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FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SALMO RESPONSORIALE

Il Signore e' il mio pastore: non maco di nulla.

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

CANTO AL VANGELO

Gloria a te, o Cristo, Verbo di Dio!

Io sono la luce del mondo, dice il

Signore, chi segue me avra' la luce della

vita. Gloria a te, o Cristo, Verbo di Dio!

GOSPEL John 9: 1-41 (or 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38)

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE LAST WEEK

1 st Collection	- Thanksgiving Offering.....	\$1114.00
	- Loose Money.....	\$209.00
2 nd Collection	- Presbytery/Priests.....	\$367.00

LECTORS - THIS WEEK 02/03/08

6.00pm (SAT) – MALTESE MASS (Selected)
9.00am (SUN) – L Calafiore & R Terzino
10.30am (SUN) – J & J Kearney

SPECIAL MINISTERS

MALTESE MASS (Selected)
D Biasibetti, R DeZan & G Barbaro
M Mizzi, Sr Doreen & G Silvio

LECTORS - NEXT WEEK 09/03/08

6.00pm (SAT) – G Canavan & E Saliba
9.00am (SUN) – R Pino & L Catena
10.30am (SUN) - G Donnini & M Sernia

SPECIAL MINISTERS

N Ziino
P Leggiero, A Sonza & R Terzino
J Frangiosa, M Bernardi & D Lucato

CHURCH CLEANERS

08/03/08 A Ranalli, C Brunetti, A & V Zele & N Morello

MONEY COUNTERS

03/03/08 R & E Cornelious & R & G Silvio
10/03/08 J & J Kearney, E & K Bartlett & C McMahon

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

RECENTLY DECEASED

Lucia MARTUCCIO (d. Italy)

ANNIVERSARIES

Caterina DAVIDE, Gina DI DONATO, Mariangela PAOLA, Antonio, Lunella & Ines CALIGIURI
Pasquale, Angela & Mario LUNA, Pietro & Riccardo ODOARDI, Agostino & Assunta BRUNETTI
Famiglia DI TORO

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

NORTH RESERVOIR

79 Wilson Boulevard, North Reservoir 3073

Parish House/Office Tel: 9460 3013 Fax: 9460 8832 Mb: 0431 643 674

E-mail: stjtw@westnet.com.au

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School Tel: 9460 7506 Fax: 9462 2949

SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

Sat 6.00pm - English
Sun. 9.00am - Italian
Sun. 10.30am - English

Fr Emmanuel Bonello—Parish Priest

Sr Doreen Bentley-Pastoral Associate
Mr Peter Chowne -School Principal
Mrs Liz Pistoni – Parish Secretary

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon. Communion Service
Tue. 10.00am Italian
Wed. 9.10am - English
Thur. 9.10am - English
Fri. 9.10am - English

Maltese Mass

1st Saturday of the Month

Baptisms – Sunday 12.00pm

Marriages - By Appointment



Reconciliation: Sat. 10.30am

4th Sunday of Lent, Year A

March 2, 2008

Amazing Grace

It's not often that a movie is named after a hymn, but this is the case with the film "Amazing Grace". The title comes from the hymn written by John Newton. The movie tells the story of William Wilberforce and his campaign to abolish the British slave trade. As a young politician, he began to argue in parliament that trading in slaves was wrong and should be stopped. He met strong resistance and he was tempted to give up the fight as a hopeless cause but in 1807 he finally succeeded in having a bill passed that abolished the slave trade throughout the British empire. One of the people who influenced William Wilberforce was John Newton, who wrote the words of the hymn "Amazing Grace". John Newton had once been the captain of a slave ship but while steering his vessel through a storm he underwent a dramatic conversion. He came to regret the misery he had inflicted on the thousands of slaves he had crammed into his ship over the years and he decided to devote the rest of his life to spreading the message of Christ. The hymn is a prayer of thanks for his conversion. He considers that he had been a "wretch" and is amazed at the grace, the gift, of God that had saved a wretch like him. He had once been blind to so much – including the human dignity of those he had transported as slaves – but now, through the mercy of God, he could see. John Newton's experience was like the experience of a central character in today's gospel – a man who was blind but then was healed by Jesus. In fact, some of the words of the hymn are very close to the words of the gospel. In the hymn, John Newton wrote "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see." The once-blind man in St John's gospel says: "I only know that I was blind and now I can see." Today's text from St. Paul might set us thinking of ways that we too were once blind but now have been healed by Christ. St Paul's words were originally addressed to Christians in Ephesus but they also have a message for us today. He writes: "You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord. Be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth." The early Christians saw baptism as a way of being enlightened by Christ. In our baptism rite today, we light a candle from the Easter candle as a sign that the one who has been baptised has received new light from Christ, the light of the world. Then, echoing the words of St Paul, the celebrant encourages the newly baptised to walk as children of light. "You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts." This season of Lent is a time for preparing for baptism or for renewing our baptismal commitment to Christ. It is a time to give thanks for the amazing grace of God and to say with joy, "I was blind, but now I see."

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BAPTISM

Congratulations to **Miarose Pronesti** child of Bruno and Tina, who will be baptised today. We welcome her into our parish community and assure the family of our prayerful best wishes on this happy occasion.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 3 MARCH** at 7.30pm in the church.

MEMORIAL MASS

Tuesday 4 March at 7.00pm – Lucia Martuccio (d. rec.)

LITURGY TEAM

Liturgy Team will meet on Tuesday 4 March at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Parish Leadership Team will meet on Thursday 6 March at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

CUPPA

There will be a cuppa in the Narthex next Sunday 9 March after the 10.30am Mass. Please stop and enjoy the hospitality of the parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent at 7.00pm in the Church. Conducted in English and Italian. All parishioners are warmly invited to come together for this important time of prayer.

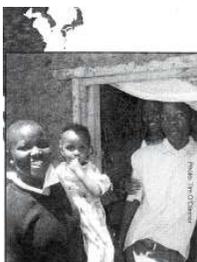
VIA CRUCIS

Via Crucis in Italiano e Inglese tutti i Venerdì della Quaresima, alle ore 7.00pm, in chiesa.

ITALIAN LADIES

Riflessioni del Martedì continua alle ore 9.00am in Capella, seguita Santa Messa alle 10.00am.

Martedì 18 Marzo dopo della Santa Messa delle 10.00am, avremo **“CENA CON I SIMBOLI DELLA PASQUA”**. **SONO IN VENDITA I BIGLIETTI DONAZIONE \$7.00, POSTI LIMITATI, PRENOTATEVI SUBITO. Per informazioni rivolgersi a Lucia Catena 9460 4597 or Rosa Pino 9442 9033.**



Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 2

We are called to bring life to our brothers and sisters in need. In this week's story in Nairobi, Kenya, Caritas Australia highlights the courage and resilience of a young woman called Monicah who has emerged from violent physical and sexual abuse with renewed self-esteem, life skills and renewed family ties! Your donation to Project Compassion will allow Caritas Australia to continue providing practical and emotional support for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Monicah is from Nairobi in Kenya. She is participating in a program run by Pendekezo Letu and supported by Caritas Australia.

Caritas Australia helps the program provide counseling, education, skills training, micro-credit loans and legal advice to enable families to re-build after the trauma of abuse. It builds self-respect by providing skills training and encouraging participants to earn an income and gain a sense of hope for the future.

Caritas' support is enabling survivors like Monicah to attend school. She plans to become a nurse to assist children affected by abuse. Your donation to Project Compassion will allow Caritas Australia to continue providing practical and emotional support for people living with HIV and AIDS.



W Y D

135 DAYS TO GO



COUNTDOWN TO DID08 6PM MASS!

Held on the last Friday of every month before DID08, St Augustine's Church (corner of Bourke and King Sts in the city) is hosting a Mass for young people to gather in prayer and worship prior to DID08 AND WYD08. Whether you're a past pilgrim, student, professional, or just a passerby – everyone from around Melbourne is welcome to attend.

WYD JOURNEY OF THE CROSS AND ICON AND MESSAGE STICK

ST DAMIAN'S CHURCH BUNDOORA APRIL 29 2008

The WYD Cross and Icon will arrive at St. Damians Church Bundoora on April 29 2008 at 6.30pm. Individual Reconciliation will be provided starting at 7.30pm. The Bundoora parish is hosting the event in partnership with 24 other parishes which are listed as follows: Preston East, Preston, Thomastown West, Mill Park, Reservoir North, Fawkner, Fawkner North, Preston West, Ivanhoe, Eltham, Diamond Creek, Bulleen, Montmorency, Templestowe, Macleod, Coburg, Reservoir East, Kingsbury, Coburg East, Bundoora, Reservoir, Lalor, Greensborough, Epping, Greensborough North.

MELBOURNE STAY

Welcome international pilgrims into your home and make a friend forever!

We are inviting all Melbourne homeowners to host at least 2 pilgrims in their homes during July 2008.

Logon to our website WWW.DID08.COM and register as a Melbourne Stay host today! or pick up a Melbourne Stay Host Application Form from the Parish Office.

Kevin Sheedy was announced as the first Melbourne Stay family as part of a recruitment drive that is seeking to attract 10,000 homes across Melbourne.

For further information please ring any three of our great parishioners who are volunteers for Days in the Dioceses Melbourne. Pictured in the photo, second row from the front - right to left – Ray & Glenyce Silvio : 9460 6607, Diane Chybowski : 9471 1060



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is celebrated on Friday 7 March. This day is an opportunity to reflect on the dignity and role of all women; in the family, society and the Church. "We know that the Church as a whole has much to learn from and about women, who constitute more than half of its membership....we know that their contribution over the centuries and today has been (and is) enormous, even if not fully recognised and valued" (Cardinal Clancy, 1996, Launch of research project).

We pray that we, the Church ensure that women are encouraged and allowed to become more fully participative members of the Catholic Church in Australia.