

Lent 2019

Do you use the season of Lent to bring yourself closer to Jesus? **The season of Lent is an urgent call to conversion** and accordingly Pope Francis exhorts us not to settle for mediocrity (a second-rate version of ourselves). Instead we are encouraged to grow in intimate friendship with the Lord and thereby to experience a true conversion of the heart (to become the best-version of ourselves). Our Lord will be waiting for us to approach Him this coming Lent; will you accept His invitation?

Ash Wednesday (6th March)

MASS at 9:30 a.m. (P&J) followed by an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession (until 11.00 a.m.)

Stations of the Cross at midday (P&J) with an opportunity for the Imposition of Ash.

MASS at 7.30 p.m. (HC) with an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession from 6.30 p.m.

Ecumenical Lent Course Launch (7th March)

Come and be part of this ecumenical gathering as we launch the combined Lent Course 1.30 p.m. in P&J where refreshments will be available. See elsewhere in the newsletter for further details about the course.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (each Monday of Lent)

10.00 a.m. until 11.00 a.m. (P&J)

Stations of the Cross (each Friday of Lent)

10.00 a.m. (HC) - led by the clergy

7.30 p.m. (P&J) - following comments received last year these will be led by lay people. We are looking for five groups or organisations to lead these on 15th, 22nd & 29th March and 5th & 12th April. Such groups or organisations could include: SVP, Leprosy Mission, SPUC, Guadalupe Guardians, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, flower arrangers, cleaners, etc. Assistance from the clergy will be freely offered if desired. If your group or organisation would like to lead Stations of the Cross on one of the above Fridays please contact the P&J Parish Secretary ASAP.

Holy Hour to pray for young people

17th March (HC) from 4.00 p.m. There will be opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession (two Priests will be available). This is a Bedford Pastoral Area event.

Retreat Day (23rd March) - organised by the SVP and open to everyone. Venue: HC.

- 1:30pm - Holy Rosary for members and beneficiaries of the SVP (living and departed)
- 2:00pm (prompt) - Welcome
- 2:05pm - St Vincent de Paul's Way of the Cross
- 2:45pm - Tea/Coffee
- 3:15pm - Anointing of the Sick
- 4:00pm - Vigil Mass (fulfils Sunday Obligation)
- 5:00pm - Light Supper in the parish hall
- 5:15pm - Sacrament of Confession
- 6:00pm - Vigil Mass (fulfils Sunday Obligation)

NB: Sacrament of Confession - Three Priests will be available at various points in the day to celebrate the sacramental mercy of God.

Maundy Thursday (18th April)

Mass of the Lord's Supper (P&J) at 7.30 p.m. This is an opportunity for both parts of the parish community to come together as one family in Jesus Christ and to be strengthened by the Holy Eucharist.

Good Friday (19th April)

Children's Stations of the Cross - HC at 10.00 a.m. followed by refreshments.

Interactive Stations of the Cross for the whole family (P&J) at 12.00 noon followed by refreshments.

Solemn Liturgy of the Day (P&J) at 3.00 p.m. This is an opportunity for both parts of the parish community to come together as one family in Jesus Christ and to adore the Cross of Calvary.

Mary's Way of the Cross (HC) at 7.30 p.m.

Holy Saturday (20th April)

Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter (P&J) at 8.00 p.m. This is an opportunity for both parts of the parish community to come together as one family in Jesus Christ and to await and then celebrate the joy of the Risen Christ. NB: There will obviously not be a Vigil Mass on that day as it is not possible to celebrate the Eucharistic Sacrifice before the Easter Vigil. The Holy Cross Paschal Candle will be presented by Holy Cross parishioners and be solemnly lit at the Easter Vigil.