

**First Sunday of Lent**

**5th March 2017**

**Entrance Antiphon:** When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**First Reading from the book of Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans 5: 12-19**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God,. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!!

**GOSPEL: According to Matthew 4: 1-11**

**Communion Antiphon:** One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

## **LENTEN PENANCE**

### **DAYS OF PENANCE**

Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

- (a) prayer—for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
- (b) Self-denial—for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
- (c) Helping others—for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

**LENT LASTS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY (1/3/17) TO THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER EXCLUSIVE (13/4/2017) ON GOOD FRIDAY, AND IF POSSIBLE, ALSO ON HOLY SATURDAY UNTIL THE EASTER VIGIL PASCHAL PRECEPT**

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (1/3), and Trinity Sunday, (11/6) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

## **St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy**

*We are a community striving for growth, unity, equality, love and commitment*

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Administrator:</b>         | Rev. Andrew James  |
| <b>Assistant Priest:</b>      | Rev Thomas Alukka Varghese   |
| <b>Permanent Deacon:</b>      | Rev. Mr. Al Salu   |
| <b>Secretary:</b>             | Mrs. Anne Bennell  |
| <b>Parish Office Hours</b>    | Mon 10.00am—3.00pm<br>Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm                         |
| <b>Address:</b>               | 205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173   |
| <b>All correspondence to:</b> | <u>PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875</u>  |
| <b>Website:</b>               | <a href="http://www.stchristophers.org.au">www.stchristophers.org.au</a> |
| <b>Email:</b>                 | <a href="mailto:stchris@tpg.com.au">stchris@tpg.com.au</a>               |
| <b>Tel:</b>                   | (02) 9825 1679   |
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### **St Christopher's Catholic School—*Through faith and love we serve***

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Principal:</b>   | Mr. Tony Boyd                    |
| <b>School Tel:</b>  | (02) 9825 3251                   |
| <b>School Mail:</b> | 195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173 |

## ***First Sunday of Lent— Year A***

***5th March 2017***

### **First week of Lent**

A strange thing has happened in our society. People have started to argue the logic of their position by simply referring to the calendar. The argument is given in the form “but it is 2017 now” and no further reason is given. A declaration of the calendar year is understood by the person declaring the date to silence anybody who would dare to have a different opinion. How has it come to pass that people could possibly think that confidently stating the calendar year can solve all arguments? The underlying and unspoken premise is the belief that our current age is so superior to all previous ages and generations that there is no need to even consider the ideas and opinions of all those who have come before us. Reading this and sensing some support for the past some people will be alarmed and say “We cannot go backwards” but this is simply not true. Why do you think it is that cars have a reverse gear? If you are driving towards the edge of a cliff it is only rational to turn around and follow a safer course. To say we cannot go backwards is to assert that all change is progress. This idea of relentless progress evidences an irrational fear of the past. The things of the past are demonized and rejected at every opportunity by those who think progress is measured by the calendar. Have we really improved things so much? Is there anything from our past that is worth reconsidering? Do we really have nothing to learn from history? GK Chesterton writes

There is one metaphor of which the moderns are very fond; they are always saying, “You can't put the clock back.” The simple and obvious answer is “You can.” A clock, being a piece of human construction, can be restored by the human finger to any figure or hour. In the same way society, being a piece of human construction, can be reconstructed upon any plan that has ever existed.[1]

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If things have not turned out well then sometimes we need to restore them. Not everything from the past is bad and some restorations are good and necessary. For a Catholic we must recall that Jesus lived in the past and his message is from the past. We cannot simply assume that we are superior because we live in the current time. Most of us now have the date and time on our phones. To think that stating the year concludes an argument assumes that you must be right and also that anyone who thinks differently to you is beneath your consideration and effort. GK Chesterton succinctly states why he ceased engaging such progressivism

My attitude toward progress has passed from antagonism to boredom. I have long ceased to argue with people who prefer Thursday to Wednesday because it is Thursday.” – New York Times Magazine, 2/11/23

### Parish Collections

26/2/2017 **First:** \$906.15 **Second:** \$1,074.20

### St Christopher's Parish news:



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held in the Church on Friday evening's at 7pm during Lent commencing next Friday 10th March 2017.

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL—CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** is holding an Open Day Thursday 9th March 8.40am—11.30am St Christopher's is a welcoming and vibrant co-educational Catholic school caring for children from Kindergarten to Year 6. At St Christopher's we are committed to ensuring that your child realises their full potential. You are cordially invited to come along to the school. There are flyers in the church foyer to take home.

### ST. CHRISTOPHER'S YOUTH GROUP (11-18yrs old)

First youth gathering of the year! Whether you've come before or are interested in joining us, come to the parish hall at **6:30-8pm on Saturday 11th March (after 5:30pm Mass)**. Join us for games, a short session on faith, and food! Hope to see you all then!

**200 Club (cash raffle)** The Fundraising Committee has agreed to run a 200 Club. How it works is that there are 200 tickets sold at \$20 each. Each week for four weeks, 5 tickets are drawn and the winners each receive \$20 (money back). Tickets go back into the barrel for the draw each week so you could effectively win more than once. At the end of the 4 weeks there is a draw for \$1,000. The series of draws won't run until all tickets are sold.

The Fundraising Committee will be selling tickets after each of the Masses this weekend. All funds raised go towards the upkeep of the church.



### Mass Intentions

Saturday 4th March 5.30pm.....Special Intention  
Sunday 5th March 8.00am .....Parish Intentions  
Sunday 5th March 9.30am.....Hilary Coskerie (RIP)  
Monday 6th March 9.15am.....Cristito Villanueva (RIP)  
Tuesday 7th March 9.15am.....Vocations  
Wednesday 8th March 9.15am.....Souls in Purgatory  
Thursday 9th March 9.15am .....For the Sick  
Friday 10th March 9.15am .....Australian troupes serving overseas  
Saturday 11th March .....**Reconciliation : 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM**

### Syro-Malabar Liturgies:

Wednesday Mass at 7.00pm  
Thursday Mass at 7.00pm followed by Adoration (in English)  
Friday Mass at 7.00pm **except on the First Friday of the Month**  
Saturday Mass at 9.30am  
Every Sunday Mass at 11.30am **on the Third Sunday of the Month** this will be conducted in the School Hall.

**The Samoan Community** celebrates a **Sunday Mass** in the Church on the **Third Sunday of the Month at 11.30am.**

### Subject: Ladies Weekend Gathering 17-19 March, 2017

This special weekend retreat for women has been running for over 40 years. The invitation is extended to women from all parishes to join in a weekend of prayerful, relaxed time out. This is an opportunity to refresh yourself, both spiritually and physically, as you embrace the company, experiences and love of other women in a prayerful environment.

**WHEN** 17-19 March, 2017.

**WHERE** Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, St Andrews Rd Varroville.

**COST** \$230 Worker/Single occupancy

\$207 Non worker/Pensioner/ Seniors Card holder

For more details please contact Ann-Marie Green on 0416 051 206 or [amtg4@hotmail.com](mailto:amtg4@hotmail.com)

**THANK YOU** to the many volunteers who came for the Church Working Bee last Saturday a lot of work was done & with the council clean up on Tuesday. 3 men were trained in how to work the ride on mower, which is a great help when it comes to mowing the church grounds.

**CAKE STALL** this was a great success, after expenses over \$600.00 was raised. We will be planning another Cake Stall in May 2017 a date is yet to be decided.

*We Pray For The Sick* : Cyril Ferriere, Ian Howe

*Recently deceased:*

*Anniversaries:* Cristito Villanueva & Hilary Coskerie