



Tea Tree Gully Parish - St David's Catholic Church

Incorporating - Our Lady of Hope Chapel - Greenwith

Under the care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

email: pp@stdavidsttg.org.au

8264 4694



25th February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent Yr B

Readings next weekend 3rd Sunday of Lent— Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

After the Bloom has Left the Rose

What is our deepest center? Normally we take that to mean the deepest part of our heart, the deepest part of our soul, our affective center, our moral center, that place inside of us which Thomas Merton called *le pointe vierge*. And that is a good way of imagining it. But there's another.

The classical mystic John of the Cross saw things differently. For him, the deepest center of anything is *the furthest point attainable by that object's being and power and force of operation and movement*. What does he mean by that? In essence, this is what he is saying: *The deepest center of anything, be it a flower or a human being, is the furthest point to which can grow before it dies*.

Take a flower for example: It begins as a seed, then grows into a tiny bud that sprouts into a young plant. That plant eventually bursts forth in a beautiful bloom. That bloom lasts for a while and then begins to dry out and wither. Eventually, what was once the substance of a beautiful bloom turns into seeds, and then in its very act of dying, the flower gives off those seeds to leave new life behind.

Thus, for John of the Cross, the deepest center for a flower is not its moment of spectacular beauty, its bloom, but its last moment when its bloom has turned to seed and it is able to give off that seed in its very act of dying.

There's a lesson in which goes against how we commonly assess things. When are we the most generative potentially? When do we have the greatest capacity to use our lives to give off the seeds for new life? What is our deepest center of growth?

Normally, of course, we think of the deepest center as the bloom, namely, that period or moment in our lives when a combination of good health, physical attractiveness, talent, achievement, and influence make us someone who is admired and perhaps envied. This is the time in our lives when we look our best and, as they say, are at the peak of our game. This is our bloom! The best we will ever look!

John of the Cross wouldn't denigrate that moment in our lives. Indeed, he would challenge us to be in that moment, to enjoy it, be grateful to God for it, and to try to use the advantages and privileges that come with that to help others. But, he wouldn't say this is the peak moment of our generativity, that this is the moment or period of our lives when we are giving off the most seeds for new life. No, like a flower that gives off its seeds in its very act of dying, we too are potentially most generative after the bloom has given way to the grey of age and our achievements have given way to a different kind of fruitfulness.

Imagine a young woman who is beautiful and talented and becomes a famous movie actor. At the height of her career, she is in full bloom and is given the gaze of admiration. Indeed, she is adulated. Moreover, in her life outside of the movies she may be a generous person, a wonderful wife, a dedicated mother, and a trusted friend. However, that bloom is not her furthest point of growth, her deepest center, that time in her life when she is giving off the most vis-a-vis generating new life. Instead, when she is an aged grandmother, struggling with health issues, her physical looks diminished, facing the prospect of assisted living and imminent death that, potentially, like the flower whose bloom has dried and turned to seed, she can give her life away in a manner that helps create new life in a way she couldn't do when she was young, attractive, admired, envied, and in full bloom.

A similar case might be made for a star male athlete. At the height of his career, winning a championship, becoming a household name, his envied youthful athletic image seen everywhere in ads and on billboards, he is in full bloom; but at that time, he is not optimally generative in terms of his life giving off seeds to bring about new life. That can happen later, in his old age, when his achievements no longer define him, and he, like everyone else, with his hair greying, is facing physical diminishment, marginalization, and imminent death. It's then, after the bloom has left the rose, that in his dying he can give off seeds to create new life. We tend to identify a spectacular bloom with powerful generativity. Fair enough, that bloom has its own importance, legitimate purpose, and value. Indeed, one of our challenges is to give that bloom the gaze of admiration without envy. Not easy to do, and something we often don't do well. The bigger challenge however is to learn what we ourselves are called to do after the bloom has left the rose.

Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction - this coming Saturday, the 2nd of March, after morning Mass until the end of Reconciliation.
"The love of God always reaches those who are willing to be found."

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Last Sunday we celebrated the Rite of Election at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.

Our catechumens, Lynette Keen and Yoin Shen, were enrolled in the Book of the Elect and called by the Archbishop to prepare for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and eucharist, which they will receive at the Easter Vigil. Their sponsors, along with our candidates and team members, joined them for this special occasion. Please continue to pray for our catechumens and



candidates as their journey towards the Easter sacraments.



Over the next three Sundays we will celebrate the Scrutinies as part of our Sunday masses.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR PARISH TEA TREE GULLY (2021)

- Total Population: 56,365
- Catholic Population: 8,561
- Catholics make up 15.2 per cent of the total population.
- Median age of Catholics is 47 years.
- Total Catholic families: 3,770
- 756 Catholics live alone.
- 2,110 Catholics were born overseas.
- 167 Catholics do not speak English well.
- 589 Catholics need assistance with core activities.
- 2,675 Catholics have changed address since 2016.

Oblate Youth SA
(all youth 16-30 are welcome!)

Youth Mass & Dinner
Sunday 10th March
St Pius X, Dernancourt
5:30pm Mass, Dinner to follow

Games Night
Tuesday 19th March
St David's, Tea Tree Gully
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Good Friday
Friday 29th March
St David's, Tea Tree Gully
More Info coming!



DIARY DATES

CHANGES TO PARKING NEXT THURSDAY

Please take note of the message at the bottom of the page regarding tree cutting next Thursday

PARISH LENTEN GROUP

Held in the Gerard Room from 7pm to 8pm, every Thursday during Lent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Held every Friday evening at St David's beginning at 7pm

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

1st March at 1.30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1215 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley (Lutheran Homes)

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES

Are available from the foyers.

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

After morning Mass Saturday 2nd March.

REGIONAL 2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

To be held at St David's Church Wednesday 13th March at 7pm

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

At Saturday Evening Mass 16th March at 5.30pm

OBLATE FORMATION WEEK

All our priests will not be here from 4th March through to 8th March. Please keep them in your prayers at this time.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY FEBRUARY 2024

If anyone is interested in becoming a leader, at either St David's church at 10.30am Mass Sunday or Our Lady of Hope Chapel at 9am on Sundays, please contact Amanda Bartels by email – gfdb@bigpond.net.au with your contact details.

CHILDREN'S/YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR

If you would like to join the children's/young people's choir, Parents, please email – Amanda Bartels gfdb@bigpond.net.au with your contact details.

ALTAR SERVERS

If your child has received their First Communion and Confirmation and would like to serve at Mass, please contact Fr James.

MINISTERS ROSTERS FOR ST DAVID'S These rosters commence next weekend. If you did not receive your copy via email, please ask Denise or David for a copy at Mass. Thank you.

TREE CUTTING NEXT THURSDAY

29TH FEBRUARY

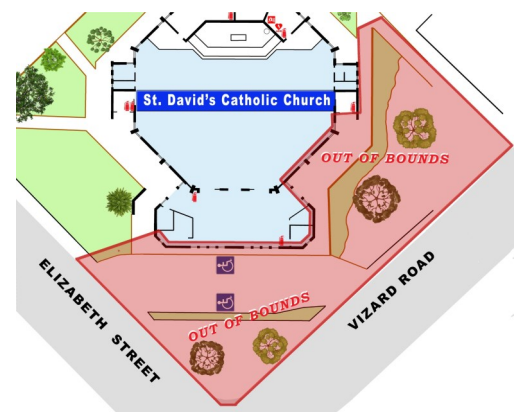
On Thursday 29th Feb commencing at 7.30am, there will be considerable trimming of trees that border Vizard Rd and Elizabeth St corner.

There will be trucks, processing equipment and trailers in the area.

Therefore, there will be NO PARKING on the slip road at the front of the church for morning mass people.

There will also be disruption to parking along Vizard Rd, and noise from chainsaws and mulching during the day.

Morning Mass will still be held at 9.15am, as this time will hopefully allow for workers to have a morning tea break.



TEA TREE GULLY PARISH

Parish Office Phone: 8264 4694 Email: secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au Web Page: <https://www.stdavidsttg.org.au>
Church Office & Presbytery: 2-4 Vizard Rd, Tea Tree Gully 5091 facebook.com/ttgparish
Our Lady of Hope Chapel: Cnr Golden Way & Golden Grove Rd, Greenwith. Contact via St David's Parish Office

STAFF

Priests: Fr James Jeyachandran OMI - Parish Priest (pp@stdavidsttg.org.au)
Fr Joshua Nash OMI—Assistant Priest (jnash@omi.com.au)

Office Manager/Secretary - Denise Crawford - secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au
Church Sacristan - David Reynolds - contact via Parish Office

Child Safe Contacts: St David's Church - Amanda Bartels - contact 0414255458 or Parish Office
OLOH - Leah Tunks - contact 0431049947 or Parish Office

CH&S Officer:- Rina Borlace— contact Parish Office

MASS TIMES

St David's Church **Weekday Mass times:** Monday - Saturday 9.15am Rosary - 8.50am daily
Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm, Sunday 7.00am & 10.30am
Our Lady of Hope Chapel: Sunday 9.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday morning after Morning Mass and Saturday evening from 5pm- 5.20pm.
Exposition: first Saturday of the month after morning Mass



Mass Intentions and Feast Days for week commencing 24 February 2024

Saturday 24: 9.15am -

5.30pm: - Pat Pearson RIP

Sunday 25: 7am: for the people of the parish

9am:

10.30am - Rozalia—Birthday in Poland

Monday 26: 9.15am -

Tuesday 27: 9.15am – Shirley & bob Gray -RIP

Wednesday 28: 9.15am– Martin Cullen - RIP

Thursday 29: 9.15am: John Banning - RIP

Friday 30: 9.15am - Prayer Book Intentions

7PM - Stations of the Cross

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

names are on the list for a short period, unless parish is notified

John Williams, Judith Murray, Ros Rimmer, Bob Culshaw,
Gloria Grew, Ron & Clare Cashin, Sally Perry, James Perry,
Pauline Read, Brenda Crawford, Colleen Wallace,
George and Mary Willcox, Cathy Cullen

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES

Fr William Byrne—OMI, Henrietta Van De Velde, Carstiana Nytschagen, Robert Benson, David Carnochan, Patricia Stone, David Irvine, Nova Molan, John Lear, Martin Cullen, John Banning, George Matthews, Michael O'Shaughnessy, Mary Hughes, Yerandahi Faramarzian, Dorothy Cashin, Joseph Padcale, Arshovir Khasiovan, Hedwig MacDonald, Frederick Hamilton



Vinnie's TTG Conference.

FOOD ITEMS REQUIRED: RICE, TINNED TOMATOES, TINNED SOUP, TEA BAGS

In the past week, here in our parish, Vinnies members responded to 29 calls for assistance and we can only do this work with your continuing generosity and prayers.

Many of you may have heard of Fred's Vans, which are one of the many facets of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. They are named after the founder of Vinnies, Frederic Ozanam and are an important part of Vinnies outreach to the poor in society. Their volunteers help break through the barriers of loneliness and isolation that many poor and homeless feel by providing food, blankets, toiletries, hot drinks and most importantly companionship and a sense of non-judgemental community to those with few friends.

Wasim Saman, *President TTG Conference*

Baptisms: Saturday 2nd March at 11am

Darcy Morgan, daughter of Rachel & Sam

Cleaners Roster: Feb 28-1 March - Group 5

please come to the Parish Office to collect keys—please note Thursday there will be tree cutting taking place.

Linen for March - R Davey

please take dirty linen, at least twice per week

Counting Roster: Next Weekend -3/3- Group 2

Morning Tea Hosts: 3 March

St David's - Sri Lankan families.

OLOH - Shaw

If you would like to help with any of these ministries, please contact Parish Office.