



St Joseph's Church, Bassendean

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<https://stjosephbassendean.com>

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Parish Priest : Fr. Antony Suresh

Secretary Catherine Gordon

(Tue-Fri. 9:00am -12:30pm)

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Mass Times

Sat Evening: Mass: 6pm

Sunday: Mass: 7am, 9am

Tues - Sat: Morning Prayer & Rosary: 6:45am
Mass 7:30am

Confessions : 30 minutes before Mass

Confessions, Baptism & Marriage by appointment

18TH FEB 2024

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

A Priest's Amazing Death *February 13, 2024*

<https://spiritdaily.org/by/sd>

He was quite some man — Father Mike. We've written about him before. That's the only way he's identified by a hospice physician, Dr. John Lerma, a stickler for privacy who at the time was at M. D. Anderson Medical Center — the biggest medical center on the planet — in Houston, tending to the dying priest. In a way hard to convey with words, Father Mike suffered. He did so willingly, fully — even by demand. He was seventy-eight at the time and had severe neck and head cancer. He was even missing an eye from it. Yet he would allow absolutely no pain medications. Once the president of a Catholic university, he was always in good spirits, recalled Dr. Lerma, despite the wrenching pain. "Father Mike instructed me on Opus Dei's beliefs with regard to pain and suffering," wrote Dr. Lerma, himself a Catholic (though one who currently accepts multiple beliefs). "He agreed that these acts of suffering would help countless souls around the world, including our hospice patients. He insisted that I trust the spiritual process."



When they first met, said the physician, this unique patient "made it enormously clear that his desire was to feel his pain in its most raw form. That was tough for a palliative-care physician to accept. As a pain specialist, it was an "inconceivable request." Yet the doctor honored it — and listened to the joy in the selfless priest's wisdom.

Though he admitted that the pain was "unbearable", he insisted he felt nothing but adulation and joy for God. His pain was converted to joy. Angels were visibly present, he related — bedecked in "fierce white." He also imparted that wisdom. For example, he warned that too much focus on the negative aspects of the world and local news affects the soul in a dark way and "puts us in a position to develop fear and judgment of others." This, admonished the priest, compounds the negativity of a circumstance and "deeply hurts God." The angels said they were working on many projects to increase optimism on earth. Yes, we must know where darkness is. Yes, we must resist it. Yes, Christ Himself spoke about it and pointed it out. When we see it, we must pray about it. But not obsess over it.

He also spoke, did Father Mike, of love, as so many dying do. A particularly poignant comment: "Random acts of kindness," said Father Mike, "can actually stop wars from occurring, and just one unconditional act of love can change the entire world." Have you ever considered doing that? Do you practice this at every

F that interconnectedness we don't appreciate with the eyes of the earth. He also told the doctor that technology without God could destroy us. Technology could be a great good, said Father Mike — if those in control of it were close to Jesus. Part of the priest's suffering, he explained, was to prevent devastation. The keys to life: prayer, knowledge, and self-sacrifice, along with collective love and joy. If this dying man, this holy priest, could be joyful, cannot we?

He was suffering in a way that made those who saw him actually cringe, and yet what was the end? After slipping into a coma, without the pain medication and severely short of breath, Father Mike nonetheless had what the doctor described as "an incredible glow and peace about him." Despite a racing heart, the priest wore a large smile.

The day he died, Dr. Lerma was at a clinic across the way when he noticed a pitch-black storm approaching and soon unleashing gale-force winds and hail. The darkest cloud was over the part of the hospital where Father Mike was. As the storm grew worse, he received a page that the priest had died. That was only the beginning of the end, so to speak. For when the doctor got to the hospice unit, the lights were flickering on and off but there was "an incredible sense of peace in the midst of the chaos." The secretary and nurse had seen a "bright light" shining from the priest's room, they told the physician — so bright they thought the lights were coming back on. "They had rushed me there to experience an inconceivable event," he said. "Every time the lights turned on and off, little feathers fell from the ceiling, drifting down as if they were snowflakes. One fell in the hand of a nurse and disappeared. As soon as they fell, they disappeared. Father Mike's call-light was going off and on. We all had goosebumps." The secretary and nurse also related that they had seen a bright sphere float out of his body, circle the bed, and then soar away. Less than a minute later, the lights came back on. When Dr. Lerma saw him, the priest still wore that striking smile, and his palms were open. "Peaceful — blissful almost."

Quite a way to go! And to cap it off, when priests and nuns from his university arrived later, the dean said that something similar — an electrical disturbance — had occurred in their offices. Father Mike's punctuation marks. His goodbye. The dean went on to say that a few feathers were found on the floor there, too, and that Father Mike had collected feathers his whole life, from around the world. He'd kept them in a jar. After the incident, when the dean checked Father Mike's office, he noticed that all the feathers from the jar were gone.



Reflection for the 1st Week of Lent

<https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/>

Feb

- Sun 18th Feb Parish cuppa after 9am Mass
Baptism of Wynton Perera @ 11am
- Tue 20th Feb Legion of Mary @ 9:00am
DVD group @ 11:00am
- Fri 23rd Feb Stations of the Cross @ 7:00pm
- Sat 24th Feb Confessions/Reconciliation @ 5:30pm

Jesus went to the desert for 40 days and 40 nights and was tempted by the devil in this time. Brothers and sisters, during these days of Lent it will become very hard, at some moments, to maintain our Lenten observance. We are susceptible to temptation and perhaps to give up on the practices we undertook less than a week ago. But let's be reminded of why we are doing all of this in the first place.

Love. Love of God has compelled us to undertake our fasting, prayer, and almsgiving this Lent. These three pillars or "keys" of Lent will drive us to a deeper, more meaningful relationship with the Lord Jesus and will allow us to grow more fully as evangelizers in our home, community, and in our society.

The three pillars of Lent, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, can be paired with the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love. How are they connected? Let's dive into these connections briefly.

Prayer: prayer is not just a Lenten thing as we all know. In fact, prayer is the very foundation for why we as Christians move forward each day. This pillar is connected most especially to the virtue of faith, which we profess in the Creed every Sunday at Mass. Faith, is the free gift of God which invites us into relationship with Him. We nurture this seed of faith by our prayer every single day. It is imperative that during Lent we take more time to pray—listening for the voice of God and allowing Him to be the root of our being. Spiritual author Jacques Philippe writes, "believing does not always come naturally, and it sometimes requires us to take our courage in both hands to put an end to hesitation and doubt. Still, when we make an act of faith, it is only possible because 'the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.'" Faith, then, is a gift that invites us to constantly be renewed by God, to invite him into our life each day. The spiritual author also states that "faith makes us cling to the truth." And that truth is ultimately God himself.

Fasting: this pillar is one that most of us dislike and are overjoyed when Easter comes. However, this great key of Lent is intimately linked with the virtue of hope. Jacques Philippe in his book Interior Freedom notes that, "hoping means trusting. When we hope we are not passive: we are acting. So, put act of hope is an act of trust—trust that God will come into the void of our fasting and replenish us with His grace and His presence. Fasting during Lent opens a door to God and permits Him to enter into those particular areas where we've deprived ourselves of temporal goods and pleasures. May we never undervalue the source of grace from God that fasting allots for us.

Liturgy Roster for 24th / 25th Feb 2024			
Mass	6:00pm	7:00am	9:00am
ACOLYTES:	J Ryall	A Dzieciol	C D'Monte; J Calleja
READERS:	Stefanelli Fam	I Kendall	T Pavy
COMMS:	Stefanelli Fam	I Darch	S Borges
SERVERS:	Stefanelli Fam		G Borges; L Geyer
Counters	Team 6 - A and C Fanetti		
Cleaners	T Loc		

Mass Remembrances/Anniversaries/Sp. Int.

RS=repose of the soul /TG=thanksgiving / SP=special intention

SAT 17-Feb 6:00 PM RS-Samer, Herve' L' Aimable

SUN 18-Feb 7:00 AM

9:00 AM RS-Lynley Mathews & all dec fam

TUE 20-Feb 7:30 AM RS-Craig Mathews & all dec fam

WED 21-Feb 7:30 AM RS-Fabian Mathews & all dec fam

THU 22-Feb 7:30 AM RS-Derrick Burnaby; Holy Souls

FRI 23-Feb 7:30 AM

SAT 24-Feb 7:30 AM

6:00 PMRS-Frederick Kerwin

SUN 25-Feb 7:00 AM RS-Rita D'Cunha

9:00 AM RS-Charles Martin & Regina



Pray for :-

Those who are suffering in wars, in natural disasters, and in religious persecutions. Francisco Paterniti, Ventura Ramos-Nunez, Maria Pacca, Geraldine O Sullivan, Ermelina Vescovo and Clara Pound.

A Lenten Reflection...

- Give up complaining; focus on gratitude
- Give up harsh judgments; think kindly thoughts
- Give up worry; trust divine Providence
- Give up discouragement; be full of hope
- Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness
- Give up hatred; return good for evil
- Give up negativism; be positive
- Give up pettiness; become mature
- Give up jealousy; pray for trust



Almsgiving: All things are connected and aimed towards the key of almsgiving, or charitable works. Indeed, love as a theological virtue is bound up in this great pillar of Lent. It opens the door to what Jacques Philippe calls "disinterested love," meaning selfless love. Without the first two theological virtues, love cannot exist or grow in our hearts.

St. Paul's letters in the New Testament offer us great insight about the need to grow in love. He says, "if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but I do not have love, I am nothing." -1 Corinthians 13:2. How greatly should we strive, then, to be imitators of Divine love! To be truly free to love involves making the sacrifices of our fasting, and to "cling to the truth" that is our faith in God. This fosters an openness to move towards a deep and self-giving love that is free to be given and received by us. Jacques Philippe again writes in his book Interior Freedom, "if suffering makes us bitter... it is because our hearts are devoid of faith, hope, and love... if our hearts are filled with total trust in God and love for him and our neighbor, there is no room there for evil, hurt, and harm." May these words be an encouragement to grow in love that is pure, unencumbered by malice, self-giving, and genuinely from a heart which has received the love of God.

May the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only hope, keep us faithful to our Lenten practices, and lead us to the glory of the resurrection we anticipate at Easter.



OUR PARISH FAMILY...

Stations of the Cross

**** Stations of the Cross with Benediction** during Lent every Friday @ 7:00pm, Acolytes who are serving at the weekend Masses are reminded to serve at the Stations.

**** Parish Morning tea this SUNDAY-** Please come and share a cuppa with your fellow parishioners and to meet new faces in the parish hall this Sunday morning after the 9:00am Mass. And bring a plate to share.

**** Enrolments for after school First Holy Communion & Confirmation Catechism classes 2024-** to prepare students attending State Schools for their First Holy Communion and Confirmation this May/ Aug 2024. If you have children or grandchildren who want to receive their First Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, please register with the Parish Office ASAP as classes will start soon.



First Sunday of Lent 17 & 18 February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.



Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children. Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for

future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations. Please donate to Project Compassion. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

2024 A YEAR OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



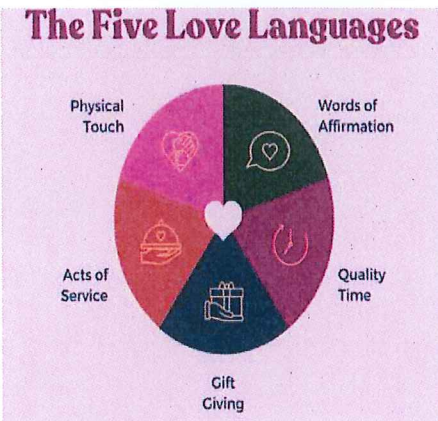
Make 2024 your dedicated year for spiritual enrichment and understanding. At the *Centre for Faith Enrichment*, the adult faith formation agency of the Archdiocese of Perth, we offer daytime, evening, face-to-face and online courses on a variety of topics linked to the richness of our Catholic tradition, including Theology, Scripture, Church History, Christology, Christian Anthropology and much more. Join us on this enlightening journey! <https://cfe.org.au/courses-events/>

VALENTINE'S DAY



Love is not just a feeling, it is an action, a decision and a commitment." –

The Five Love Languages



The timeless tradition of giving flowers and chocolates continues to enchant hearts around the world, but every day presents an opportunity to show your love and appreciation for your partner. It's not just about grand gestures, but also the little things like saying, "I love you", lending a helping hand or sharing a laugh together. These small acts of kindness are the way we express our "love language".

Understanding your partner's love language is essential in maintaining a healthy and loving relationship. There are five primary love languages: words of affirmation, quality time, acts of service, physical touch and receiving gifts. Knowing your partner's love language and expressing love in that way can strengthen your connection and help you both feel loved and appreciated. So, if your partner's love language is acts of service, helping with household chores or running errands can

show them how much you care. If their love language is physical touch, holding hands or giving a hug can make them feel loved and secure. Learning your partner's love language and making an effort to express love in that way is a powerful tool in building a strong and loving relationship. It shows that you care and are willing to put in the effort to make them feel loved and valued – every day.

Dear God, thank You for the gift of my loving partner who has brought so much joy, support and companionship into my life. Help me to cherish and appreciate them always and to never take their love for granted. Bless our relationship with Your grace and may we continue to grow in love for each other. Amen.

The Living Word

First Sunday of Lent, Year B

18 February 2024

First Reading Gn 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness,
O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

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 Mk 1:12-15

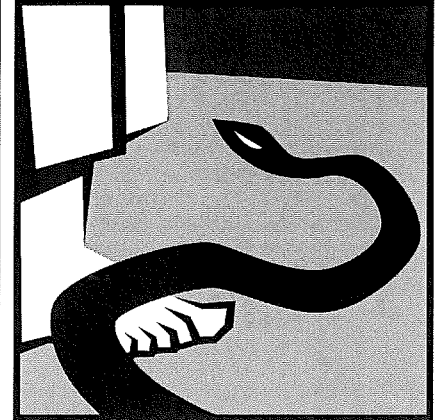
He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Communion Antiphon

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



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!