

LENTEN journey of RENEWAL

As the Plenary Council prepares to meet in Adelaide in October, The Southern Cross asked members of the parishes hosting stational Masses this year what their hopes are for the Church in Australia.

Once more, the season of Lent is upon us, a special time for spiritual renewal, both individually and as a Christian community. During this graced time, we are called into a deeper relationship with the Lord, and are given opportunities to think deeply about what it means for us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent, proclaiming a time of prayer, fasting, acceptance again of the good news Jesus came to proclaim, and a deeper commitment in prayer and service to one another and beyond – to the world community and all of creation.

As we journey with Jesus towards the celebration of Easter and the joy of the resurrection, we are

invited to remember again our identity and dignity as Christians in the light of our baptism. It was baptism that named and claimed us as Christians, calling us to identify with Jesus and his good news. The God of Jesus is a God of infinite tenderness and compassion who longs to be close to us and present to us in all of life's experiences: the joys, the hopes, the griefs and anxieties, the isolations and the vibrant communities, the successes and failures.

In very recent times we have been challenged and overwhelmed by the devastating bushfires that have resulted in the loss of human life, the destruction of our flora and fauna, and the wiping out of businesses, family homes and livelihoods. It has been heartening to see the responses of so many people from a variety of backgrounds initiating events and activities to express concern and show solidarity to those most affected by putting their gifts and talents at the service of the community to raise much-needed funds to enable people to get back on

their feet. Despite the absolute burnt-out look of forests, it is possible to see fragile signs of new life, with leaves sprouting tentatively, and at times wrapping themselves around charred branches. The image of the phoenix rising from the ashes is a reminder of hope for new life and the tenacity of those determined to start again. In this process, buoyed by the solidarity and support of many people, those most affected and grieving will be able to take steps to recover and rebuild. It is both heartening and consoling to observe the very public acknowledgement of such griefs and that people seem drawn together to support one another in making some kind of sense of things.

In our Church, Lent is a time for consciously journeying together with renewed purpose and desire to 'come and see' where the Lord resides, and to be with Him on this journey. For catechumens, those preparing to be initiated into the Catholic community at Easter time, this Lent is a significant time for being with

the community, pondering the Scriptures, and deepening their relationship with and knowledge of the Lord.

In our Archdiocese during Lent, there is an opportunity in each deanery for parishes to come together to celebrate a stational Mass. This practice echoes a custom in the early Church where the Pope, as Bishop of Rome, would journey in pilgrimage to all the stational churches to mark the season of Lent with his people. All are invited to participate in these stational Masses. Perhaps this year, we may consider doing so as an expression of solidarity with those most deeply affected by recent events, and in a spirit of thanksgiving for all of creation in its beauty and fragility. As the phoenix rises from the ashes, so too, we will rise with Christ at Easter.

Kathy Horan
Liturgy Educator
Office for Worship

The Plenary needs to forge a path for us as Catholics living in a world in crisis, and part of a Church in crisis. We need to face the reality without flinching, and we need to go deeper in faith to see how God is calling us to offer the good news to the world at this time. Peter Laffan, Noarlunga



Thursday March 5 at 7pm
St Luke's Church
Cnr Honeypot Rd and Goldsmith Drive
Noarlunga Downs
Host: Fr Josy Sebastian MSFS

The future of our Church in Adelaide is a diverse community of faithful with multicultural values, traditions and practices. Little by little, we hope that the differences and varied faith practices will be accepted, instilled and integrated into the common local and host community practices and traditions. We dream of a diversified community journeying together with a common goal – to glorify God and to follow His basic commandment: *To love God and to love my neighbour.* Tom Jimena, Seaton



Wednesday March 11 at 7pm
Mater Christi Church
413 Grange Road, Seaton
Host: Fr Roger Manalo CS

My hope for the Church of the future is one of positivity, optimism and joy. The world and society are as fast changing as ever, and I pray the Church can embrace this challenge to continue to meet the needs of the people." Edward Bartels, Tea Tree Gully



Thursday March 26 at 7pm
St David's Church
2 Vizard Road, Tea Tree Gully
Host: Fr James Jeyachandran OMI

In Matthew 5: 14-15 we are told to be the light of the world; I hope to see a Church engaged in re-evangelisation programs at grassroots that will allow us to re-energise our lamp and become missionaries in our everyday life and allow our faith to shine before others like a lighthouse. Annarita Capurso, Payneham



Thursday March 12 at 7pm
Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
Cnr Marian & Portrush roads, Payneham
Host: Fr Allan Winter

The Church needs to truly acknowledge and accept responsibility for the former abuse that occurred in its care. My dad has an idea and I think it's a good one - a symbolic event for parishioners to partake in such as a candlelit procession in each capital city that would help show Australians that we as Catholics are truly sorry for what occurred. Carly Clarke, Nuriootpa



Wednesday March 25 at 7pm
St Rose of Lima Church
27 Mary Street, Kapunda
Host: Fr Mark Sexton

I would like to see a Church that it is in dialogue with all people and takes a stronger preferential option for the poor (materially and spiritually), in liturgy and in parish outreach. There is a challenge to follow Jesus and rediscover the radical edge of the Gospel being a humble, servant Church. Alison Gore, Glen Osmond/Parkside



Wednesday March 18 at 7pm
The Monastery
15 Cross Road, Glen Osmond
Host: Fr Denis Travers CP

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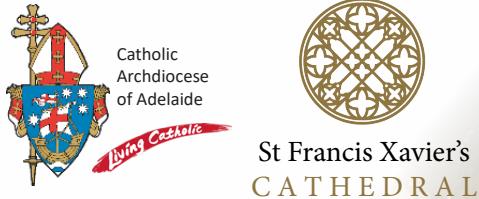
Fr Paul Turner

Fr Paul is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri. He approaches the celebration of the liturgy as both pastor and scholar, and brings to his presentations a wealth of practical experience.

ANZAC DAY VIGIL MASS

Friday, April 24 at 5.45pm
St Francis Xavier's Cathedral

Following Mass there will be a procession to the War Memorial on North Terrace



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