



What more can we do?

I can still remember well that very day when I sat down on the floor beside my bed and prayed intensely and intimately to God: "Lord, this is the life I want, the life I desire, if it is your will, I will do my best to fulfill it". This was after a five-day journey in the mountains of Papua New Guinea, when after hours of daily walk heading towards different villages, we were each time met by a group of villagers with their drums and joyful dancing and be handed a coconut to drink to quench our thirst. Seeing the joy and excitement in the faces of those people especially the children approaching us gave me that deep thought that indeed, people are longing for God and the Gospel. The simplicity of life and the joy of community moved me to do my share in spreading the faith in God in that mission experience as a seminarian. That was more than twenty years ago.



After almost twenty years as a missionary priest and having been sent to different mission posts, I continually ask myself, "to where am I still called to serve and what more can I do?" Though I was not sent back to Papua New Guinea after my ordination and though in the recent years I have thought that my dream mission was in a place where you have the mountains on the one side and the beach on the other (I have seen such place in the Cook Islands where I was for three months before coming here to Australia!), God has been calling me to tasks and places where I continue to seek for ways to be of service.

For this reason, the story of Martha and Mary in the Gospel is an inspiration to find where and what God calls us to be more. The "better part" which Jesus seemed to commend was not that Mary was sitting before the Lord, listening intently to his teachings while Martha was up and about in her service of hospitality. No. We need prayer. We need action. Both are needed in the Church. The "better part" however which the Lord said Mary should not be deprived of, was the fact that Mary saw, Mary realized, and Mary considered the other



Image – Christ in the House of Martha and Mary
Jan Vermeer van Delft, 1654. National Galleries of Scotland

possibilities she can do and become, in expressing her love for the Lord. "Martha, Martha...", her name was repeated twice. It was a loving invitation by Jesus to see more in herself than she thought possible, in her relationship with the Lord. Martha, Martha you can do more! Martha, Martha ask yourself, "What more can I do in my love for the Lord?"

Mother Teresa once said, "If there are poor people on the moon, we will go there too". So imagine a group of nuns training to become astronauts so that they can go to the moon and serve the poor. The point however is not the "going to the moon" but the attitude of keeping ourselves open to the possibilities to respond to needs, of making ourselves available to the call of the times, of keeping ourselves open to God's invitation, of allowing ourselves to be led by God to what really pleases him.

For the past month since I came to the parish, I am amazed at the sight of parishioners, the young as well as the not so young, who continue to serve and find ways to do more and be better. This empowers me, and hopefully, each one of us to serve Jesus and the parish community and find ways other than what we have been used to – what more can I do and what possibilities can I become in my love for the Lord?

Fr Jonathan

Faith B4U...

WINTER EMBRACE - Making a difference - This weekend and next

Wonderful that people have started bringing the school goods for the children on plantations in Sri Lanka. See the display in the church foyer.

THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT WEEKEND ARE OUR TIMES TO GATHER ALL THE GOODS

More pamphlets are at the doors if you haven't seen the list of items needed

ALSO - to conclude our Winter Embrace effort NEXT WEEKEND we will have an EXIT collection after Masses for the essential winter work of St Vincent de Paul

Here's to our capacity to bring God's blessing to people's real lives!

New Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Info 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.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Enrolments are now open for children in Year 6 and above. Visit www.olqp.org.au for dates and to complete the enrolment form.

If you have any questions or require assistance to enrol your child, please email sacraments@olqp.org.au or phone the parish office on 9631 8135.

Men's Group - Save the Date

Saturday 9 August at 8am, in the St George Precast Centre.

Share faith and friendship. All men 18 years to senior welcome.

For more information contact **Nicky on 0403 124 345**

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.

Attention: Church Ministers

We are currently updating our volunteer records and require your assistance please.

If you are no longer serving at Mass, or wish to explore a new ministry, **please contact Lisa in the Parish Office on 9631 8135 or email lisa.bright@olqp.org.au**

Did you know?

Pope Francis reminds us that we humans, according to the Bible, must take our place within creation, not stand outside it in a superior position. It is a distorted view of human life that claims we are better or more important than the rest of creation (cf LS 69)

→ To **read** the encyclical, go to www.vatican.va

→ To **listen** to this encyclical being read, go to: www.columban.org

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 Kroebel, 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.

Percy Baptiste, Mario Pedavoli, Tessie Xerri

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.*

John Cilia

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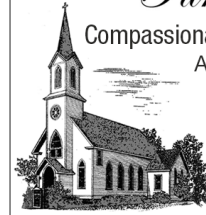
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Safeguarding is a priority at OLQP

Volunteers, group leaders and assistant group leaders are asked to complete the Safeguarding modules either online or in person. Details below.

ONLINE: To sign up & log into your Safeguarding modules, visit: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

IN PERSON TRAINING: To find a training session near you & to register, visit: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you volunteer at the parish and are unfamiliar with Safeguarding, please contact the parish office for more details.

Volunteer Communications Network

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in Catholic Outlook, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: parracatholic.org/communicators

Boundaries in healthcare

There will be a formation session on 'Boundaries in healthcare - what they are and what they are not' at **St. Paul the Apostle parish, Winston Hills on Saturday 2nd August from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Registrations: met@parracatholic.org

Enquiries: michael.tan@parracatholic.org

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) - fundraising event

The TLC offers free legal help to disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised people in Western Sydney.

Charity Fundraising Event: Nagini Dance Drama

Saturday 26 July, 5.30pm

More information & book: <https://shorturl.at/8vVIE>

Christ's Catholic Community

Come and join us in understanding the Gospels more deeply. Fridays at 10am in the Youth room.

Lost Property

Missing an umbrella, water bottle, glove, rosary etc?

Please look in the main entry area of the church (Narthex) near the Lost Property Sign.

For valuables, please call the parish office on 9631 8135.

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

22nd Tuesday **St Mary Magdalene**

25th Friday **St James, apostle**

26th Saturday **Sts Joachim and Anne, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary**

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Genesis
18:1-10

2nd Reading

Colossians
1:24-28

Gospel

Luke
10:38-42

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Genesis
18:20-32

2nd Reading

Colossians
2:12-14

Gospel

Luke
11:1-13

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

Join us on...

www.facebook.com/OLQPGreystanes | [OLQPGreystanesYouth](https://www.instagram.com/OLQPGreystanesYouth) | www.olqp.org.au

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

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