

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE REVIEW: Now over, last weekend's two-day sale netted our parish the amazing sum of \$5,422.20 (not a final figure!). Given that we expected about \$4,000 at most because of the heatwave, the result, though not record-breaking, is none-the-less way above expectations. Mind you, the collection of saleable stock has been going on for many months past with a huge acceleration in that work after Christmas. Marilyn, Paul and their "team" personally visited a number of homes and other places to physically manhandle stock into their trailers which were then unloaded at the parish hall with other's help, too!. This Parish survives through the efforts of its volunteers and never has this been more evident than on this "tough" occasion. Huge thanks to everyone involved in every facet of this year's Annual Garage Sale. Well done, indeed! Disposal of leftover stock is always a problem for us – not so this year with the Blacktown Sudanese community taking what was left!

SPECIAL "VINNIES" BUSHFIRE APPEAL: The Blackheath Vinnies' Treasurer has advised us that the special collection held on Australia Day raised an extraordinary \$1,872.40. This, of course, is in addition to already donated funds from this community. How special is that!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Yesterday (Saturday 8/2) was the Feast Day of a lesser-known great saint, Saint Josephine Bakhita, who was enslaved in her childhood, passed through a number of brutal owners over many years, was eventually freed, joined a religious order in which she lived a saintly life and died in 1947 aged 79 years. Saint Josephine was canonized in 2000 by Pope Saint John Paul II. This year is the 6th International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking undertaken by the Church. Pope Francis considers this to be a global phenomenon in which millions of people today, children, women, men of all ages are deprived of all freedom and forced to live in conditions akin to slavery. He considers this problem to be beyond the competence of any community or nation to resolve, hence this mobilization of awareness and prayer on a world scale by the Church. Please pray for those afflicted with this deprivation of freedom!

MUSIC PLANNING FOR EASTER: Joe Blansjaar is seeking support from those who might wish to be part of this moving commemoration? The music group is particularly in need of higher voices and maybe a violin or woodwind (clarinet or oboe). There will be some rehearsal prior to Easter, though the details can be worked out with those involved. The Triduum is at the very heart of our church life, so if you can help, please contact Joe at your early convenience. Many thanks in advance for your contribution!

THE "BLOOD" OF THE EUCHARIST: On this Wednesday evening, I have just been advised from Parramatta Diocese that until further notice there will be NO DISTRIBUTION OF "BLOOD" (wine) DURING ANY MASS celebrated in this Parish. Also, there will be no Sign of Peace exchanged during the Mass. My apologies, everyone – and you may be assured that I will let you know as soon as this embargo is lifted.

AUSTRALIA DAY APOLOGY: In last week's Bulletin, I commented on our (Catholic community's) lack of support for Rotary's day-long bushfire entertainment held at the Blackheath cricket ground. One of our parishioners thought I was referring to the entire day's events – nothing could be further from the truth for it seems to me that a most enjoyable time was had by the many who did attend. Just not us! Ouch!

God Bless! Fr. Bob

RIP John Hollingdale, Megalong Valley Parishioner, passed away Friday 7th February 2020

CANCELLED - World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February Due to the coronavirus, the World Day of the Sick Mass scheduled for 11 February has been cancelled. Apologies .

FIRST AID QUALIFICATION ~ If you hold a current first aid qualification and are willing to go on a parish list of qualified first aiders, could you please advise Marilyn or John Tweedie or phone or email the office on 4787 8540 / Oblackheath@parracatholic.org .

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

REACH BEYOND: BECOME SIMPLY RICH....

All trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. They're not asking for money or gifts that contribute to degrading dependence. Your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation and support. You will be rewarded with riches greater than you might imagine.

Look at www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0422472567, or email palms@palms.org.au

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 noticeboard)



Payment is due before function please

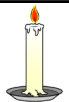
PARISH GATHERING – Consultation Commences. You are warmly invited to attend a parish gathering at the Parish Hall TODAY, following the 9.30am Mass and concluding at 12.30pm. As you know, we are being asked by Bishop Vincent Long to discern and recommend our preferred models of leadership following Fr Bob's retirement in April. At this gathering, the process for consultation will be outlined as to how we will listen to the hopes and dreams of the whole community. You will also have the opportunity to share your own feedback. Also at this meeting, the process for separate consultations with Fr Bob, parish staff, and various parish groups will be shared, as well as the different means by which you and others can offer feedback. Our gathering will be facilitated by Richard McMahon and other members of the Parish Transition Working Party.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA Long after slavery was officially abolished, the practice not only continues but thrives. Whether they are women in electronics, children on cocoa farms or men in bonded labour on construction sites, millions of people globally, including Australia, are forced to perform labour through coercion, intimidation or deceit.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. We are encouraged to pray for all those affected by the crimes of modern slavery and human trafficking, and for the people who volunteer and work for the eradication of these crimes.

REST IN PEACE

10th Frank Farsaci
15th Sarah Frazer



Happy Anniversary
9th Joe and Diana Landsberg



Happy birthday
11th Kenya Burke
14th Betty Zeman (b 1927)

