rite of Reconciliation (12.40pm) <i>Ministry:</i> 10.30 Mass Choir practice (7.30pm, church)
Fri 14 Mar	<i>Liturgy:</i> Stations of the Cross (11.30am) <i>Liturgy:</i> OLD School Palm Sunday Liturgy (10am) <i>Spirituality:</i> Antioch (Youth: Yrs 10-12) 6.30pm MR1
Sat 15 Mar	<i>Liturgy:</i> Novena, reconciliation, exposition, benediction (9.30-10.30am) <i>Formation:</i> Chinese RCIA ( 4pm, MR2) <i>Formation:</i> Retreat Day (on parish site) Bookings req'd. For RCIA and open to all (10am-3pm, MR1)

## Children's Ministries



*Let the children come to me...*

### ***Coin Kilometre Last Sunday***

Last Sunday after the 9.00am Family Mass, all the children were invited into the playground armed with the coins they have been collecting during lent for project compassion. The children created a line of coins. There were 233 in total and line was just over 6 metres in length. The money raised will to be added to our parish Project Compassion tally.



Thanks to the mums and dads who brought the children along in the cold weather. The tea and coffee helped to keep them warm while all that coin counting was happening!

### ***Children needed for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Processions***

We need some enthusiastic children to help us with processions with the Palms on Palm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March and our special Gospel Procession for Easter Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. If you would like to get involved with either of these processions, please contact Angela at the parish office on: 9412 1042 or [angela@chatswoodparish.org.au](mailto:angela@chatswoodparish.org.au)

***PIETY STALL*** Easter cards on sale after Mass. Cast iron garden crosses are also on sale for \$10.00.

### ***ALTAR SERVERS AND MINISTERS OF COMMUNION***

If you would like to be an Altar Server or Minister of Communion at the 8pm Holy Thursday Mass, the 3pm Good Friday Ceremony or the 8pm Easter Vigil Mass then please call Gerard Ryan on 9419-8310 - preferably before Palm Sunday. The normal Sunday roster applies on Easter Sunday.

### ***PROJECT COMPASSION - 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent***

We are challenged to be instruments of life; to restore wholeness and social well being to the poor and oppressed in our world. This week's Project Compassion story focuses on Fernandez who is teaching art and drama to young people living in the slums of Sao Paulo in Brazil as a way of supporting them to overcome poverty, oppression, drug and arms trafficking. Project Compassion invites you to give generously this Lent in supporting Caritas' life-giving programs.

Each week's envelope can be put on the collection plate at Mass. The boxes will be collected at the end of Lent. Thank you for your support of Project Compassion.

### ***Fund Raiser Raffle for Project Compassion.***

The Social Justice Ministry team will be **selling Raffle tickets** at all masses this weekend and again next weekend the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March. We would welcome some more help at the selling tables so if you feel you can spare 10 minutes after your mass please go to the foyer at the end of mass!! The response for "Easter Treats" has been very generous for which we are most grateful. As a result we will be offering **multiple prizes!!** **The draw** for these prizes will be held at the conclusion of the 5.30pm Mass on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> March after we allow for last minute buyers.

Thanks go to our parishioners, Fr Satheesh and the organizers who made our annual **Project Compassion lunch** held at the Kam Fook Restaurant on Sunday such an enjoyable AND successful gathering. A special thank you to the Forestville Social Justice Ministry who supplied our wonderful door prize this year! Please check out some pictures taken at the lunch on the Social Justice board at the back of the Church.

### ***QUOTE***

*Every moment and every event of every person's life on earth plants something in his or her soul.*

*Thomas Merton*

### ***FILIPINO CHAPLAINCY - CHATSWOOD PARISH (FCCP)***

**First Anniversary of the FCCP** - The FCCP invites the whole Parish community to attend its First Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, 6 April. The concelebrated Mass will be held at 12 noon at Our Lady of Dolours Parish and will be followed by a fellowship gathering at Harrington Hall.

**Family Disco** – The FCCP will hold a 1970's Family Disco to help with the registration of the FCCP youth for World Youth Day 2008. The disco will be held at Harrington Hall on Saturday, 12 April from 7pm. All are welcome. Entrance is \$10 and children aged 12 years and below are free. Contact Marte Tagle at [martetagle@hotmail.com](mailto:martetagle@hotmail.com).

**Ordination of Deacon Roberto** - Deacon elect Roberto Corpuz, FCCP's Pastoral Care Coordinator, will be ordained to the Holy Orders as a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Broken Bay by The Most Reverend David L. Walker DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay on 18 April 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Cathedral at Waitara.

For more information, visit the FC-CP website at [www.filipino-chaplaincy.org](http://www.filipino-chaplaincy.org)

### **YOUTH FESTIVAL - led by Jesse Manibusan**

Sunday, 30 March 2008 10am – 5pm at St Augustine's College (Federal Parade) Brookvale on the Northern Beaches of Sydney.

We would like people from our parish to attend and can help those currently involved in ministry in the parish with the costs. The timetable is on the back notice board or go to [www.realliferealpower.com.au](http://www.realliferealpower.com.au)

### **NEW DIOCESAN CATHEDRAL**

**CHOIR** Calling all choristers to join the new Diocesan Cathedral Choir. The plan is to rehearse on a monthly basis. **The first mass where the new choir will sing is the Chrism Mass on 18 March 2008.** We practise for the Chrism Mass on 16 March 2008 2-4pm. For more details, contact Donrita Reefman 9477 4912.



### **SENIORS LUNCHEON**

On Thursday, 13th March, a Seniors Luncheon will be held at St. Leonards Catholic Church, Naremburn. There will be a Mass at 11am in the Church followed by a luncheon and entertainment in the adjacent Church hall. A gold coin donation would be appreciated to help cover costs. There is limited parking, however, a Government bus can be caught on Victoria Ave, Chatswood, stopping right outside the Church. For catering purposes, please R.S.V.P. to Annette on 9958-8332 by Monday, 10th March. Thank you.

### **WORLD YOUTH DAY FUNDRAISERS**

To assist those who need help to go to World Youth Day, two events have been organized to help raise funds.

1. **Tupperware Party – 10 March 2008**  
On Monday, 10 March 2008 a Tupperware Party will be held in Meeting Room 1 commencing at 10am. For a donation of \$5 attendees will enjoy morning tea before being treated to a tupperware demonstration.
2. **Fashion Parade – 26 April 2008**  
Put this date down in your diaries ladies. At 1.30pm on 26 April 2008 a fashion extravaganza will be coming to our parish in Meeting Room 1. More details will be provided closer to the day.

If anyone has any questions regarding either of the above events, please phone Judith Ryan on 9419 8310.

### **RESERVED PLACES AT THE PAPAL MASS**

The WYD organizers have informed us that HomeStay hosts and their families (under 16 years old) will have a place reserved for them at the Pope's final Mass. They are now expecting 225,000 registered pilgrims at the Mass which will leave 100,000 places for others. The host families will have these places. If you would like to offer your home for pilgrims to stay for the week of WYD contact Vince on 9412 1042.

### **POSITIONS VACANT:**

**CATECHISTS' CO-ORDINATOR:** We are interviewing to fill this position during the week.

**PARISH CO-ORDINATOR FOR WYD:** Everyone with experience in youth is currently employed with World Youth Day, so at this time it is unlikely we would be able to fill the position of Youth Minister in the parish. We do need help to prepare for WYD in the parish and it has been suggested that we offer employment for this position as a short-term replacement for our Youth Minister. Much of the work would be organisation and administration. Experience with working with youth is not essential. It would be a casual position (paid for the hours worked) till August 2008. If you are interested please contact Vince on 9412 1042 asap.

### **WATERMARK CASTLE COVE**

Excavation is nearing completion and the construction is starting on the former St Paul's site. Sales have also been going well. Most three bedroom units have been sold. There are still a number of two bedroom units with study available. For more information contact: 9882 2770

## **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**Parish:** Lights have been installed above the new stairs behind the church. The hand rails will go in next week. Work on the new car-park in Kirk St has begun. Repairs to the gutters and downpipes in the church are complete. Some more work may be required to waterproof the roof above the transepts. The roof and gutters above the Parish Offices and Meeting Room 1 have been cleared of rubbish. The electrician will be working on the data projectors on Wednesday.

**Civic Place:** Demolition of the old public library building is almost complete. There have been some concerns about the dust from the schools. Some more asbestos was removed from the outside of the buildings (eaves) on Saturday. Work is continuing on the new storm-water drain under Ferguson Lane. Some of the work which is immediately outside the OLD school library was very noisy. OLD Primary School staff is using the car-park in the Rotunda Park and some OLD classes are being taught in the demountables.

**Chatswood Chase:** Excavation and diversion of services is continuing. A meeting with the owners, developers and builders of Chatswood Chase to brief the community and respond to concerns will be held at Mercy College on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm to 8pm. Enter the College by the Archer St gates and follow the signs to the Flexible Learning Space.

## **CAR PARKING - ROTUNDA PARK IN KIRK STREET**

A reminder that the ten parking spaces in Rotunda park will be used by staff from Our Lady of Dolours Primary during the week in school hours. At other times these parking spaces may be used by Our Lady of Dolours parishioners for church services only. Please note that the gate may be locked at any other time.

## **MASS REQUESTS**

During the week I received two envelopes requesting a specific Mass be celebrated on the anniversary of someone's death. This is not always possible – another priest may be saying that Mass or the priest may already have intention for that Mass. The Mass will be celebrated but we can't always guarantee which Mass it will be. *Vince.*

**HOME ROSARY** will be held on Friday, 14 March 2008 at 45 Park Rd, Naremburn at 7.30pm. Enquiries: 9967 2601.

## **CATECHIST COLUMN**

### **DIARY DATES**

1. Monday 31st March 1pm- meeting room 3
  - OLD Catechist Meeting
2. Monday 5th May: Basic Accreditation
  - Course at Pymble (more information later) to register, phone Sharon:98470484

### **School Holidays**

The Easter break will not affect our teaching schedule. Normal classes the week starting 17<sup>th</sup> March and normal classes the week starting 24<sup>th</sup> March. The State schools commence term 1 holidays on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April and schools reopen on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Please make the children aware of the Parish website which is [www.chatswoodparish.org.au](http://www.chatswoodparish.org.au). While many of us are not familiar with cyberspace, there is a wealth of information on that site that would be helpful for the children and parents.

Should you require any information about the catechist ministry, please contact Pauline at the parish office: 94121042

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION** The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land takes place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land rely very much on assistance from the Good Friday collection. The collection is also used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, Australian Catholics donated just over \$1M to this cause. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land again on this Good Friday. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please also pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace'.

## **PALM SUNDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde will again be praying the Stations of the Cross on Palm Sunday at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, North Ryde. The Stations commence at 2.30pm. All welcome. Plenty of parking and undercover seating.

## PARISH HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Table 1: 2005/2008 Financial Summary:

	2005/2006 Actual \$	2006/2007 Actual \$	2007/2008 Projected \$
Income	419,844	\$360,124	\$316,358
Expenditure	\$396,454	\$514,577	\$502,186
<b>Balance</b>	<b>+ \$23,390</b>	<b>- \$154,453</b>	<b>- \$185,828</b>

Note on Table 1: The 2007/2008 figures are an estimate of income and expenditure based on the figures for the first half of the financial year.

Table 2: 2007/2008 Projected Income & Expenditure:

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$</b>
Planned Giving	173,128
Second Collection	98,842
Other	48,388
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>316,358</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Altar	9,958
Administration	9,620
Insurance	20,640
Office	68,738
Repairs & Maint.	159,146
Car & Travel	18,674
Employment	193,672
Pastoral	21,738
<b>TOTAL EXP:</b>	<b>502,186</b>
<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>-185,828</b>

Note on Table 2: Other Income includes donations, interest from term deposits and rebates from the CDF and CCI. Administration expenses include electricity & gas, rates, legal and accounting. Office expenses include stationery, photocopying, IT, phone, email. Pastoral expenses include pastoral ministry expenses and donations.

Table 1 shows that in the three year period 2005/2008 our parish income has been declining. Compared with the 2005/2006 financial year, the 2007/2008 projected decrease for Planned Giving is 10%; for Second Collection it is 19% and for Other Income it is 54%. Other Income has decreased because of changes in diocesan policy about income, less money in term deposits to provide interest, rebates no longer going directly to the parishes etc. Other Income is unlikely to increase.

Although during the same period most costs have remained steady, expenditure on Repair and Maintenance (R&M) has increased markedly and has been a major contributor to the deficits recorded for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008. For example, R&M has increased from \$29,216 or 7% of total

expenditure in 2005/2006, to \$159,146 or 32% of total expenditure in 2007/2008. R&M expenses completed during the last three years have been essential 'catch-up' works on parish buildings and plant, including:

Church: repairs to copper gutters, downpipes, storm water drains, replacement of copper box gutters and roof tile underlay, installation of new floors, step treads and termite control.

Parish offices: repairs to roof leaks, installation of gutter guard, removal of old showers, cupboards etc, new hallway to back of the office, creation of two new offices and a store room, step treads, general repairs, painting and carpets throughout.

Priests' house: repairs to roof, skylights, creation of a new bathroom, renovation of kitchen and laundry, new blinds, security door, painting, some new carpet.

Meeting rooms 2 & 3: new roof, repairs to gutters, installation of gutter guard, repairs to ceiling, new carpet, close up of old stairwell, air conditioning, new storage space and shelving, general repairs and painting.

The deficits for the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years are covered by parish savings. The "catch up" R&M is coming to an end, but so are our savings. Ongoing maintenance for parish buildings and plant and all other expenses of the parish are paid for by the Planned Giving credit card and envelope contributions and the Second Collection.

The first collection income is dedicated to Our Lady of Dolours priests' domestic expenses, with the surplus going to provide for retired priests in the diocese. Other collections throughout the year (such as CWF and Project Compassion) go to projects outside the parish.

Please consider contributing to the parish upkeep through Planned Giving and the Second Collection. A special thank you to all our parishioners who have undertaken to contribute financially to the upkeep of our parish.

Finally, please note that the money from the lease of land at West Chatswood and Castle Cove has not gone into general parish funds. It has been used to establish the St Peter and St Paul Fund. The West Chatswood and Castle Cove land was originally purchased to be new parishes. Income from the Fund is to be used to help new parishes in the diocese that are building churches, presbyteries etc to repay their loans.

**Parish  
Reconciliation  
Times**

scheduled for this week:

**Wednesday 12 March  
7.30pm**

Communal (second rite).  
(Three teenagers and one  
adult will be making First  
Reconciliation at this  
ceremony.)

**Thursday 13 March 12.40pm**  
Communal (second rite).

**Friday 4pm.** (First rite)

**Saturday 9.30-10.30am**  
(First rite)

**Other sacraments  
news this week...**

Wed 12 March, 12.15pm Mass  
We celebrate the **Baptism** of  
Taylor Stacey.

And we **bless** Megan Yapp  
who is preparing to complete  
her sacraments. Both girls are  
at Mercy College.

This weekend:

We **anoint** with the Oil of  
Baptism the following  
catechumens:

- \* (Roy) Jun Feng Shi
- \* Henry Sugiharto
- \* Juni Cie
- \* Sandy Chen

as they **prepare for Baptism**  
at Easter.



## Reconciliation

### Reflection

When Jesus told the parable of the prodigal son, he was doing so against the backdrop of Jewish traditions which included similar kinds of stories and storytelling.

In Hebrew, *teshuva* means 'repentance' (from the word *shuva*, 'return').

When we think of repenting, of '*returning*' to God, it can all seem like hard work! At times the journey 'home' to God seems so far that we hesitate to even start. Yet we are not the only one covering the distance: **God sets out to meet us**. A poignant story comes down to us through Jewish tradition:

*"A king had a son who had gone astray from his father a journey of 100 days. His friends said to him, 'Return to your father'; he said: 'I cannot.' Then his father sent word to say, 'Return as far as you can, and I will come to you the rest of the way.' So God says, 'Return to me, and I will return to you' (Mal.3:7)"* [Pesikta Raba].

What a wonderful story to bear in mind as we ponder the Christian Gospels:

... the image of the father running to meet the prodigal son.  
....the image of Lazarus being 'unbound' and 'set free'.  
....the woman saved from being stoned for her sin.

Reconciliation is meant to be a homecoming. It is not a punishing ordeal. It's healing. Freeing. Liberating. Joyfilled.

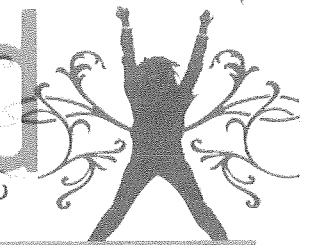
In what part of my life do I need to experience that freedom? What part is broken, hurting, resistant, proud, unloving? We pause to look at these dark sides, so that we may be restored to fullness of life.

Let's think about that, as we prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter.

# Youth at Chatswood

for general enquiries: [youth\\_at\\_chatswood@hotmail.com](mailto:youth_at_chatswood@hotmail.com)

09 March 2008



## WYD05 Cologne: Pilgrimage of Faith

WYD TESTIMONIAL by Bridgette Birdsall (SPIRO Youth Leader)

When Liz (OLDP former youth minister) first suggested that I should go to World Youth Day, I acted cool and pretended that I knew what she was talking about. Then when I'd worked out what it was I was excited about the opportunity until I found out how much it'd cost and I just couldn't have afforded it. But even when Liz suggested we would fund-raise the lot, I must admit I was a little pessimistic. I thought: "why are these people going to pay for my trip to Europe?"

But the more I learnt about what World Youth Day was, the more we got into the fundraising, and the more generous the parish was, I came to realise that it wasn't a 'trip to Europe', it was a pilgrimage of faith. And 'these people' weren't 'these people', they are my parish — my community — who genuinely wanted to see me go on this pilgrimage and grow in my faith.

The experience for me was not just about travelling around pretty French and German country sides, touring famously old and incredibly beautiful towns and churches, or even about the rare opportunity to attend a vigil and mass said by our brand new Pope in his first public appearance. It was about the sense of community. The amazing stories of faith in history as old as time was better shared with a bunch of friends who shared the same view of faith. We visited communities that took us in, fed us and provided hot showers and a place to sleep (and occasionally washing our smelly clothes), expecting little, and delivered with a smile.

At the time the lack of sleep, the long hours of travelling, the few tears shed for home sickness, and the strangeness of people driving on the wrong side of the road and a night sky with no Southern Cross are all emotions that seemed to pail in comparison to the fun of iPod karaoke on the bus, attempting to speak French (Salut! Salut, ca va? ...), sharing mass nearly every day in interesting chapels like under Sacre Cour, or sharing mass with other pilgrims who waited while all 50 of us hugged each other with the sign of peace.

## REAL LIFE! REAL POWER! CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Leading young people to, through and beyond WYD

SUNDAY, 30 MARCH 2008, 10AM - 5PM

St. Augustine's College Brookvale

Cost: \$44.00 (includes morning tea & lunch)

**SPECIAL OFFER:**

**For every 5 young people - one comes FREE!**

Book now: 9949 4455 and look for Paul Skippen  
or call Darlene at 0412755842 to get further discount

## STILL CONFUSED? GET INFORMED! GET INVOLVED!

come and join us for a

## WYD08 PARISH INFORMATION SESSION

MARCH 16, 2008  
4:00 to 5:00 PM  
OLDP  
Meeting Room 1



## BIG NEWS FOR HOMESTAY HOSTS

Homestay Hosts can take their spouse and any children under 16 to the Final Mass and have a spot at Randwick Racecourse (if they meet some basic conditions). Homestay Hosts have to agree to host two or more pilgrims by March 31. It will not be necessary for the homes to be inspected before that date.

In addition, Homestay Hosts will be offered a combined travel and food package of \$25 per person, irrespective of age. The package includes free transport (bus & train) for Sunday only and a pilgrim meal at lunchtime. However, Homestay Hosts should be aware that the transport on Sunday morning will be difficult.

*This also applies to Homestay Coordinators*

For enquiries, email to [darlene@chatswoodparish.org.au](mailto:darlene@chatswoodparish.org.au)

## WYD08 COUNTDOWN

