

Incorporating - Our Lady of Hope Chapel - Greenwith

Under the care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

8264 4694

email: pp@stdavidsttg.org.au

3rd March 2024

# Third Sunday of Lent Yr B

Readings next weekend 4th Sunday of Lent- 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21

# **Reindeer Games**

I hate crowds, at least most of them. I'm okay at football games, where a crowd has bracketed its sanity for a couple of hours for a cathartic release. But I hate those crowds that are caught up in a fever that feeds off group think, be that a cultural fad, a political ideology, a religious fundamentalism, an unconscious racism, a misguided nationalism, or hype of any kind. I fear such a crowd because, irrespective of whether its voice is coming from the right or from the left, conservative or liberal, one hears in it echoes of intimidation, crucifixions, lynchings, holocausts, assassinations, wars, suppression of other voices, and (today) teenage suicides from cyber bullying. Crowds take various modalities, but their bent and their energy are invariably the same.

One of my favorite authors is Czeck novelist Milan Kundera who, like me, hates crowds. In them, he sees something he calls "the great march", namely, a blind, mindless march toward a totalitarianism of some kind or other. Crowds with an ideological intent always end up there.

But this raises a question: What about crowds (marches, demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins) that have led to helpful social, political, and even moral change? What about the crowds Gandhi inspired? What about the crowds that followed Martin Luther King? What about the crowds that helped end apartheid in South Africa? What about the crowds that gather around *Black Lives Matter*? What about the folks that gather round a just cause and go to prison for their actions? Aren't those good crowds?

Yes, they are, but they are good precisely to the extent to which they are mindful and not mindless; that is, they are good to the extent that they are not caught up in a fever of group-think and their focus is on healing a sick situation as opposed to hating and crucifying whatever opposes them. That is why in such a crowd, both in its leader and in its overall ethos, you don't see hatred and violence.

Admittedly, you do see hatred and violence even within these crowds because a crowd by the very fact that it is a crowd will invariably have its rogue elements. But the hatred, violence, and anarchy you see then is not representative of that overall crowd. The Gandhis, the Martin Luther Kings, the Nelson Mandelas, and the Dorothy Days are the real face and ethos of any crowd which is genuinely bent on moral change. But not all crowds are mindful and so it's hardly a surprise that Jesus' crucifixion was incited by a crowd (ironically by the same one who just five days earlier was chanting that he should be their king). Crowd energy is fickle and mindless. That is why crowds are to be feared, irrespective of whether they are idolizing you or hollering for your crucifixion.

I'm not much of a poet, but sometimes something just lends itself to a different kind of language. So, stealing some lines from an old (mindless) Christmas song and adding my own little commentary, allow me to express my feelings about crowds in an attempt at a poem – which in good conscience you may disagree with.

## Reindeer Games

Rudolph, the red nosed reindeer, Had a very shiny nose And if you ever saw it, You would even say it glows. All of the other reindeer, Used to laugh and call him names. They never let poor Rudolph, Join in any reindeer games. Then one foggy Christmas eve, Santa came to say: Continued from front page

Rudolph with your nose so bright, Won't you guide my sleigh tonight? Then all the other reindeer loved him, As they shouted out with glee ... Rudolph smiled ... and then said reflectively: Forgive, dear friends, my reluctance To see this affection. Separate from the cruelty Mock difference – Crucify him! Exult triumph – Make him king! Hype is hype, Hysteria, Mindless and blind, Self-serving A reindeer game, With the crowd forever amazed and chanting Whether for a coronation, Or a crucifixion.

Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH THE TREE CUTTING AND REMOVAL OF WOOD AND SPREADING OF MULCH ON THURSDAY 29th FEBRUARY.. *Austral Tree Services Pty Ltd. 8283 3802* Special thanks to Roman, who actually did all the organizing and liaising with Austral Trees, who did a wonderful job. Roman also managed the volunteers along with Barry, our resident gardener. Roman organized the signs, letter drop to neighbours and

school, witches hats etc, all to comply with safety issues. They also had a surprise helper, well I think that is what he did?????? And I must thank our new Catholic Safety Officer, Rina, who organized all the paperwork for the jobs at hand. A well organized team effort



#### Congratulations

Deacon Luan came to celebrate his happy moments with our parishioners.

He was Ordained a Deacon on Friday 16th February in Melbourne. Photos are available from the Oblate web page.

He was very happy to share celebration with our parishioners, especially Fr James and Fr Josh, with whom he studied with in Melbourne.

We wished him God's Blessings and will continue to pray for his vocation. Of course, special thanks to Mirella!



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**

## **OBLATE FORMATION WEEK**

All our priests will be on formation session from 4th through to 8th March. Please keep them in your prayers at this time. Liturgy of the Word with Communion at 9.15am each morning.

## **MONTHLY GARDENING GROUP**

Meet every first Monday of every month to do a general clean up of the gardens around the church from 10am

## **DE MAZENOD FAMILY GATHERING**

This Monday 4th March at 6pm with shared dinner

## **VINNIES MEETING**

The next St Vincent de Paul meeting is Wednesday 6th March at 7pm New people thinking of volunteering are most welcome to attend this meeting. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month

## **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

## 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

#### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

#### **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 – <u>gfdb@bigpond.net.au</u> 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 <u>gfdb@bigpond.net.au</u> 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.

#### **De Mazenod Family Monthly Gathering**



Meeting Monday 4th March. Join us for a shared meal/fellowship, in a relaxed environment. After sharing a dimple meal and friendly conversation, we get to learn more about St Eugene De Mazenod, the Founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate—our Parish Priests. We meet on the first Monday of each month from 6-8pm in the church foyer. We are planning additional 'Get Togethers' throughout the year at other times for those who cannot come Monday evenings. Keep watching for updates in the Bulletin. This is an open invitation to everyone in our Parish. For further information—Joan 0407441126

#### SCRUTINIES FOR R.C.I.A.

Over the next three weekends, the Elect: Peta, Lynette and Yoin and their sponsors together with the Candidates: Nate, Emma, Carly and Michael and their sponsors, will join us at Mass and be invited to come forward after the Homily, where the parish community will pray with them on their journey towards the Easter Vigil. Please keep these people in your prayers.

#### **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

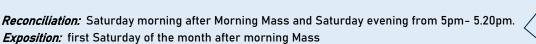
CH&S Officer:-Rina Borlace — contact Parish Office

#### MASS TIMES

St David's Church

Weekday Mass times: Weekend Mass times: Our Lady of Hope Chapel:

Monday - Saturday 9.15am Rosary - 8.50am daily Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm, Sunday 7.00am & 10.30am He are Sunday 9.00am



#### Mass Intentions and Feast Days for week commencing 2 March 2024

Saturday 2: 9.15am -5.30pm: - John Harte - RIP

Sunday 3: 7am: for the people of the parish 9am:

10.30am -

Liturgy with Communion each morning Monday 4: 9.15am -Tuesday 5: 9.15am -Wednesday 6: 9.15am-Thursday 7: 9.15am: Friday 8: 9.15am - Prayer Book Intentions 7PM - Stations of the Cross



## Vinnie's TTG Conference.

#### FOOD ITEMS REQUIRED: TINNED **MEAT&VEG, TINNED GREEN** PEAS, TEA BAGS, SPREADS, PASTA SAUCE

Our founder Frederic Ozanam said:

"Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring over books but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel and learning from their lips the causes of their woes."

As Vincentians we are called to serve the needy in our modern-day society.

The next meeting of the TTG conference is at 7pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March in St David's church foyer, everyone is welcome, please come and join us.

Wasim Saman, President TTG Conference

#### 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**

Caroline Orans, Mrs E MacDonald, Dorothy Lyons, Florence Watchman, Drago Sabljak, Tony Petrie, John Harte, Jean Carson, Lilian Robson, Jane Brown, Tony McNamara, Concetta Zannettino, Maria Holman, Howard Greening, Michael Carberry, William & Elizabeth Kelly, Aloysious Thissen, Giuseppe DiFava, Lida Calandro, Malcolm Read, Michael Harty, Bernd Hummell, Peter Lodge, Hilda Lynch, Ronald McDonald, William Craker, Antonius Kandelaars, Paul Whitaker, Desmond Roberts, Colin Campbell, Lino Geogan

#### Baptisms: Saturday 9th March at 11am

Francis Gilbert Murray, son of James & Stacey

Cleaners Roster: 6-8 March - Group 1 please come to the Parish Office to collect keys-

Linen for March - R Davey please take dirty linen, at least twice per week

Counting Roster: Next Weekend –10/3- Group 3

Morning Tea Hosts: 10 March St David's - Zotti, Corkill OLOH - Calleaj, McCallion If you would like to help with any of these ministries, please contact Parish Office. Remember you must obtain a Police Clearance to volunteer at the church.



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