



Parish Priest: Monsignor Brian O'Loughlin

25 Forrest Street, South Perth WA 6151

☎ 9367 3950

Parish Office: Isabella Robertson, Parish Secretary.

Wednesday: 5pm onwards

Saturday: 7am onwards

Email contact:

admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK: Masses are Saturday Vigil at 6pm and Sunday at 7.30am and 9.30am. Weekdays Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 10am. Wednesday and Thursday at 5pm. The Church western side porch door is unlocked from 7am to 6pm.

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH, SOUTH PERTH

admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

✉ PO Box 52 South Perth WA 6951

www.southperthcatholic.org

BAPTISM ENQUIRIES: Celebrated at 11am on the first Sunday of month

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Presenters needed, except in the school holidays.

COLUMBA CARE: Convenor Shaun Maton admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

COLUMBARIUM: enquiries to admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

MARRIAGE ENQUIRIES: admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

RECONCILIATION or CONFESSION: Saturday 11:30am-12pm

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AFTER SCHOOL FOR FIRST EUCHARIST, PRE CONFIRMATION,

CONFIRMATION & RECONCILIATION: Contact Catechist Helen on 0401 329 479 or email

catechist.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

St Columba's Primary School

Principal:

Mr. Allen McMahon

☎ 6436 9500

✉ PO Box 8307 South Perth WA 6951

www.stcolumbas.com.au



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE:

God of mercy and compassion; of grace and reconciliation; pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all. God of all creation, bring justice and peace to our world. Teach us to be peacemakers. Guide us in our pursuit of justice and the common good. Inspire us to welcome all, forgive all, and love all. Direct us as we walk in the shadow of Jesus: the Way, the Truth and the Life. Inspire us to perceive the world through your eyes, that we might find hope and joy each day, supportive of each other, for the sake of your Kingdom. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS: Thanksgiving Mass offered for Sam Leow. Masses for the faithful departed offered: Parishioners intentions, 9:30am Mass today. Mass offered; Deceased members of the Steeman family, requested by Gerard, Mass offered; Robert Scutti and Michele Fasolo, anniversaries, requested by the Scutti family, Vigil Mass tonight; Robert Groves, recently deceased requested by his widow, Patricia, Mass to be offered;

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND BEREAVED: We pray for all of the sick in our Parish, especially for Penny Fernandez. Sue Catling, suffering from Covid. Monsignor took Anointing of the Sick to Lillian Simeon, John Herne (Ursula is now in Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital). Afterwards, Monsignor took Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick to June and Barry Curthoys, who were both very bright and appreciative. For Gerard Coyte, seriously sick, father of our parishioner and reader Anthony Coyte.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK: Wednesday: St John Bosco; Thursday: St Brigid →; Friday: The Presentation of the Lord.



ASH WEDNESDAY: February 14th.

Masses will be at 9am with the school & 5pm. Ashes will be blessed and offered in both Masses. The junior classes of the school will receive blessed ashes in their classrooms. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Are prayed on the Friday's of Lent at 5pm. We will begin on the 16th of February. **All are welcome.**

PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY: Will be observed next weekend. Packs of envelopes and boxes will be available. The face of Project Compassion this year is Ronita from the Philippines.



CONCORDE NURSING HOME: Mass, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 6th at 2pm. Followed by a sacramental visit to Lillian Simeon and June and Barry Curthoys. We thank senior server, Ian Sydney-Smith for assisting.

FEAST OF ST VALENTINE, FEB 10TH AND 11TH:



Email invitations have been sent to all engaged couples who are to marry at St Columba's. Their parents are welcome.

The Blessing for Engaged Couples will also include a blessing of engagement rings. The blessings will be during the Vigil Mass of Saturday February 10th at 6pm and on the Sunday Masses on February 11th. The couples are asked to choose which Mass they will attend and send their RSVP to admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org

PIETA – LENTEN PROGRAM 2024: Will be available from the Parish \$9 per copy including postage. Group reflection following Monday 10am Mass.

This Week's Reading: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B:

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Sunday Missal, readings are on pages 610-614

First Reading: A reading from the book Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm: 94 *Response:* If today, you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 7:32-35

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

Gospel: Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:21-28

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Next Week's Readings: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O Come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for the is the Lord our God.

Sunday Missal, readings are on pages 614-618

First Reading: A reading from the book of Job 7:1-4. 6-7

Psalm: 146 *Response:* Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

Gospel: Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:29-39

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

THE POETRY OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE – Anthony Esolen: “Morning is no mystery” an astronomer may say. “All it means is that the earth has rotated once about its axis.” Yes, we know that, and we know too that the animals on earth go to sleep for a time, for their bodies to repair themselves, and then they wake up again, usually in the morning. But for man, every falling asleep is like a little death, and every awakening is a little opening of new life. “Tomorrow is another day,” we say, but not, “When the big hand reaches the twelve, it will be another hour.” For we think that we can rise from our beds afresh and start anew.

Who is the Morning Star?

I’ve never been one for making resolutions for the new year, and I’ve always sensed that I wake up with the same preoccupations I had when I fell asleep. If a gambler says, “Today I feel lucky,” he is fooling himself. Fortune can turn, but there’s nothing in a morning that should make it so. Maybe when we wake we are eased by a kind of foggy head, so that the worries of the previous day don’t strike us right off. But they return as the day wears on. Isn’t it so? *Weeping may last for the night*, says the Psalmist, but joy comes with the morning. That is not because the earth rotates, or because people forget or their luck turns! It is because the anger of the Lord, is *but for a moment*, and *his favour is for a lifetime* (30:6). Why, even Jeremiah, lamenting over the destruction of the holy city Jerusalem, tells us that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, that his mercies are new every morning because his faithfulness is great (Lam 3:22-23). Our morning star is not Venus in the twilight of the east. I am the root and the offspring of David, says Jesus, revealing to John the day that transcends all days, *the bright morning star* (Rv 22:16).

To whom then should we pray in the morning? Not to the globe of fire in the sky, nor to a pair of dice, nor to our firmly resolved selves, but to Christ our light. That’s exactly what Saint Ambrose bids us to do, in his hymn *Splendor paternae glorie*, translated by Robert Bridges as *O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright*. Sung to the jaunty and rousing melody *Puer Nobis*, which you may know from the Epiphany hymn “What Star is This,” it is, I believe, the finest morning-jewel in all our treasury of song.

Give Us Light

The first of Ambrose’s (Great Archbishop of Milan) stanzas is simply a naming of Christ, a reveling in his glory, before we make a single petition, before we even get to a verb in the sentence:

*O Splendour of God’s glory bright,
O thou that bringest light from light,
O Light of Light, light’s living spring,
O Day, all days illuminating;*

It’s really the splendor of the Father’s glory, but otherwise Bridges keeps exactly to the meter of the original and to the literal meaning. Christ is not like the light. He is the

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 27th/28th of January 2024

Light, as we say and as Ambrose said in the great creed from Nicaea: “God from God, Light from Light” for God is light (1 Jn 1:5). He is not like the day, but hew is the Day, and the only reason any days have any light at all is that Christ has illumined them. What, then, do we ask from the Light? I have a student who is stone-blind, who cannot perceive even the vaguest light. When I asked him what he imagined colours to be, he could only describe the feelings he supposed we had about them. What glory for him, someday, when the Lord shall open his eyes! Think of it: to see for the first time a human face! And what a wonder it was for the blind man, whose world Jesus remade with a little earth and eater; and after those nightjars the Pharisees pressed him with questions and threatened him, Jesus came to him, and the man now flooded with daylight looked upon the face of his Saviour: We ask, them for light:

O thou true Son, on us thy glance

Let fall in royal radiance,

The Spirit’s sanctifying beam

Upon our earthly senses stream.

That is simply brilliant, in the Latin and also in the English rendering. When we see, it is because light strikes our eyes. But when Christ turns his gracious glance our way, he fills us with the light that enables us to see. Light flows from his eyes. It is the beam of the Holy Spirit, like a river of light, that flows into us, and that makes our earthly senses bright with knowledge and power of themselves they do not possess. The good young man I know who cannot see “green” may have a keener vision of life, and flourishing, and the springtime of the spirit, than many people who can read the small print of the Daily News, most of it rather dark and not at all new, from across a dingy breakfast table.

Irradiate our Desires

And are not our very desires often in need of the light?

The Lord has instructed us to pray to be delivered from evil. We should consider the full range of what that means. Of course, we do not want to suffer evils; we want to be shielded from cancer, or from fire and tempest, or from what is worse, the malice of others. We also do not want to fall prey to the evils we may foster in our own souls, or that may attack them by insinuation from without. “Keep us this day without sin,” we pray in Ambrose’s magnificent hymn, also perfect for the morning, the *Te Deum*.

But we want even more than that. To resist the darkness is one thing; but to be so flooded with light that all the powers of darkness together are less than a gnat we shoo away with a wave of the hand – that is another. And that is what, in the third stanza, we beg the Father to do for us:

The Father, too, our prayers implore,

Father of glory evermore,

The Father of all grace and might,

To banish sin from our delight:

We pray that we will not even desire to commit a sin, just as a person with a healthy constitution finds nothing tempting in dirty water or rotten food. Yet we must still live in this world, and that means we must be strong. So the fourth stanza continues the petition of the third, with a call for one kind of triumph after another

To guide whate’er we nobly do,

With love all envy to subdue,

To make ill-fortune turn to fair,

And give us grace our wrongs to bear.

Bridges is interpreting Ambrose here, for in the Latin we pray that the Father may give us the grace of patience. Then we shall be well fortified for the day, as warriors shining with energy, ready to stand tall, or to fight.

The Trinity of Blessed Light

Ambrose’s final stanza calls upon the true Dawn, that is, God himself, to come forth, “the Word in God the Father One, / And Father perfect in the Son.” But Pope Urban VIII thought that the hymn lacked something still, so he appended to it a well-known doxology, also attributed to Saint Ambrose. Here it is in one common translation:

All praise to God the Father be;

All praise, Eternal Son, to Thee;

All glory, as is ever meet,

To God the Holy Paraclete.

With the Trinity glowing in our hearts, how can we go astray? Then let us be up, for the Day is with us, and if we ourselves do not bid it begone, that Day will be ours forever.

Anthony Esolen is a translator of Augustine’s *Confessions* (TAN), translator and editor of Dante’s *Divine Comedy* (Random House), and author of four volumes of essays, *How the Church has Changed the World* (Magnificat). – Taken from *Magnificat Missalette*



PILGRIMAGE: Reflect during Lent with Monsignor Michael Keating on a journey of faith from North to South Vietnam, where many have been martyred. Be touched by the light of Christ as you learn of the crosses borne by many, and also the miracles that took place with our Lady's comforting presence. Full board inclusive of economy flights on Vietnam Airlines, 4/5 star accommodation, daily breakfast, most lunches & dinners is only \$3,850 per person (based on 25 pax). For the itinerary and booking form, do WhatsApp us or call us at 0433 771 979 (Sheila) or 0402 290 827 (Veronica) or 0421 835 408 (Sue). Email: info@anawimjourneys.com



Our Lady of La Vang - the tallest statue of the Virgin Mary in Vietnam (pictured above).

THE 13TH STATION OF OUR CHURCH: Features Mary cradling the lifeless body of her Son and Mary Magdalene and St John the beloved Apostle, overcome with grief. When the half-stained glass windows in the Lady Chapel were being made by the artisan, Monsignor inspected them and in the artists' studio, he had created our 13th station in stain glass and I asked if he would loan it to the Parish for the time being. So, we paid to have it framed and backlit and it is always placed on a special stand in the Sanctuary during the Stations of the Cross and the Lord's Passion. The artist has now contacted Monsignor and has said that he is willing to sell it to the Parish for \$10,000. Hopefully, many Parishioners will be prepared to complete one of the Church Restoration envelopes with their donation. Thank you in anticipation.

Monsignor Brian O'Loughlin

COLLECTION CHANGES: At the AGM of the Parish, Monsignor announced that the retiring collection for the Altar Society is discontinued. There are 2 standard collections in the Archdiocese. The first collection is for the Parish Priest and the subsidise the Priest who's own collection doesn't meet the standard. It also includes the Christmas dues. The Church collection, known as the Second collection, will now pay for the Church flowers, Altar breads and wine. Many Parishes now

CALL FOR READERS AT THE 9:30AM MASS: We are currently on the lookout for more readers for our 9:30am Sunday Masses. It is a rotating schedule and provides you with the opportunity to both learn and practice your public speaking. If you are interested or querying for more information, please contact Dina Robertson:



give the option of direct debit for either or both of these collections. ***NOW DELAYED IN IMPLEMENTATION.*** Parish Account, ***BSB 086006 A/c number 458 53 7299***, or you can donate to the tax deductible St. Columba's School Building Fund ***BSB 086006 A/c 87662 5427***. For those who wish to contribute to the first collection, the ***BSB 086006*** and the ***A/c Number is 18136 3635***. Please consider. Soon, the Parish will provide the option of giving by *tap & go* for each of these. In recent times, many of counters have retired, especially Agnes and Iain Watson. We thank all of our retired counters for their service.

Monsignor Brian O'Loughlin

THE NEW COMMUNITY BIBLE: Contains indents for each book, explanatory notes and commentary. Available for \$19.95 per copy. This Bible makes an ideal gift for those preparing for Reconciliation into the Church, or members of the RCIA..



THE MEMOIRS OF ARCHBISHOP BARRY HICKEY: Have now been published, as *My Spirit Land*. Posters are available. Monsignor's copy is available for inspection in the Sacristy.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST: Aid to the Church in Need has sent 150 prayer cards for free, featuring the icon of Our Lady of Salvation from Syriac Catholic Monastery, Lebanon. They are available at either porch table.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN – ENROLLING NOW: Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Preconfirmation, and First Reconciliation Prep Classes in the Parish Centre. Classes starting soon. Parents, please contact our Parish Coordinator Helen by phone / text on 0401 329 479 to discuss your enrolling your child to receive the sacraments.

TIDY CHURCH ROSTER: We are looking for new members to join. Please contact Dina Robertson 0403 951 355 robertsonjdia@bigpond.com

NANO NAGLE PRESENTATIONS: The Charism of Nano Nagle is being offered in days of Quiet Reflection – Enabling and discovering personal insights into the Spirituality we carry within us. There are a number of

reflections over the Lenten period. For further information please refer to www.nanonaglecentre.org.au