

PARISH HALL & PARISH FINANCES

The good news announced recently is that the debt on the Parish Hall will be paid off by the end of this year. That means that donations to the Hall Building Fund will no longer be tax-deductible after December 31st 2022, however donations **before December 31st** will still be tax-deductible. We are required to abide by Australian Taxation Regulations.

This achievement is a tribute to parishioners who have regularly contributed (by direct debit, cheque or cash in the second collection) since the Hall was built in 2008. The \$250,000 loan from the Archdiocese was a 20-year loan but will be paid off in just 14 years

All parishioners should know that the first collection at Mass goes to Fr Francis for his personal expenses, or to his successor when Francis leaves the parish. The second collection goes to the Parish for it to continue to operate. General expenses for the Parish include insurance, rubbish collection, electricity, water, telephone, printing, cleaning costs and the wages for Andrena, our Parish Secretary, who does a magnificent job in helping to run the Parish. The total cost for operating the Parish is between \$100,000 and \$120,000 every year. That's about \$2000 a week. Sincere thanks to all parishioners who financially support Fr Francis and the Parish. Your generosity is appreciated. Please continue to support both Fr Francis and the Parish through your regular donations.

DICK FINUCANE

HELP REQUIRED

Mary Kate has reached out for helpers as follows: In the Parish we require some help with the following tasks:

- To provide a lift to Mass for an elderly parishioner from Murray Rd to the Church and home again on Sundays for 9.45am Mass.
- People to assist some parishioner with gardening work.

If you can help in any way please contact Bernard Landro. Kindly find his contacts below:

Bernard Landro (Chairperson –pastoral council) - Email: blandro@iinet.net.au
Mob:0418 955 610

THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE

When people of faith read passages from the Bible they usually focus on the teachings and lessons that the Bible endows and tend to forget that the Bible, as a collection of books, is a supreme work of literature. It will not surprise anyone that the Christian Bible is the most sold and most read book in history. It has been a source of inspiration for authors, artists and musicians for centuries.



The authors of the books of the Bible have employed a wide range of different literary genres in their works: narratives, biographies, psalms, songs, parables, poetry and others. When we study a particular book we are discovering what is already in the text. Professor Leland Ryken has summed it up by saying: "It is the writers of the Bible who have given us a literary Bible, so the origin of the concept can be traced back to them."

The Gospels of the New Testament provide great examples of "showing" rather than "telling" us how God wants us to live our lives. This was a technique often used by Jesus himself in his parables, such as "The Good Samaritan" and "The Prodigal Son". The parables were stories that clearly illustrated what Jesus was teaching and what he wants his disciples to imitate – "Go and do the same".

The Christmas Nativity, that is the birth of Jesus, is a beautiful example of the value of teaching through telling the story. All the details of the Nativity Story are so well written that they are easy to visualise. They are an artist's or filmmaker's dream. They also compel us to consider deeply the true nature of Jesus.

Dick Finucane



THE FEEM WEEKLY

(FEEM = Faith Enrichment & Evangelising Ministry)

AN INCLUSIVE WELCOMING PARISH FAMILY

Vol 01 Issue 43, CHRISTMAS YEAR A
Weekend 24TH/25TH DECEMBER 2022

VISION STATEMENT
Christ's Love in Action

MISSION STATEMENT

Meeting Christ as All in all through: Our relationship with others in creation, Seeking God in the stillness, Embracing the Good News of the Gospel, Accepting the challenges of the Cross, The power of the Holy Spirit and the *Intercession of Our Lady of Fatima*



Our Lady Of Fatima Catholic Church

10 Foss Street, Palmyra WA 6157.

Parish Priest: **Fr Francis Ughanze**

Email: emyfrank@iinet.net.au

Website: olfpalmyra.org.au

Direct: 0418 550 119

Parish Secretary: **Andrena Inopulos**

Email: emyfrank@iinet.net.au

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri:

10.00am - 4.00pm

Office Phone: 9339 1298

Our Lady Of Fatima Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Councilors:-

Bernard Landro (Chairperson) - Email:

blandro@iinet.net.au Mob:0418 955 610

Carl Carcione, Ugo Landro, Pauline

Sweeny, Lorraine Szczyzyk, Joe Terrible

& Stefano Zagami.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

3 Harris Street, Palmyra WA 6157.

Principal: **Jacinta Petersen**

Email: Jacinta.admin@olof.wa.edu.au

Office Phone: 9333 7900

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS:

Margaret Matassa: matassa@bigpond.com

Bernie Keane: bernieandanto@yahoo.com.au

GOSPEL COMMENTARY

THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE MOTHERHOOD OF MARY, AND THE FATHERHOOD OF JOSEPH

All world's miracles begin with the birth of a child and the motherhood of the mother, and the fatherhood of the father.

Motherhood here is used in its literal and metaphorical sense: every woman has the potential to be a mother whether or not she is gifted with biological motherhood. Every woman, to a satisfactory degree is instinctively maternal with care and concern for the child.

When the Christian world talks about needing a saviour in the child Jesus, it is affirming, sometimes unthinkingly, the need to acknowledge the metaphor that only as a child, can we change and save ourselves and the world.

The second element, which must be present in any salvific mission is motherhood. Without the love, care, compassion, kindness, patience, of motherhood, salvation is impossible.

The third element, which is inextricably linked to motherhood is the fatherhood of every man, with the ability to reason and reflect properly on such awkward moments as can stand in the way of salvation. There are many such moments.



MASS TIMES

Saturday: @ 9.00am & 6.30pm (Vigil).

Sunday: @ 7.30am, 9.45am & 6.30pm.

Monday & Thursday: @ 9.00am

Reconciliation: Available on request or 5.45pm Saturdays

CHRISTMAS JOY— THE JOY OF HEAVEN

A Christian priest from a Muslim family reaches out across the chaos and poverty of a deeply divided Lebanon.

Fr Madji Allawi is a high profile figure in Lebanon. He has often found himself at odds with the political and social establishments. Once, offering shelter to sex workers landed him in prison, as



the prospects of losing business angered powerful prostitution ringleaders, who pulled strings to have Fr Allawi put behind bars. On other occasions, he has become unpopular for rescuing children off the street. Allawi has feigned the fatherhood of children born to single mothers, to ensure a baby has a birth certificate and full legal rights (perhaps more eyebrow-raising is the Lebanese authorities' nonchalance towards a married priest seemingly fathering numerous children with different mothers).

Fr Allawi's spirituality is intense. He occasionally interrupts himself, eyes illuminated, to simply say, "I love God". Christ taught him, he says, to see the world "as beautiful, and nothing as bad". At the start of the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Allawi hired a plane to fly over Beirut. Armed with a cross, a statue of the Blessed Virgin and a monstrance displaying the Blessed Sacrament, he prayed for God to protect the nation and heal those infected.

"Religion gathers people, God gathers people," Fr Allawi tells me. He is determined to counter the sticky web of politics and religion spun by Lebanon's ex-warlords-turned-leaders, who warp the power of faith into the power of coercion, greed, and authoritarianism. "Jesus came here to serve people, not to be served. All the leaders came here to be served—not to serve people: the opposite of Jesus."

ROSABEL CREAN: THE TABLET

JOURNYING WITH POPE FRANCIS

May Our Lady take us by the hand, like a mother. May she take us by the hand in these days of preparation for Christmas, and help us recognise

in the smallness of the Infant, the greatness of God who is coming. **18th December 2022**

"The highest dignity of the human being consists of bearing witness to the truth, following one's own conscience at all costs, without duality and without compromise. This means being clear, transparent people, being sincere, communicating with others in an open, clear, respectful way. In this way one contributes to spreading light in the environments where one lives, making them more humane, more liveable." **21st December 2022**

"Let us also pray for peace in Peru, that the violence in that country might cease and that the path of dialogue might be embarked upon to overcome the political and social crisis that is afflicting the population **19th December**

"Perhaps we lament over some dreams that have been shattered and we see that our best expectations often need to be put together with unexpected, disconcerting situations... We do not need to give in to negative feelings, like anger or isolation – this is the wrong way! Instead, we need to attentively welcome surprises, the surprises in life, even crises. When we find ourselves in crisis, we should not make decisions quickly or instinctively, but let them pass through the sieve... When someone experiences a crisis without giving in to isolation, anger, and fear, but keeps the door open for God, He can intervene. He is an expert in transforming crises into dreams – yes, God opens crises into new horizons we never would have imagined before, perhaps not as we would expect, but in the way He knows how. And these, brothers and sisters, are God's horizons – surprising – but infinitely more grand and beautiful than ours! May the Virgin Mary help us live open to God's surprises." **20th December 2022**



THE NEW PRIEST FOR PALMYRA is FR BENE-DICT LEE. He is currently the parish priest of St Joseph's Bassendean. He is from South Korea. He was ordained in Perth in 2002. He has served in Scarborough and Wanneroo parishes.

ANNE BOOTH ARGUES THAT THE NEW "I CONFESS" IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY UNHEALTHY FOR ALREADY VULNERABLE PERSONS.

Every Mass I go to, I find myself praying that the celebrant will use the "Lord, Have mercy" form instead of the "I confess", because I don't want to dramatically claim that I have "greatly" sinned

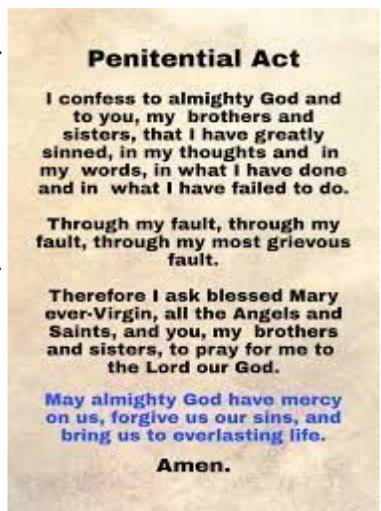
"through my most grievous fault" since my last Mass. I recently stayed in a convent and heard the nuns proclaim this every day. I told my friend, one of the nuns, that surely they couldn't all have "greatly" sinned in the 24 hours since the last Mass, and she laughed.

What was wrong with the old form? It was humble and accurate—we truthfully confessed that we had sinned, in thoughts and deeds, in what we had done and what we had failed to do. That's bad enough, surely? Unnecessarily adding the words "greatly" and "grievous" only weakens the impact of the word "sin" - in the earlier version we confessed that we had all sinned in lots of ways, without adding the dramatic implication that those sins were always serious and "grave". We fall short every day of all that we could be, of course; but I don't think it's truthful or healthy for us, confessing at every Mass, to always use words more appropriate to describing serious sin. It's not hard to tip vulnerable people who are already feeling confused and guilty into despair. Something isn't right. [Think about it]

ANNE BOOTH - THE TABLET

OLOF CHRISTMAS HAMPERS RAFFLE

Tickets for our Christmas Hamper and Christmas



Cakes will be on sale at this weekend's and next weekend's Masses. The Hampers will be on display at ALL Masses.



Many thanks to you ALL, who have so generously donated the products used to produce the Hampers. There will be one large Christmas Hamper as:

1st Prize, plus seven(7) other smaller Hampers for selection for the next prize winners. There will also be three(3) Christmas Cakes, all 'up for grabs', WOW, a great effort by ALL involved!

Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, great value for so many wonderful prizes, with ALL funds used for next year's OLOF Centenary Celebration Events.

A special thanks to Tania Herbert and Lisa Platt, for so beautifully assembling and wrapping the Hampers, to Teresa Finocchiaro for baking the Christmas Cakes and Ana Rebelo for the crocheted hats and headbands. **Ugo Landro—**

Our Lady of Fatima Community Photo

We are appealing to anyone in the Parish who may have photos or taken photos or know of anyone with photos of past events and celebrations held in the Parish Hall over the last ten years, to kindly contact either by Josephine's email: jopurple@westnet.com.au or Pauline's email – pburwood@gmail.com.

We thank you in anticipation.

Pauline Burwood

A MARCH-WORLD-YOUTH-DAY EVENT IN PALMYRA

The Archdiocesan Catholic Ministry is proposing to hold a World Youth Day event in March 2023 in conjunction with the Parish's Centenary Celebrations.. It is intended to include a hike from the University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle campus, to Palmyra Parish,. This will be followed by a youth Mass, a movie screen night, a sleep-out in the Our Lady of Fatima Primary School oval. It is the hope that our new video and audio system will offer an excellent partner to this event. More details will be put out in due course.

