

Vatican City - We must ask God to send us priests and nuns with hearts for Him alone, free from the idolatry of vanity, power, pride and money. This was the prayer for vocations said today by Pope Francis during Mass celebrated at Casa Santa Marta. Vatican Radio reports that the Pope was commenting on the Gospel passage of the rich man who throws himself on his knees before Jesus to ask him what he must do to inherit eternal life. This man - the Pope pointed out - "had a great desire to hear the words of Jesus" he was "a good man, because from his youth he had kept the commandments. A good man", but "this was not enough for him: he wanted more. The Holy Spirit propelled him. Jesus looks at him with love and proposes: "Sell everything and come with me to preach the Gospel". But on hearing these words, he "frowned and went away, sad" because he had many possessions. "His heart was restless, because the Holy Spirit that propelled him to get close to Jesus and follow Him. His was a full heart, and he did not have the courage to empty it. And he made his choice: money. His heart was full of money... But he was not a thief, a criminal, no, no, no! He was a good man, he never stole, never! He never cheated: he had honestly earned his money. But his heart was imprisoned there, it was tied to money and was not free to choose. Money chose for him". "How many young people - he continued - feel this 'call' to get closer to Jesus in their heart, and are enthusiastic", "not ashamed to kneel" before him, to "give a public demonstration of their faith in Jesus Christ" and "want to follow him, but when their heart is full of something else and they are not brave enough to empty it, they step back, and that joy becomes sadness". Even today there are many young people who have a vocation, but sometimes there is something "that stops them". "We need to pray that the hearts of these young people can be emptied, emptied of other interests, other loves, so that their hearts becomes free. And this is the prayer for vocations: ' Lord, send us, send nuns, send us priests, defend them from idolatry, the idolatry of vanity, the idolatry of pride , the idolatry of power, the idolatry of money. This is our prayer is to prepare these hearts to closely follow Jesus ". The man of this Gospel - concluded the Pope - is "so good but so very unhappy". So are many young people today. This is why we need to raise an intense prayer to God. "This is the prayer: Lord, help these young people, so that they may be free and not slaves, so they may only have hearts for you, and so that the call of the Lord may come, may bear fruit. This is the prayer for vocations. We must say a lot of prayers. But, always be careful: there are vocations. We must help them grow, so that the Lord can enter into those hearts and give this unspeakable joy that is full of glory that every person who closely follows Jesus has".

Pope launches "pressing appeal" for Ukraine, for "all initiatives in favour of dialogue and harmony"

"This week we begin Lent, which is the journey of the People of God towards Easter, a journey of conversion, to combat evil with the weapons of prayer, fasting and mercy". "The shroud has no pockets! It is better to share, because we bring into Heaven only what we have shared with others".

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9th March 2014 (A)

1st Sunday of Lent

1ST READING: Genesis 2:7-9. 3:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

2ND READING: 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: Matthew 4:1-11

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm
 Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am
 Wed: 6pm
 Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm
 Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS:

By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 9:15am: †Wilhelm & Teresa

Sun 5pm: †May Ellsmore

Sat Vigil: †Deceased members of the McGregor family

Sun 8am: †Antonia Urbiztondo

Mon 7:30am: Dorelio Fontus (sick)

Sun 9:30am: †Augustinus Tjou (48th Anniv)

OUR SICK: Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari, Joy Williams, Moira Butler, Domenico Cirillo, Marilia Amaro, Yolanda Pappalettera and John Heaney...

Accommodation still available in Foley Gardens. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 and you will be referred for further details to Mr. Robert O'Shea, the manager.

Happy Birthdays to: John Heaney (12th); Darlene Tjahjadi (15th), Henry Haglund and Pat Flannery (17th).

Happy 50th Birthday to Marianna Tjokrowidjaja (11th).



Congratulations and God's blessings on Pat Raby as she celebrates her 100th Birthday on 17th March



Congratulations and God's blessings also on May Wells as she becomes a new grandmother to Declan Wells born on 1st March.

We also extend our congratulations to George Diab, Joseph Hagggar and Anu Varghese upon completion of their Extraordinary Minster of Holy Communion course. Certificates will be presented to them at this weekend Masses. Please pray for them as they continue on to their Acolyte Course.

Parish School News: 1) Class Mass: Fri 14th Mar: Kindy & Yr 6; Fri 21st Mar: Yr 3. 2) Family Mass: Sat 8th Mar: Stage 3 classes; Sat 15th Mar: Stage 2 classes.

"An Afternoon for couples hoping to conceive" – Sat 12th April from 2 – 5pm at CAEC, 3 Keating St, Lidcombe. For more info, ring 93905290 or email lmfevents@sydneycatholic.org.

History of Christianity - This Sun 9th March at 3:30pm, Presbytery.

This weekend: Vigil: J Hagggar (A) F & G Hogan (R) F Doherty, Volunteer (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) A Brinck, Volunteer (R) Volunteery, G Gates (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) S Pedisich (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counters:** G Hage, V Hage

Next weekend: Vigil: J Hagggar (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) F & G Hogan (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) P Tjugito, A Burke (R) A Burke, Sr Betty (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) M Tjokrowidjaja, D Tjahjadi (R) C Findlay (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counter:** G Hogan

Stations of the Cross will begin from Fri 7th Mar to Fri 11th Apr from 7pm.

Lenten books (*Walking the Way of Mercy and Simplicity*) will be available from the church foyer for your home groups. Please join the programme by forming groups of 3-10 people for only 6 weeks.

Lenten groups: Tuesday 8:15- 9:00am (in Presbytery); Thursday 4:30pm (in Presbytery); Sunday 6:00pm (in Church).

1. Rules for Lent follow in (a), (b), and (c).

2. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

3. On all other Fridays of the year 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.

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.

Lent lasts from Ash Wed to the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive (7th Apr). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter Fast is observed.

International Women's day



International Women's Day (IWD) is a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, the present and in the future. The theme the Australia National Committee has chosen for IWD on 8th March is "Ending Poverty for Women and Girls through Economic Empowerment." 70% of the global poor are women. Although women perform two-thirds of the world's work, they earn less than 10% of the world's wages. Women are far more likely than men to live in poverty because of discrimination and lack of access to education, employment and financial service...from Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

(Council for Australian Catholic Women).

Let us pray for all women and men in our Church, that we may find new ways to complement each other to reflect our common dignity as children of God; for the liberation for women who live with violence and exploitation in all countries of our world. **Amen**