

The Road from Jerusalem to Jericho is Not Far Away

I still remember a sentence from my childhood catechism class that has stayed with me through all these years: “The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is not somewhere so far. It can be within the boundary of our parish. It can even be within the church itself—from the many doors we enter, all the way to the altar.”

Now, I understand those words more deeply.

That road from Jesus’ parable—the road where a wounded man was ignored by many but saved by the kindness of one—runs not just through ancient Israel. It runs right here.

It winds through Old Prospect Road, Greystanes Road, and Merrylands Road, stretches to the Cumberland Highway and the Great Western Highway, and touches every street and corner around them. It passes through the pews of our church and into the hearts of the people who sit in them.

Every week, our church fills with people. But many come carrying burdens we cannot see. Among us are the elderly walking with difficulty, those in wheelchairs, widows and widowers holding onto memories, young families overwhelmed by daily life, teenagers searching for meaning, and parishioners with hearts quietly aching. Even in this sacred space, there are many who are wounded—not always in body, but often in spirit.

But where there is pain, there is also compassion. And thank God, there are Good Samaritans among us.

They are not always noticed, but they are everywhere. They are the ones who bring Holy Communion to the sick and elderly, often visiting homes with a gentle word and a reverent heart. They are the readers who proclaim the Word, the altar servers who assist faithfully, the musicians and choir members who offer their gifts to lift our hearts. They are the volunteers who clean the church, decorate it with flowers, and arrange everything behind the scenes, asking for nothing in return.

They are the ones who smile at the elderly, greet strangers with kindness, offer a seat, or walk slowly beside someone who needs a little more time. Even the simplest gestures—offering a hand, a kind word, or a quiet prayer—can carry the love of Christ.

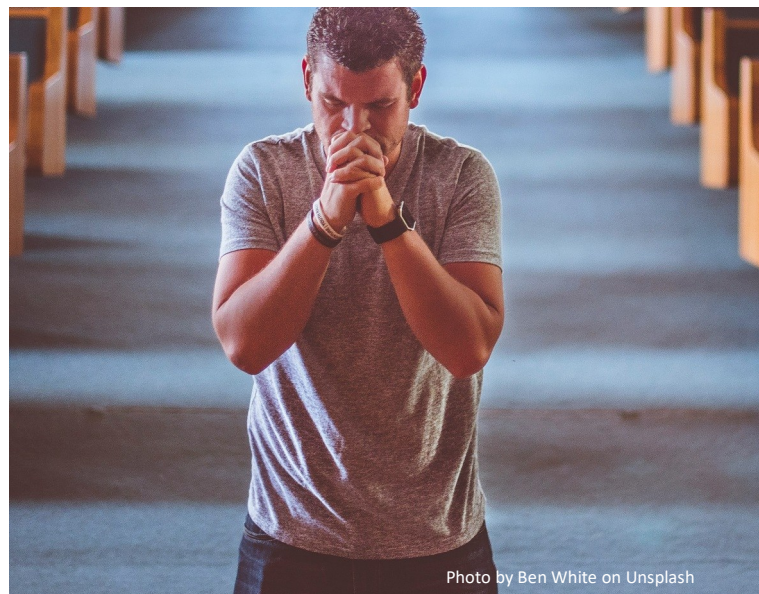


Photo by Ben White on Unsplash

I even remember someone who brought me a hot coffee from the nearby café on a cold, windy, rainy Sunday morning—just after the 7:00 AM Mass. I was tired and chilled, and that small act of kindness warmed more than just my hands. I don’t remember his name, but I will never forget what he did.

It reminded me: even in the Gospel, the Good Samaritan is never named. Because love does not seek recognition. It simply *acts*.

Here in our parish, we are surrounded by people who quietly live out the Gospel. Their names may never be announced. Their stories may never be known. But their kindness speaks volumes. Their service, though often unseen, brings healing, hope, and holiness.

Let us open our eyes and our hearts. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is not far away. It runs through our neighbourhoods, our streets, and our church.

It runs beside the lonely, the tired, and the wounded.

Let us not walk past.

Let us stop, notice, and care.

Let us be Good Samaritans—here and now, in Greystanes. In the heart of Christ.

Fr Sebastian

NAIDOC Week in the parish - YOU ARE INVITED TO WATCH THE FILM ‘KANYINI’

NAIDOC is the annual week-long celebration in which Australia honours the history and culture of the ‘first peoples’ of our incredibly ancient land.

To mark this special week (6-13 July), the Social Justice Group invites parishioners to view the film *Kanyini* – the principle of connectedness through caring and responsibility, that underpins Aboriginal life.

Details: THIS SUNDAY, 13 July at 11.45 am (after 10.30 am Mass) in the St George Precinct, all welcome.

Morning Tea will be served on arrival

Faith B4U...

New Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Information Evening

Come along if you are interested in becoming a READER or EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF COMMUNION at Mass OR if you have recently joined the ministry.

Our liturgical ministers have a vital role in creating a prayerful and welcoming environment for our entire community. At these evenings, we will reflect on the role of ministry in liturgy and offer formation for each ministry.

Tuesday 22 July, 7pm in the Church

Register at the parish office by calling 9631 8135 or email lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

We look forward to welcoming you to these ministries.

Did you know?

In this week when we pay tribute to the rich culture and heritage of our indigenous people, we read in *Laudato Si* that it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. When large development, mining, or agricultural projects are being considered, the indigenous communities should be the primary voice in the planning (cf LS 146).

- To read the encyclical, go to: www.vatican.va
- To listen to this encyclical being read, go to: www.columban.org

Liturgical Ministry Course

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September 2025 in Blacktown. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

To enrol and for more information, please contact Lisa in the parish office **9631 8135** or lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

Registrations close 19 August.

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Daphne Duff, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebe, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Agnes Camilleri

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. *Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.*

Joseph Formosa - 17 July @ 11am

Care Ministry - Reflection

In June, a number of parishioners attended the Ministry of Care Course offered by the Diocese of Parramatta, Office for Worship. These sessions were an important time of formation for those who minister to those in our community who are sick and housebound. It was also a great introduction to our new Care Ministry that we would like to grow in the parish. If you are interested in being part of the care ministry, please contact **Lisa** on **9631 8135** or email lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

Indira Fernandes shares her reflections on the course ..

The Ministry of Care Course, I attended was offered by the Parramatta Diocese for those who visit the sick and dying in hospitals, aged care facilities and homes. It was held on Wednesday evenings at the Bishop Heather Centre in Blacktown.

The Course entailed:

- Wk1: Pastoral Care and Safeguarding.*
- Wk2: Jesus our Model of Ministry.*
- Wk3: Skills in Pastoral Care.*
- Wk4: A Holistic Approach to Pastoral Care.*

The course offered us practical skills - to understand safeguarding guidelines within the Ministry to the Sick, how to be an active listener, to distinguish between empathy versus sympathy, to understand diverse needs and set professional and consistent boundaries for pastoral care. At the core of this "Model of Ministry" it is rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

For me doing this Course has given me the opportunity to develop a deeper engagement with my faith, providing me with opportunities to explore and reflect the concepts of suffering, grace, and the nature of God, and improve my understanding and response to the diverse experiences and needs within and outside of the ministry context.

I can say, without any reservation that "The Ministry of Care Course" provides a solid grounding for understanding pastoral care and would assist interested participants in gaining strength in their faith, and equip them with knowledge and skills to provide compassionate and effective support in their ministry.

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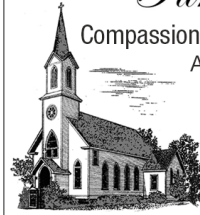
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Ministry of Welcome

In the spirit of our welcoming community, we would like to grow the ministry of Welcome at our Masses. This ministry involves greeters, the friendly faces who are the first point of contact for everyone entering our church.

Do you have a warm smile and a welcoming heart? Consider becoming a Greeter!

Please express your interest to Lisa at the parish office by calling 9631 8135 or email lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

There are many ministries which you can be involved in our parish. If you would like to find out more or unsure how you can share your gifts and talents with the community, please contact the parish office and speak to Lisa.

Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner

The 2025 Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner will be held on **Tuesday 26 August from 7pm at Merrylands RSL**. Caleb Campion, Graduate Lawyer and LEGO Master Australia Finalist, will be our guest speaker. Book your tickets here <https://www.cumberlandchurches.org.au/prayer-dinner>

The Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner is a time for us to come together as a community to pray for unity, peace, and blessings for our neighbourhoods and our leaders. It's an opportunity for us to join hearts and minds in a spirit of Christian fellowship and prayer. During the evening we will have the opportunity to: hear prayers and musical items; be inspired by our guest speaker; meet with church and community members; eat a two-course meal and enjoy complimentary soft-drinks.

Call Lisa at the parish office (9631 8135) if you would like further information.

Upcoming Working Bee

Saturday 19th July, commencing 8:30am.

There's lots to be done around our church and Darmania House. Gardening, trimming plants, general cleaning, etc.

Morning tea is provided. We need your help so please come along.

See Ted when you arrive to arrange a job and meet some fellow parishioners.



Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Monday 14 July @ 10.30am, St George Preca Centre

Gardening Workshop with Doris Meilak

Members & friends welcome. Contact Frances 0404 257 495

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

15th Tuesday St Bonaventure, bishop, doctor

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading
Deuteronomy
30:10-14

2nd Reading
Colossians
1:15-20

Gospel
Luke
10:25-37

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading
Genesis
18:1-10

2nd Reading
Colossians
1:24-28

Gospel
Luke
10:38-42

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm - *see notice to left for more info*

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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