



**LENT:** Wednesday next, 26th February, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the forty-day period of Lent this year. Ash Wednesday is, of course, a day of both fast and abstinence. In passing, Passion (Palm) Sunday falls on the 5th April, the same day that Daylight Savings ends at 2.00am (which becomes 3.00am). Easter Sunday occurs on April 12th, that being the first full moon following this year's Autumnal Equinox (that day when both day and night are an equal 12 hours). Following this year's Easter Sunday Masses, I will be leaving this parish into retirement as has been previously arranged with the Diocese.

Lent is THE annual time of repentance, in which we are each expected to review our present lives and, where necessary revise, or at the very least, renew our Christian commitment to God and our neighbour. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both days of fast and abstinence in which the law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until they have reached their 60th year; the law of abstinence (from meat) binds those who have completed their 14th year.

Catholics are obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday. We are also obliged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (penance) within the same period. During Lent you will notice that the 'Alleluia' and 'Gloria' are omitted at Mass, even when celebrating solemnities and feasts. Please note that ashes will be distributed during both the 9.00am and 7.30pm Masses to be held at Blackheath on Ash Wednesday.

**PANCAKE SUNDAY:** As stated in last week's Bulletin, and is our normal practice, we have brought forward to today Shrove Tuesday's celebration of pancakes!! These will be available after Mass during our social get-together. Syrups and sugar will be provided FOC.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** All funds from today's pancake sale and other activities undertaken during this Lenten/Easter period will be forwarded to Caritas once Easter concludes. While on that subject, the Caritas empty coin boxes are available for your collection today to take home, to fill with spare change and return to us by Easter Sunday.

**LENTEN GROUPS:** While interest in forming one of these groups is still at an all-time low, we have taken the liberty of purchasing a few self-explanatory Lenten Booklets available from the brochure stand without cost – one copy per family. There are no reserve stocks!

**CHARLES EDWARD HODGKINSON:** Sadly, I have to advise that yet another of our great parish stalwarts departed this life last Monday morning. He therefore follows in the footsteps of his much loved wife Barbara who also departed this life only on the 23rd August last year. Most active in the life of this church and community, the priest's chair is a very good example of his woodworking skills as he built this lasting monument to his presence among us. Every time we look at that chair, we think of Charles! The father of Lance Hodgkinson and father-in-law to Lance's wife Julie, Charles left a wonderful legacy to us via the works ethics of both Julie and Lance who do so much of benefit to this parish and its parishioners. A funeral service for Charles is to be held at Sacred Heart Blackheath this coming Thursday (27th February) from 11.30am followed by a wake to be held in the parish hall. Vale Charles! Together, may you and Barbara forever rest in God's love and peace!

Finally, we introduce for her first visit today Patrice Moriarty, Diocesan Social Services Director who is to introduce herself to us after the 'homily'. You are most welcome, Patrice!

God Bless! Fr. Bob

PLEASE PRAY for the sick and their carers: John & Marion Crowley, Shielagh Kirkham, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, Ray Wood and Elizabeth Farrar's daughter Emma

**PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY**  
Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Go Further Together". Your generosity will assist some of the world's most vulnerable communities to lift themselves out of poverty. When we Go Further Together in love and compassion, the whole world thrives. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).

**FATHER BOB'S INTIMATE GET TOGETHER**  
You are cordially invited to join in a very special celebration of Fr Bob's birthday, and to wish him a big 'THANK YOU' and farewell for being our Pastoral Light for the past 11 years.  
When? Sunday 15th March 2020 from 6.00pm onwards  
Where? Blackheath Golf Club  
Cost: \$20 ph (includes finger food)

Tickets are now available after Mass or at the parish office, or you can contact the office staff during office hours. (see notice-board)



*Payment is due before function please*

*Happy birthday*  
23rd Janet Lamerton  
23rd Diana Landsberg



**UPDATE REGARDING PARISH TRANSITION PROCESS**

Update regarding Parish Transition Process  
Bishop Vincent has invited us into a time of prayerful discernment. Learn more about what we are being asked by viewing the background paper. We are consulting with the whole community, through individual questionnaires, small group sessions (please indicate your interest), meetings with parish groups, and longer meetings with Fr Bob, Fr Paul, parish staff and pastoral council and finance committee. The questionnaire is available both in the church and online at <https://tinyurl.com/blackheath2020> (address corrected from last week). The report is also now available from the parish meeting held on Sunday 9 February. Let us continue to pray for each other and care for one other during this period of discernment. Kind regards, Richard.

**COFFEE CAPERS ~ Wednesday March**  
4th we are going to the Old Post Office Cafe. 12 Noon  
2 Old Bathurst Rd., Hartley.  
All welcome. Please contact Elizabeth Doolan on 47875537.

**WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT:**  
28 February – 1 March Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa Lenten Retreat from 28 February at 6pm to 1 March at 4pm. If you are looking for some quiet time to prepare for Easter and reflect on the role of women in today's Church and society, then this weekend is for you! For booking forms and payment, please contact (02) 4773 8338 or [info@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:info@schoenstatt.org.au).

**CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE**  
Government-funded Home Care Packages. Catholic Healthcare's local Care Advisors can work with you to create a customised support plan. Get a quote on 1300 734 350.

**REST IN PEACE**  
23rd William (Bill) Grieves  
26th Rita Jenner (2017)  
27th Ken Kirkham (2017)  
28th Anthony Gilchrist (2015)

