

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) 9410 9000 **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; 1st & 2nd Sundays of month.
FILIPINO MASS - 12noon; 1st Sunday of month.

FAMILY MASS: 9am each Sunday
CHILDREN'S CHOIR at 9am Family Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.
KIDS' WORD: Children's Liturgy of the Word at 9am Family Mass on 2nd & 4th Sunday during school term. Begins in Church and moves to Meeting Rooms.
YOUTH MASS: 5.30pm each Sunday

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: 3rd 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, 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

	18/19 October	25/26 October
Vigil 5.30pm	Satheesh R	Vince Casey
7.30am	Claude M.	Claude M
9.00am	Vince Casey#	Claude M
10.30am	Satheesh R*	Vince Casey*
12.30pm	Baptisms (VC)	-----
5.30pm	Satheesh R	Clem Hill

#Children's Mass *Baptisms (VC)

YEAR A
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
19TH OCTOBER 2008

READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 shows how God used Cyrus to triumph over the enemies of the people.

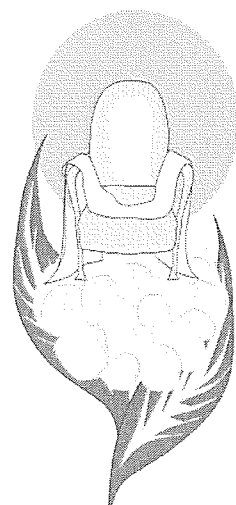
Responsorial Psalm: Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 Paul begins his letter to the Christians at Thessalonica. He thanks God for them.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21
 Jesus gives the advice: give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

26 October 2008
 Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thess 1:5-10;
 Mt 22:34-40



READINGS FOR WEEK DAYS

MON Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21
TUES Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12:35-38
WEDS Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48
THURS Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53
FRI Eph 4:1-6;; Lk 12:54-59
SAT Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13:1-9

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School:
 Phone 9419 2645
 Email: info@old.dbh.catholic.edu.au

With Our Lady of Dolours, we pray for:

Sick: Frank Hodgson (Fr John's father), John Webber, Neville Henderson
Recently Deceased: Frank Higgins, John Tighe
Deceased Anniversary: Ben Hawdon, Robert Cunningham, Bill Davis, Elenor Tan, Pia Maiorana
Baptisms: Lola Connolly Vaira, Grace Rhoda Arena, Beatrice Asejo, Ruby Janice Pickles, Sierra Denev, Matthew Francis Floresta



WITHIN THE PARISH

THANKS FROM FR. SATHEESH OSH.

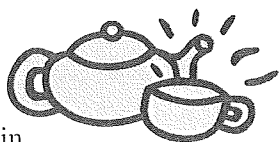
Dear friends and fellow parishioners, as I have informed you earlier the time has come for me to say goodbye to Our Lady of Dolours Parish community. My last day in the office is 20th October. I will leave to go to Forestville (Frenchs Forest Parish) on 24th October and will take up my ministry there. I have been here with you for the last ten months. Over this time I have made so many friends and have received so much support, encouragement and love. It has been a wonderful privilege to be close to you all. I wish to thank you all for what you have been to me. I know you will welcome Fr. Clem Hill with the same kind of generosity you gave to me. You will be in my heart and I humbly request you to keep me in your prayers. You are always welcome to Frenchs Forest Parish. Once again thanks to Vince and all of you. May God bless you. Fr *Satheesh Ramachanatt*

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We thank Fr Satheesh him for all he has done in the parish and wish him well in his new appointment at Frenchs Forest. Fr Clem Hill will be arriving in the parish on Friday. Please make him welcome. Fr Clem will be living at Lane Cove and working in the parish on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday each week.

FR SATHEESH'S FAREWELL MORNING TEA

Please join us to farewell Fr Satheesh on Sunday, 19th October. We will be holding a morning tea in Meeting Room 1 after the 10.30am mass. If you are able, please bring a plate. Thank you. *The Social Committee*



**Launching a new bible initiative:
A YEAR WITH TORAH**

This week's Torah portion is Genesis 1:1 – 6:8
Parishioners who wish to grow in their love of the Old Testament - the Hebrew Scriptures which Jesus knew and loved - are invited to undertake "A Year with Torah" (see explanatory page in this bulletin). By following the Jewish cycle of Scripture readings, starting with the first chapter of Genesis, we can read the whole of the Torah over the course of a year. Torah refers to the first five books of the bible, precious to Jews and Christians alike.

"Without the Old Testament, the New Testament would be an incomprehensible book, a plant deprived of its roots and destined to dry up and wither." (Vatican document: The Jewish people and their sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible)

WORD OF LIFE

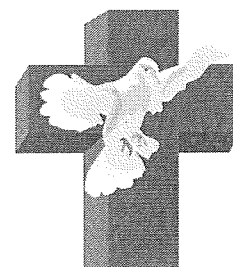
The October edition of "Word of Life" is now available in the main foyer, in both English and Italian. "Word of Life" is a monthly scripture-based reflection from the Focolare movement.

FIRST RECONCILIATION 2008

The next stage of our Children's Sacramental process commences this weekend.

Eligibility: Candidates must be baptized Catholics, 7 years or older. Reconciliation must be celebrated before First Communion.

Enrolment: Sat or Sun, 18 or 19 Oct 2008. In Harrington Hall after one of the following Masses: 5.30pm Saturday; 9.00am, 10.30am, 5.30pm Sunday. The Sacrament will be celebrated on Thurs 20 Nov at 5pm and 7pm. For a brochure detailing all the preparation steps, and for (blue) enrolment forms, see the Sacraments brochure stand in the main foyer of the church, or go to the parish website www.chatswoodparish.org.au. Enquiries: Tanya 0401066681, Mary 0439499292
Parish catechists, please bring this notice to the attention of eligible children. Many thanks.



O.L.D. ie S.

(Our Lady of Dolours, Seniors ~ Over 55's)

Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi

If you enjoy walking and sculpture this is a walk not to be missed. It is a coastal walk from Bondi to Tamarama and is Australia's largest annual outdoor free to the public exhibition of sculpture. The exhibition this year features over 1000 sculptures from seven different countries.

If any parishioner is interested to do the walk we will be meeting on the steps of our church at 9.30am next Friday 24th October. The plan is to take a train to Circular Quay and then catch a public bus (No. 380) to Bondi Beach. Ideas on what to bring are: sunhat, comfy shoes, refreshments and packed lunch.

Please contact Pamela Mawbey on mawbeypamela@hotmail.com or on 0416270615.

Just reminding parishioners of the complimentary luncheon for Carers being held by Willoughby City Council at the Dougherty Centre, **Wednesday 22 October**, 12 noon to 2.30 pm, to *thank Carers in our community*. There will be entertainment by Celtic Folk Band "Mothers of Intention" and Cheryl Koenig, author of "Paper Cranes" will discuss her inspiring story of a mother's hope and determination.

Bookings are essential – please call Louise Geaghan on 9777 7975.

Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? We are hoping to start a **Prayer Shawl Ministry** in the parish and are asking for expressions of interest. Please contact Danka on 9410 9032 or danka@chatswoodparish.org.au.

"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles ..." by Janet Bristow, one of the ladies who started this ministry in the US.

ROTARY AWARD

Danka Scenna, who co-ordinated the parish's World Youth Day activities, has been awarded the prestigious *Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award* from the Rotary Club of Chatswood. This is one of only five awards granted for vocational service from the Chatswood Community for 2008

This Award, initiated in 1972, highlights the members of our local community who performed their employed roles in an exemplary way, giving of themselves well beyond their statement of duties.

Danka was given the award for "the magnificent role she played in ensuring that the *World Youth Day* activities in the Chatswood Catholic Parish were an outstanding success".

Congratulations!

And thanks to Danka and all the parish team for all the great work they do for the parish.

Vince

YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION MINISTER

We have had a number of applications and will be short-listing and interviewing for the position in the next week.

HOME ROSARY will be held on Friday, 24 October at 67 Crows Nest Rd, Waverton at 7.30pm. Please phone: 9967 2601. All welcome.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good". 1 Cor 12:4-7

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The finance committee will be meeting on Tuesday 21st October in the Parish Offices.

BULLETIN ON WEBSITE

Did you know that the weekly bulletin can also be found on the parish website? Visit www.chatswoodparish.org.au and click on "Bulletin" on the top menu.



CATECHISTS COLUMN

- Term 4 has already started and the end of the school year is practically around the corner: only 6-7 weeks left. Hence, the organisation of the Christmas Assembly in each school is already on the way. Should anyone wish to get involved, please let me know.
- Our Catechists' bi-monthly Meeting will be held on Mon 20 Oct, after the 9:0'clock mass (Blue Room). Afterwards, we will have a farewell morning tea for Fr Satheesh who was teaching yr6 at Artarmon. Thank you for all your help Fr Satheesh!
- **Training - Cluster Evenings for Term 4 - 7:00pm-9:00pm - Location: Carlingford**
 1. Wed 22 Oct: "C" Teaching Strategies: Using Music in the Classroom
 2. Wed 29 Oct: "D" The Development of the Child and Adolescent 1
 3. Wed 5 Nov: "D" Classroom Management: Positive Discipline
 4. Wed 12 Nov: "D" Teaching Strategies: Listening & Questioning

These workshops are designed to further our catechists' faith, knowledge and confidence. Please contact Sonia: 9410 90 22.

CALL FOR CATECHISTS

A catechist in our Parish teaches Catholic Scripture (1/2 hr) in the public schools in our area. You may have, on several occasions, read in the Parish Bulletin, the 'Call for Catechists' notice and wondered what it is about. You may feel you would like to get involved but are not sure. If this is your case, give me a call and I will give you all the information you need to help you dissipate your doubts. Be assured that taking the "Word of the Lord" to His children is an extraordinarily rewarding experience! Please, call Sonia on 9410 9022.

NOVEMBER MASSES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

We have a strong Catholic tradition of praying for those who have died during the month of November. As we have in the past years, we will have cards on which to write the names of family and friends who have died. All Masses in the parish in November will be celebrated for these people. These cards will be available from 26 October 2008. Please place the cards in the box in front of the sacred space (in November).

BLESSING FOR HSC STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The HSC which started on Thursday and continue till 15th November. Please keep the students in your prayers. You may want to pray the pray below for them.

Loving Father,

We thank you for the gift to our community of those students doing the HSC and we thank you for giving them with a good education.

We ask you to bless them in their upcoming exams. Help them to do the very best they can, and to keep this challenge in perspective.

Remind them that you are with them throughout their exams, loving them, and hoping to work good things in their lives.

Fill them with your Spirit, so that they will use their education to make our society a more just place for everyone.

Father, we thank you for the gift of their families.

Bless them in all the support and love they give to their sons and daughters, brothers and sisters.

Fill them with wisdom of good counsel.

Ease any times of tension in their families.

Help them to set an inspiring example of love for each other.

We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord, who chose to lay down his life to show us how you love us. Amen

Prayer cards with a prayer for the students to say before their exams are also available at the sacred space. Please collect one and give it to a student you know.

BIBLE STUDY each Wednesday @ 7.30pm in No 1 Parish meeting room.

What a wonderful gift God has given us in His Word. This Wednesday we will study John 17 "The Priestly Prayer of Jesus", from the series "Come and See". The Gospel of John.

Each week we be studying a chapter of John's Gospel. We read the Bible, discuss questions raised in the Bible Study guide and any other questions that may arise and listen to a DVD. All welcome.

Jenny and Ray are the coordinators (enquiries 9412 1701)

*ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
CHATSWOOD CONFERENCE
ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING
JUNE 2008*

The past year has seen members of the Chatswood Conference, with the invaluable support of OLD parishioners, carry out the following activities:

Home Visitations:

No. of visits to the needy in Chatswood area	135
No. of people assisted in the Chatswood area as an outcome of those visits	255
No. of visits of Mathew Talbot Hostel for Homeless Men & Nursing Homes	98

Donations:

Christmas Appeal	\$11,500
Winter Appeal	\$16,000
Poor Box Receipts	\$ 6,500

Generous donations of clothing, linen, blankets and household goods of all kinds made to our five shops at Chatswood enable us to provide the necessities of life to those in need locally. The money made from the sale of donated goods by our shops funds our assistance to those in need taking the form of food hampers, food, electricity, telephone and water vouchers. We financially support some of our Society's special works such as the Mathew Talbot Hostel for Homeless Men and sheltered workshops which employ mentally and physically disabled persons.

"Twinning"

Chatswood Conference is "twinned" with a number of overseas Conferences: 3 in Indonesia, 2 in India and 2 in Thailand. Each Conference receives from us \$300 per quarter to help with their work amongst the poor in their local areas. We are "twinned" also with a Conference in the rural west of New South Wales suffering from the effects of prolonged drought. With our financial contribution of \$3,000 members of Conferences 'out west' can purchase local items most needed in their district. Our financial support extends to assistance for overseas students and scholarships to Mercy College, Chatswood.

Chatswood Conference wishes to thank Fr Vince, the other members of the clergy and all his team for their wonderful encouragement and support over the past year.

SECOND COLLECTION

It is the contributions to the second collection that run all the activities in the parish. In the last few years, although more has been happening in the parish, the amount collected has been decreasing. We would ask everyone to consider contributing to the second collection. The most consistent income for the parish is to contribute each week by taking a set of envelopes or each month by having an amount deducted from your credit card. The forms for each are near the windows in the main part of the church. Thanks to all those who contribute already.

RETREAT

As you know I recently did a "Life's Healing Journey" retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park. It was a very prayerful experience and I would recommend their retreats (from week-ends to thirty days) to everyone. I have left some brochures in the foyer or go to <http://towersretreat.abundance.org.au> Vince

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

A Celebrate Love Weekend is being held in our parish on November 22nd and 23rd. The seminar looks at the sacrament of marriage and the relationship between a husband and wife. It is not about problem solving or counseling but looks at the church's vision of marriage and presenting couples share from their experiences. Participating couples share only with their spouse.

For bookings and information call 9662.7272 or www.celebratelove.com.au

HUMOUR

A friend of mine has three boys, the youngest of whom, Gregory, had just started school. A teacher commented to Gregory that she couldn't believe he was already in first grade and asked him what his mother said she would be doing now that all the three boys were in school. "Cartwheels," Gregory answered.

MISSING DVD

For some weeks I have been trying to locate a missing parish DVD "Knowing God Better" which is part of the CaFE series. I understand it has been borrowed by a parishioner named Rosalie who attends the 10.30am Mass, but I don't have Rosalie's contact details. Rosalie, could you please contact myself or Fr Satheesh urgently about this DVD. If you are a parishioner who knows Rosalie, could you draw her attention to this notice. With thanks.

Teresa Pirola Ph 9410 9027

Outside the Parish

St Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society seeks volunteers to fill two vacancies that have arisen in our Interview Room on Thursday morning and one afternoon, for approximately 2 hours each. The Interview Room is in our shop at 287 Victorian Ave, Chatswood. We require empathetic persons who after some training are able to assist clients needing our help. The work is varied and rewarding. Interested? Please phone our Interview Room Co-ordinator, Mr Bill Robinson on 9451 1180.

St Thomas' Art & Craft Show

Saturday 25th Oct 9am-5pm, Sunday 26th Oct 9am-3pm. Professional Artworks for sale, Exquisite Jewellery, Lovely Gifts, Quality Homewares, Plants, Books, Delicious Gourmet Food, Cakes, Gelato, Coffee and BBQ Café. Loads of FUN RIDES & craft activities for kids. Plus centre stage entertainment with music and dancing. Cnr of Horsley Ave & High St Willoughby.

The John Berne School - Musical Evening

including classical, jazz and contemporary times and featuring performances by students from St. Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.

Date: Thursday, 23 October, 2008.

Place: Historic St. Brendan's Catholic Church, Annandale.

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: \$25 (adult); \$20 (groups 6+); \$10 (children & concession) Including Champagne Supper.

Book: Ph. John Berne School on (02) 9560 9260

An Invitation from Serra

Father Phil Hicks msc will be celebrating Mass for Serra at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Parish, Yardley Avenue Waitara on Wednesday 22nd October 2008, commencing with mass at 6.30pm then a meal and the talk at 7.30pm

For catering purposes would you please:

Telephone: Terry Scanlan 9488 7295 or 0438 887 295 or Kevin Fellow 9144 7156. Email: terry_scanlan@bigpond.com

Jesuit Refugee Service

Melbourne Cup Luncheon to be held at Dockside, The Balcony Level, Cockle Bay Wharf, on Tuesday, 4 November from 11.30am. Only \$120 p.p. Prizes, sweeps and Calcutta. For bookings and enquiries call 9356 3888.

Men's Faith and Life discussions - an evening for Men only

Following our very successful Men's Spirituality night we have decided to meet monthly for further informal discussions exploring any questions men want to raise. Initially we will look at contemporary issues like the balance between work and life, faith/beliefs and relationships.

Next meeting:

Tuesday evening, 7.30pm, October 21st,

Hawe Meeting Room, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 23 Yardley Ave, Waitara.

Please let us know if you are thinking of coming:

9483 2300, waitaraparish@dbb.org.au

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . Your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 31 October – 2 November 2008

Venue: Mt. Schoenstatt, Mulgoa, (nr. Penrith) NSW

For bookings/details contact: 02 9489 4523 or 02 4283 3435 Website www.wwme.org.au

CENTACARE - How Can YOU Contribute?

Did you know that Centacare provides professional care and support to over 10,000 children, young people, individuals and families in our Broken Bay Diocese each year? A comprehensive range of programs and services is offered from five Family Centres, in addition to a number of community based outreach locations including child care and accommodation for abused and neglected young people. Centacare Council members, appointed by Bishop David Walker and meeting in a voluntary capacity approximately 8-10 times each year, provide strategic advice and guidance for the work and future direction of the agency. **Do you have valuable skills to assist our Diocese in the important work?** Expressions of interest are currently sought from individuals committed to principles of social justice, and particularly those with expertise in the areas of governance and management, legal services, corporate relations, finance and business, risk management, human resources, marketing and public relations. Please contact Leigh Gorton on Tel: 02 9488 2410, or email lgorton@brokenbay.catholic.org.au to register your interest and for further information.



Compeer

a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society

Making friends. Changing lives

NSW winners of the 2007 NAB volunteer awards, Compeer is a program sponsored by the St Vincent de Paul Society which helps to break down the stigma associated with mental illness through friendship and social support. We currently need male volunteers aged 45 to 65 from the Lower North Shore. A small gift of your time can make a world of difference to someone who is lonely. Free training and ongoing support are provided and our next volunteer training course will be held on Saturdays 1st and 8th of November. Contact Emily Hayes on 9413 3091.

Young Men of God Conference

is being held at the Collaroy Centre on 24th to 26th October. Cost \$150.

The theme of the conference is "Young Men Rise Up". Presenters include Steve Lawrence, Tony Abbott, Byron and Francine Pirola, Fr Chris Ryan, Jonathan and Karen Doyle.

The YMG Movement is a movement of young men in the Catholic Church. It challenges them to be leaders in the church and world today; to come to their full stature in Christ by spiritual growth in Him; to walk with moral integrity exercising their freedom in Truth; to grow in purity of heart and the chaste life; and to support one another in coming to the fullness of identity as a man.

For more information contact Ben O'Heir on 0401 403 763 or go to www.ymgmovement.org

iWitness Conference

The Conference is being run from 21 - 24 November, for young adults aged 17-35 and with four days of talks, forums and festivities planned, spent at the beachside Collaroy Centre – you don't want to miss out! The iWitness Conference is bringing you some of the best speakers in Australia, including Cardinal Pell, Bishop Julian Porteous, Robert Haddad, Fr Tony Percy, Prof. Hayden Ramsay, Sister Mary Madeline OP, Peter Holmes and many more! All food, accommodation and activities are included in the early bird price of \$198 (if you register before October 21st, \$220 after that time). For more details email iWitness2008@gmail.com, check out the facebook group called "iWitness" or simply search for "iWitness Conference" in Google and visit our website!

Connect Northern Beaches is a group for young adults in their 20's and 30's based at Mary Immaculate Parish Manly. We would like to invite anyone who is interested to join us for two great events we having coming up in October.

Tuesday 28th October: Guest Speaker David Addington 7:30pm at the Mary Immaculate Parish Center, Corner of Raglan and Whistler Streets, Manly. The topic is: '**The Christian Call to Social Justice: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus**'. David Addington is the Chairman of the Northern Beaches Refugee Sanctuary who have assisted over 1200 Refugees from Africa to come to Australia from war torn and impoverished countries. It will be a 30 minute talk with question time and refreshments.

Soul Survivor Social Justice Weekend

Soul Survivor is a weekend that has been designed to bring together young adults from local Christian Churches to meet in faith and then go out into the community to be involved in a Social Justice Project. Registration is essential.

Friday 31st October - 7pm-9pm Worship, Teaching and Ministry at Belrose Uniting Church. This will be our opportunity to meet the people from the other Christian Churches involved in this powerful weekend.

Saturday 1st November - Social Justice Project in the afternoon then at 6pm we will meet back with everyone else for dinner and a celebration at All Saints Church, Balgowlah.

For more information please contact Emma @ connectnorthernbeaches@live.com.au or on 0402 852 913.

Position Vacant - Snr Youth Ministry Projects Officer

The position is responsible for coordinating national aspects of the pastoral care of young people; based in Canberra. Position is for 3 years, subject to completion of probation period. For position description and further enquiries, email pastoral.life@catholic.or.au or phone Bruce Ryan on 02 6201 9865. Applications close 24/10/2008.

Faith and Ecology Network (FEN)

presents - The Earth: Who Cares? People of faith do! They are presenting a series of interactive interfaith seminars "Earth: Our Common Home". 6.30pm – 8.30pm on Wednesday, 22nd October 2008 at Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. Nearest Station: Town Hall and Museum. Donation at the door. For further information, please contact: Anne Lanyon on 9352 8021

*'From out of Zion shall go instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem' (Isa 2:3)*

A Year with Torah

A way for Christians to grow in their love of God's Word

By Teresa Pirola

How familiar are you with the Old Testament? Sometimes we Catholics tend to skip over it, or treat it as being of secondary interest. When we do this, however, we lose sight of the foundations upon which the New Testament depends. One Vatican document puts it this way:

"Without the Old Testament, the New Testament would be an incomprehensible book, a plant deprived of its roots and destined to dry up and wither."

— *The Jewish people and their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible*

Our Old Testament Scriptures include the Hebrew Scriptures which Jesus himself knew and loved and prayed. How vital it is for us as Christians to know these Scriptures, and to keep refreshing our experience of them. How might we do this?

Here is something I tried over the past 12 months, which has helped me to fall in love with the Old Testament all over again...

Commit yourself to reading the whole of the Torah (the first five books of the bible) over the course of a year! It's not as scary as it sounds, and okay, you might not read *every* word, but at least dip into Torah, week by week. One way to do this is to draw inspiration from the Jewish people and their liturgical calendar which assigns a reading or 'Torah portion' for each week of the year. Their annual cycle begins anew this week with the first chapter of Genesis.

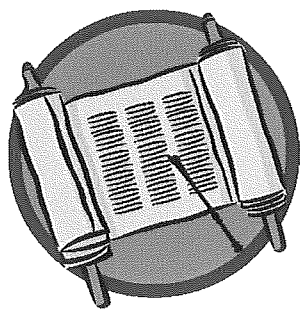
That's right, week by week you can follow the whole saga from creation of the world to the call of Moses, to the Israelites' escape from Egypt, their adventures in the wilderness, right through to their arrival at the Promised Land. Riveting stuff!

This week-by-week Torah reading has shown me bible passages I never knew existed, let alone contemplated. Yet they have always been right there in my own Christian bible!

Parish Tools

To assist your Torah journey:

- The Torah portion for the coming Saturday will be published on p.2 of our bulletin each week. (Of course, the Sunday readings from the Christian calendar will be published on the front page as usual!)
- To assist your Torah reading, take a copy of the leaflet "In the Light of Torah", at the back of the church. Initially these will be available monthly, increasing to weekly during 2009.
- For more Torah insights see www.batkol.info (click on 'Parashat Hashavuah' which is the Hebrew term for 'Torah portion of the week'). There you will find 2-page commentaries by Christians who study the scriptures with attention to Jewish as well as Christian sources.
- Purchase a Jewish-Christian calendar to inspire your Torah journey. This unique calendar, with photos of the Holy Land, has all the readings and feasts of both Jewish and Christian liturgical cycles. It can be ordered from www.etz-hayim.com for around \$15. See display copy in church foyer.



Try "a year with Torah", be persistent, and this time next year you will have worked your way through a core part of the Bible that is so precious to both Christians and Jews.