



Pius News

1st Sunday of Lent Year A

5th March 2017

OF VIRTUE AND SIN BY FR RON ROLHIESER OMI

There's an axiom which says: *Nothing feels better than virtue*. There's a deep truth here, but it has an underside. When we do good things we feel good about ourselves. Virtue is indeed its own reward, and that's good. However, feeling righteous can soon enough turn into feeling self-righteous. Nothing feels better than virtue; but self-righteousness feels pretty good too. We see this famously expressed in Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The Pharisee is practicing virtue, his actions are exactly what they should be, but what this produces in him is not humility, nor a sense of his need for God and mercy, but self-righteousness and a critical judgment of others. So too for all of us, we easily become the Pharisee: Whenever we look at another person who's struggling and say, *There but for the grace of God go I*, our seeming humble gratitude can indicate two very different things. It can be expressing a sincere thanks for having been undeservedly blessed or can just as easily be expressing a smug self-righteousness about our own sense of superiority.

Classical spiritual writers like John of the Cross, when talking about the challenges we face as we walk the way of discipleship, speak about something they call: *The faults of those who are beyond initial conversion*. What they highlight is this: We are never free from struggle with sin. As we mature, sin simply takes on ever more subtle modalities inside us. For example, before initial maturity, what we've classically called the seven deadly sins (*pride, greed, envy, lust, anger, gluttony, and sloth*) express themselves in us in ways that are normally pretty crass and overt. We see this in children, in adolescents, and in the immature. For them, pride is plainly pride, jealousy is jealousy, selfishness is selfishness, lust is lust, and anger is anger. There's nothing subtle or hidden here, the fault is out in the open. But as we overcome these sins in their crasser forms they invariably take on more subtle forms in our lives. So that now, for instance, when we're humble, we become proud and self-righteous in our humility. Witness: Nobody can be more smug and judgmental than a new convert or someone in first fervour.

But sin too has its complexities. Some of our naïve ideas about sin and humility also needed to be critically examined. For example, we sometimes nurse the romantic notion that sinners are humble, aware of their need for forgiveness, and open to God. In fact, as a generalization, this is true for the gospels. As Jesus was preaching, it was the Pharisees that struggled more with his person and message, whereas the sinners, the tax collectors and prostitutes, were more open to him. So this can pose a question: Does sin, more than virtue, make us aware of our need for God? Yes, when the sin is honest, humble, admitted, and contrite or when our wrong actions are the result of being wounded, taken advantage of, or exploited. Not all sin is born morally equal: There's honest sin and dishonest sin.

As human beings, we're weak and lack the moral strength to always act according to what's best in us. Sometimes we just succumb to temptation, to weakness. Sin needs no explanation beyond this: We're human! Sometimes too, people are caught in sinful situations which are really not of their own making. They've been abused, made to live in sinful circumstances not of their own choosing, are victims of trafficking, are victims of unjust familial or social situations, or are too-deeply wounded to actualize their own moral faculties. In situations like this, wrong action is a question of survival not of free choice. As one woman described it to me: "I was simply a dog, biting in order not to be bitten." In these cases, generally, beneath an understandably hardened, calloused surface lies a still innocent heart that clearly knows its need for God's mercy. There's such a thing as honest sin.

But there's also sin that's not honest, that's rationalized, that's forever buffered by a pride that cannot admit its own sinfulness. The result then, most often, is a hardened, bitter, judgmental soul. When sin is rationalized, bitterness will invariably follow, accompanied by a hatred towards the kind of virtue from which it has fallen. When we rationalize, our moral DNA will not let itself be fooled. It reacts and punishes us by having us hate ourselves. And, when someone hates himself, that hatred will issue forth in a hatred of others and, more particularly, in a hatred of the exact virtue from which he has fallen. For example, it's no accident that a lot of people having adulterous affairs have a particular cynicism towards chastity.

Finding ourselves as weak and sinful can soften our hearts, make us humble, and open us to receive God's mercy. It can also harden our souls and make us bitter and judgmental. Not every sinner prays like the Publican. Virtue makes us grateful. Sin makes us humble. That's true. Sometimes.

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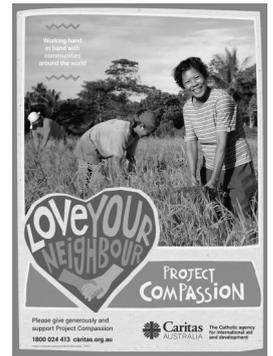


First Sunday of Lent 5th March 2017

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Today's readings bring us face to face with temptation, and a call to surrender ultimately to the graciousness of God's love. What a mixture of emotions and thoughts to encounter as we enter more fully into the Lenten season.

Pope Francis tells us that a selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity – as offered to Jesus in today's Gospel – leads to both the misuse of available resources and the exclusion of the vulnerable and disadvantaged.



In the Gospel, the same Spirit who baptised Jesus in the Jordan led him out into the wilderness, where he encountered self-doubt and was tempted to accept power over 'all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour'. Through prayer, Jesus was strengthened for ministry and service to go and 'be' the good news of God's mercy and love.

During Lent, the Church, through today's Gospel and the words of Pope Francis, invites us to take up the call to fast, pray and give alms. We pray that through our fasting, we will be strengthened to give alms. Project Compassion offers us a way to help our neighbours like Dinia in the Philippines to find healing and peace, and to know herself as a valued member of her community with a role in creating a brighter future for her children.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help people in rural areas of the Philippines build better futures for their families and their neighbours.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Lenten Bible Study *Understanding the Gospel according to Matthew*

Fr Jack Boog of Modbury parish is presenting this course on the Mondays of Lent in the Modbury Church, 50 Reservoir Road, Hope Valley, starting on Monday March 6th at 7pm. All welcome

Welcome Rite: This Sunday Evening at the 5.30pm Mass the following children will be presented to our Community as they prepare for their baptism this month: Alex Carter, Logan Clarke, Phoebe Klaebe, Dion Southerland, Isabella Sutherland and Noah Southerland. Please remember these children in your prayers.

Lectures on the Faith

Mons Robert Aitken will begin a series of lectures explaining the Catholic Faith on Monday March 20. The lectures are designed to give Catholics a better understanding of their Faith. They would also be of value to those who are not Catholic but are interested in knowing what the Catholic Church is and what it teaches.

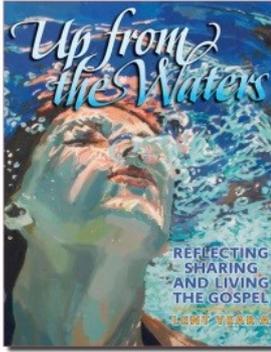
The lectures will be in the Cathedral choir room from 7.30pm-9.00pm. There is no cost. Phone 8295 2349 or 8431 7771 for more information.

Free organ recitals

Wednesday, March 8, 1pm – 1:30pm
Wednesday, March 15, 1pm – 1:30pm
St Francis Xavier's Cathedral

Christopher Trikilis, from Melbourne, will present the 8th and Adelaide's David Heah will give the 15th.

UP FROM THE WATERS



Lenten Reflection Books

Thank you to everyone who is taking part in this

LENTEN PRAYER/REFLECTON/DISCUSSION.

Please TAKE YOUR BOOK, and you can pay the **\$6.50** for the book when you meet together in your group. When you take your book, please INITIAL beside you name, so we know who has taken a book.

There is still time to join a group for this LENTEN PRAYER. You may do so simply by filling in one of the forms and handing it to either Fr Mathew or Fr John. If you wish, you may indicate your preference as to which group to join.

Lenten Discussion Groups start this Coming Tuesday 7th March. It's not too late to join a group—see one of the priests after Mass today.

Fr John OMI

Caritas Bay-City Fun Run – Mar 19

Caritas Australia has entered a team in the Sunday Mail Bay-City Fun Run called "Project Compassion".

For further information phone Angela Hart, Diocesan Director on 8210 8172 or email angelah@caritas.org.au

Birthline Telephone Counselling Course

Full training is given on a free 10-week Telephone Counselling Course from May 2 - July 4 on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm on all aspects of our organisation. Please email birthline@birthline.org.au or contact Grace on 0413 380 833.

Easter Raffle

The Easter Raffle will start on March 12th. Can you please help us by donating something to go in the baskets. If you would prefer, you could give Dot some money and she will buy the Easter goodies for you.

Thank you
Dot, Lou & Marie

Diary Dates:

Fridays in Lent: Stations of the Cross 7.30pm
April 4th: Regional Reconciliation at Modbury Parish 7pm
April 16: Easter Sunday

USED STAMPS HELP THE MISSIONS

Some practical things about how to prepare the stamps:

When you tear or cut off the stamps from the envelope, make sure to leave a good margin of paper around the used stamp. The perforation of the stamp **MUST NOT BE DAMAGED**. Leave about **4 millimetres** of paper around the stamp. You can be **GENEROUS** with how much paper you leave. The Used Stamps are sold by weight, so any paper left of the back of the stamp adds to the weight and 'value' of the stamp.

Thankyou,
Jenni Zupp.

40 Days For Life Lenten Campaign March 1-April 9 2017

Help Save Lives in Adelaide! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 725,000 volunteers world wide. After 19 coordinated campaigns—12,668 babies have been saved from abortion; 141 abortion workers have been converted; 75 abortion clinics have been closed.

Venue: Outside the Pregnancy Advisory Centre, 21 Belmore Terrace, Woodville

Vigil hours: 8am-6pm daily

For more information call Alan Tyson on 0412 389 875 or 8364 4516 or 0400 364 403 or email: itm54au@gmail.com or go to the website: <http://40daysforlife.com/Adelaide>. See the notice board for all details

Mass Times at St Pius X

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm
Tues & Wed 9.15am Mass
Thurs 9.30am
Fri 9.15am
 3rd Sunday of the Month 12.30pm Indonesian
 Mass

Daily Morning Prayer: Tues, Wed, Fri 8.40am
 Thurs, 8.55am

Rosary: Tues, Wed, Fri 8.55am. Thurs 9.10am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 11.30am-12noon

EXPOSITION: Fridays during school term
 time
 10am—12 noon
 6pm – 9pm



Today's Readings: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7;
 Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

Next Week's Readings 2nd Sunday of Lent
Year A: Gen 12:1-4; 2 Tim 1:8-10;
 Mt 17:1-9



PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH IN YOUR PRAYERS

Alan Birtles, Alan Hughes, Alex Stirrat, Alicia Prince, Alison Hellams, Anna Johnston, Anne McEvoy, Anthony Young, Anton Niemoeller, Ayyette Ramos, Barbara Stirling, Bernadette Thornton, Bill Adcock, Charles Greeneklee, Charlotte Johnstone, Cherri Hyde, Christine Brasser, Christine Gordon, Claudia Rose, David Beaven, Damian Canavan, Elisabeth Burns, Emma Altin, Eva McCarthy, Fr Alfred Farrugia, Fr David Shelton OMI, Fr John O'Doherty OMI, Fran Lewis, Geoff Monteleone, Georgina Evans, Gill Chuachett, Graham Hellams, Granville Davies, Greg Cashmere, Helen Durkin, Hermy Ramos, Herby Weber, Ian Roberts, Ian Wallace, Jackie Chin, Jason Luis, Jean Keanan, Jet Robinson, Josie Cinmino, Justin Rowe, Katie Correll, Kath Bradfield, Kathleen Duggan, Lara Luis, Lisa Johnstone, Margaret Baugham, Martin Cox, Maria Galinato, Maria Schinella, Marie Trainor, Marthese Cinelli, Mary Meatheringham, Maryrose Aquilina, Maureen Cunningham, May Green, Michael Frederick, Mollie Davidson, Moya Nussio, Murray Williams, Paddy McLean, Pat Durkin, Paul Halman, Peter Hale, Peter Kelly, Philip McKelliff, Ray Bragg, Renata Stirrat, Richard Walsh, Robert Kean, Roeben Johnstone, Ron Todd, Ros Venn, Stanley Sagucio, Tania Altin, Terry Bayldon, Theresa Sara, Tony Petrie, Tony Siciliano, Trish Hehir

Feast day of the Week

Sts Perpetua & Felicity Tuesday March 7th

Perpetua and Felicity were part of a group of five catechumens apprehended in Carthage in 203 A.D. for the practice of the faith. Perpetua was a well-educated twenty-two-year-old married mother with a nursing infant, and Felicity was her servant, herself seven months pregnant. Together they and their companions were imprisoned and roughly treated by the soldiers as they awaited their martyrdom. They resisted impossibly intense pressure to renounce their faith, choosing rather to be thrown to wild animals than turn their backs on their beloved Lord. They were taken to their deaths just after Felicity gave birth.



St Vincent de Paul Food Bank

This week—**WEETBIX, BREAKFAST CEREAL, RICE, FULL CREAM LONG LIFE MILK, PASTA, PASTA SAUCE,** Cans of Tomatoes, Jam, Milo, Vegemite.

Items for baby layettes: cotton vests, socks or booties, nappies, nappy pins, disposable nappies, cotton blankets, cotton sheets, towels, soap, wipes, wash cloths, baby shampoo, bibs, onesies, wool. Items can be left in foyer.

Thank You



Parish Prayer Network:

Prayers for any need.

All you need to do is call one of the following:
 Marie 8264 9569, Maureen 8261 6906
 or Beth 8396 2079

MINISTRY ROSTER 11/12 March 2017 6.30pm 9.30am 5.30pm

Ministers Please Note:	C Rod Hearn	C Helen Mysak	C Amy Bartjes
This roster follows the original	R1 Sr Pat Keane	R1 Bernadette Davies	R1 Terry Roberts
roster. If you have made any changes	R2 Anna Szczepanik	R2 Jos Hensing	R2 Alex Kaminski
they will not be reflected here. Please	EM1 Bill Edmonds	Em1 Charlie Baldacchino	Em1 Philip Matthews
check the notice board at the back of	Em2 Jaippee Paje	Em2 Joe Colangelo	Em2 Heather Hier
the church for updates.	Em3 Patricia Rice	Em3 Brigitte Colangelo	Em3Esmagagliardi
	Em4 Marie Smith	Em4 Sue Griffith	Em4 Ian Goss
	M James Lloyd	M Peter Roberts	M Michael & Tim Carter

Church Cleaners: Team H: Paras/Pascual/Weber/Crowe

Altar Linen: 12th March: Trish