Forgiving God, your mercy and compassion bring freedom and hope to our world. In this season of Lent turn our hearts to you. Lift us up when we fall. Restore our broken, fragile world, and give us confidence to live and love again.

Amen

Lenten reflection…..
This week’s readings reveal the paradox of the nature of God. What does that mean for us and how we live our lives? The temptation is always to believe that we are the masters of our destiny, and that our sophisticated knowledge can answer all our questions. Yet Paul’s heartfelt assertion that “God’s weakness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength”, still resonates within us as a greater truth. Can we be transformed to live God’s ‘foolishness’ and ‘weakness’, bringing life to ourselves and to the world?

Jan Newell

Fr Michael’s message…..Re-reading the great writer on Celtic Spirituality, John O’Donohue, I was impressed by how the ancient Irish faith tradition can remind us of truths we forget. If you are in Ireland today, if Gaelic speakers greet you in their ancient language, the words will probably be: “God be with you” and the proper response to such a greeting is “God and Mary be with you”.
And similarly in leaving a person, the words used are “May God come to your assistance” or “May God keep you”.
The truth that the ancient Irish disciples of Jesus were so aware of, was the divine is present in others.
Lent is a time for remembering truths like this that we pick up from a little bit more spiritual reading, and then applying them to our many daily encounters.

Memorial Paraliturgy for Fr. Peter Robinson our Parish priest 1993 – 2009
This is an opportunity for us as a Parish and School Community to appropriately farewell our former Parish Priest in a way he deserved. The details of this special celebration are as follows –
Time & Date: 7:30pm March 17
Place(s): Our church – 150 seats & the GECCO – 80 places. We will need to use QR Codes for both venues. ** We need to adhere to these numbers strictly due to current covid regulations
Virtual Attendance: This paraliturgy will be live-streamed so as many people can ‘attend’ as possible.
The web link will be advised next weekend. There is a special publication that has been produced which honours his life and achievements: it is entitled, “Peter Robinson: Priest & Community Builder” (edited by Val Noone). We will advise shortly of its availability and how to obtain a copy.
RECENTLY DECEASED: Grace Rogelio (Philippines), Larry Mendoza (USA)

ANNIVERSARIES - THOSE WE REMEMBER FONDLY AT THIS TIME: Kathleen Turner, Anthony Micallef, John Williams, Concezio Pantaleo, William Mumford, Gloria Wisby, Catherine O’Ryan, Mary Carbery, James Dempsey, Kathleen Kruger, Marija Kormanic, Vittoria Donati, Marie Abrahams, Rosaria Adornato, Francis Delaney, Jero Lanza, Therese Spencer, Paul Brandon, Sandra McDonald

LORD THAT I MAY BE WELL AGAIN - PRAY FOR THE SICK: Bernie Herridge, Kate Mulholland, Sr. Mary Fankhauser, Cheryl Parker, Patricia Valente, Robyn Atherton, Philomena & Leo Boek, Fr Kevin Mogg, Danilo Mikac, Anne-Marie Silfo, Michael Nicholls, Elizabeth Martin, Tony Ryan, Sr Margaret McHugh, Michael Burgess, Annette Lewis, Richard Mc Aliece, Katrina Jackman, Brian Flynn, Maureen Miller, Bridig Harding, Joan Keegan, Terry Walsh, Judith Price, Sophie Nathan, Merle Fernandez, Scott Fitzgerald, Danielle Wintle, Helen Clark, Joan & Barry Pobjoy, Br Brian Brandon, James Lang, Joseph Grima, Dr. Carlo R.H. Magno, Nola Ettery, Ben Dymond (parent at school)

MASSES QR Code registration for the 5.30pm and 10am Masses. Registration sheets are available in the foyer for sign up for all other Masses (these have a 75 person limit). Please help us to keep the Church sanitized between Masses. Let us know if you can help on the day. Please be patient waiting to register with QR or other; it may take a little longer for entry. We appreciate your co-operation in this regard. Masks must be worn where you are unable to maintain 1.5m distance.

THE QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION IS BEING USED AT THE 5.30PM VIGIL MASS AND THE 10AM FAMILY MASS. THIS MEANS WE CAN INCREASE OUR CAPACITY TO 150 AT THESE MASSES. PLEASE BRING YOUR MOBILE PHONES TO REGISTRATION TO ACCESS THE CODE, OPEN THE CAMERA FUNCTION ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE AND HOVER OVER THE READER AS IF YOU WERE TO TAKE A PHOTO. IN A COUPLE OF SECONDS YOU SHOULD SEE A LINK APPEAR AT THE TOP OF YOUR PHONE SCREEN. CLICK ON THE LINK AND FILL OUT THE DETAILS, SUCH AS NAME, PHONE CONTACT. PRESS AND SUBMIT THE FORM AND WAIT FOR THE GREEN TICK! YOU ARE NOW GOOD TO GO!! HELP IS AVAILABLE IF YOU NEED IT!

BAPTISM PRESENTATIONS & PREPARATIONS
Let us remember...

ALFRED JOHNSON  ORLANDO GRIMOLI  LOUIS MURRAY
Son of Luke and Natalie  Son of Francesco and Natalie  Son of Andrew and Justine

who this weekend begin the Parish Preparation and Presentation Program.
We pray for them and their families and godparents. May God always surround them in his love.

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Readings for 3rd, 4th and 5th weeks of Lent......
Every year in Lent, parishes have the option of choosing Year A readings for the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays in Lent. Why? The Year A readings are particularly suited to those on the journey to Baptism. So, even though we are in Year B, our parish will use Year A readings for these weeks because we have 4 adults and 1 child all on the journey to be baptised at the Easter Vigil.

BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAM Volunteers are invited to join the current Baptism Team. This is a great opportunity to meet new families and guide them through the baptism program here at St Martin of Tours Parish. To find out more about the role please ring the Parish Office on 9401 6338 or Megan Gravell on 0423 870 940. Training is provided. An Information Night led by the current team leaders will be held on Wednesday 28 April at 7.30pm in the Parish Community Centre. So, ‘come and see’ about the very satisfying service to our young families in the Parish, that this Team carries out, and bring a friend with you!

RELIGIOUS GIFT SHOP HAS RE-OPENED Please wear a mask when browsing for gifts and exit through the double doors when you have made your purchase. Please use the hand sanitizer prior to and after your visit. This exit is only to be used by people visiting the shop in line with covid guidelines.

KNOTHS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS meeting Monday 8th March at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

ALTAR SOCIETY Altar society is inviting new members to join our roster beginning after Easter. For more information please contact Pia 9459 6187 or Margaret 9457 2108.

STEWARDSHIP Thank you for your continued support for your Parish over the past 4 months. My heart is very grateful for your response and care of your Parish community.

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES FROM THE TABLE IN THE FOYER!
Figures for last weekend:
Stewardship $1076  Presbytery $440  Loose $302

POLICE CHECKS AND WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS Anyone who does not have a current registration cannot volunteer in their ministry until their registration is renewed. Please refer to the SMOT website under the safeguarding tab for information on how to renew your checks.
LENTEN 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership. Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva’s to gain access to education, to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone’s dignity.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

WAY OF THE CROSS—LENT Simply Jesus: Reflect. Renew. Recommit
This Lent, across our Archdiocese, we are being invited to reflect on the way and person of Jesus, renew ourselves in his love, and recommit ourselves to the path of discipleship. A Way of the Cross resource has been developed incorporating images, Scripture, music, reflection and prayer.

Along with other resources, it can be accessed at: www.melbournecatholic.org/lent2021

LOOK TO JESUS LENT & EASTER RESOURCE (personal use)
The primary focus of Look to Jesus - 52 Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter will be individual prayer, contemplation on a daily scripture verse from the readings of the day, and a quote from Pope Francis. To sign up to the Look to Jesus podcast here for Apple and here for Android. (copy and paste link into your browser)

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP— IT’S ALL ABOUT HOPE
This program runs on Tuesday nights in Lent at 7.30pm via ZOOM, led by Sr Anne. This year’s Lenten program explores the theme of hope over six weeks, using prayer, biblical reflection and insightful exploration of the Easter liturgies. It is a program that will create energy for all the things the Lord wants to do with us, and for us. The booklets have sold out but you can still join the program via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/6579695946?pwd=bTAwU2NNWW1kdFVXKzJaMVNpY2tTdz09
Meeting ID: 657 969 5946
Passcode: 9HZTpM
Please copy and paste the link into your browser to access the meeting via Zoom. You can also right click over the link and open the hyperlink this way. Alternatively, open Zoom and use the meeting id and password.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held every Friday morning in Lent, after the 9:15am Mass in the Church. Leaflets will be provided. Please contact Philomena Lewis 0403910446 for further queries.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Due to COVID restrictions, the Christian Meditation Group which meets on Wednesday evening will be meeting on Zoom. We will begin meditation at 7.30pm and end approx. forty minutes later. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Joan McKeegan on 0418 584 970.

ARCHBISHOP LETTER RE COVID VACCINATION is available for you to read and take home from the foyer

ADVANCE DIARY DATE Anointing of the Sick Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 20th March at 11am.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA Recognise, Respond, Prevent Domestic and Family Violence
The Victorian Catholic Bishops have called on people of faith, and church organizations to learn about domestic violence, reflect on their own attitudes, equip themselves with knowledge and create an environment of support and healing. The Bishops’ printed statement can be found in the foyer. Posters on the noticeboard have contact points if you are experiencing difficulties. More info can be found at www.css.org.au/dv

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. Daily Mass is streamed from St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne. Masses are livestreamed daily on our Archdiocesan YouTube channel and on Sundays to view on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV). Copy and paste the links above to access these options.

GARDENING: TIM O’HANLON 0433 952 705 GENERAL HOME MAINTENANCE: Bernie Power 0409 936 860

To view our Safeguarding Children & Young People Code of Conduct, go to www.smot.org.au