

## PARISH DIARY:

### This coming Week:

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February ... - 6.30pm: Life Teen Planning Meeting  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February ... - 7pm: Men in Christ AND - 7pm: Choir Practice  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February ... - 5.30 - 6.30pm: Faith formation – Grades 5, 6 & 7  
- Ministers of the Eucharist Meeting  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February ... - 6.30pm: Care group meeting in the classroom  
- 7pm First Baptism instruction AND - 7pm: RCIA  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February ... - 11.45am - Mrs. Brislin's Memorial Mass  
- 5-6pm: Faith formation (Good Shepherd & Grades 1,2,3 & 4)  
- 7-9pm: Faith formation (Grades 8,9,10 & 11)  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February ... - Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and we celebrate World day of the sick  
- CWL Meeting at 8.30am. AND - 9.30am – Ecclesia Training

### 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> February – Second collection for the Pontifical Mission Society (Holy Childhood)

#### Future Dates:

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February ... - 7pm: Lectio Divina – Praying & Meditating with Scripture. Please bring your Bible. Text: Matthew 5: 38-48 (Gospel Reading for 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Year A).  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February ..... - 7pm: Ministers of the Word Meeting  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February ... - 10am: Mass by the Grades 8,9 10 & 11. Parents, family and friends invited - Coffee & biscuits afterwards in the hall (Hosted by YC).  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February ... - 10am: Altar servers meeting  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February ... - Baptisms  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March ... - **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**What makes for a practising Christian?** *Why do so few people go to church today? Some people say that churches are emptying because they are too progressive, too sold-out to the culture, too devoid of old, timeless truth. Some suggest exactly the opposite, namely, that churches are emptying because they are too slow to change, too caught up in old traditions that no longer make sense. And some suggest that the real issue is not whether the church is too progressive or regressive. Rather, less & less people are going to church because "basically people treat their churches exactly the way they treat their own families; they want them around, but they don't go home to visit them all that much!"* Reginald Bibby, the Canadian sociologist of religion, said: "People aren't leaving their churches, they just aren't going to them – & that is a difference that needs to be understood." There is a difference between leaving a family & just not showing up regularly for its celebrations. Who belongs to the church? What makes for a practising Christian? When is someone's relationship to the church mortally terminated? What does it mean to be outside the church? Who is entitled to receive the rites of baptism, eucharist, confirmation, marriage, & Christian burial.

*People are treating their churches just like they treat their families. Theologically the church is family. Ecclesiology has to look to family life to properly understand itself. Thus, inside of our families: Who is in & who is out? When does someone cease being a "practicing" member of a family? Does someone cease to be a member of a family because he or she doesn't come home much anymore? Do we refuse to give a wedding for a son or daughter just because he or she, caught up in youth & self-interest, hasn't come home the last couple of years for Easter & Christmas?*

Many of us have children & siblings who largely use the family for their own needs & convenience. They want the family around, but on their terms. They want the family for valued contact at key moments (weddings, births of children, funerals, anniversaries, birthdays, & so on) but they don't want a relationship to it that is really committed & regular. Families understand this, accept it, swallow hard sometimes, & remain a family despite it. In any family, there will be different levels of participation. Some will give more, others will take more. Some, will carry most of the burden – arrange the dinners, pay for them, keep inviting the others, do most of the work, & take on the task of trying to preserve the family bond & ethos. Others, because of youthful restlessness, immaturity, self-interest, confusion, peer-pressure, laziness, anger, whatever, will carry less, take the family for granted, & buy in largely on their own terms. *That describes most families & is also a pretty accurate description of most churches. There are different levels of participation & maturity, but there is only one church & that church, like any family, survives precisely because some members are willing to carry more of the burden than others.*

*Those others, do not cease being members of the family.*

*They ride on the grace of the others, literally. It's how family works; how grace works; how church works.*

Church must be understood as family: Certain things can put you out of the family, true. However, in most families, simple immaturity, hurt, confusion, distraction, laziness, youthful sexual restlessness, & self-preoccupation – the reasons why most people who do not go to church stay away – do not mortally sever your connection. You remain a family member. You don't cease being "a practising member" of the family because for a time you aren't home very much. Families understand this.

Ecclesial familiv. church. I believe. needs to be just as understanding. (Fr. Ron Rolheiser)



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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<http://www.facebook.com/YouthConnectionIC>

WEBSITE: [www.parowcatholicchurch.co.za](http://www.parowcatholicchurch.co.za)

### PARISH PRIESTS:

Fr. Sonny Gadai OFM Cap  
Fr. Sean Cahill OFM Cap

### SECRETARY:

Beverley Dantu

### Office Hours:

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

### MASSES:

Weekday Masses at 8am  
First Friday at 7pm  
Saturday at 8am and 5pm  
Sunday at 8am and 10am

### CONFESSION:

Saturday: **11am – 12**

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Tuesday – Friday  
8:30 am – 6:00 pm

### BANKING DETAILS:

Direct transfers are welcome to the following:  
Standard Bank – Parow  
Account Name:  
Catholic Parish of Parow  
Branch Code:  
031 110  
Account Number:  
071 585 893

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## THE PATRONAL FEAST of the



Archdiocese of Cape Town



## THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

Scripture Readings for the week:

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> February: Sts. Peter Baptist, Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs, Memorial**

Genesis 1:1-19, Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35,  
Mark 6:53-56

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February: St. Colette of Corbie, Virgin & Poor Clare, Memorial**

Genesis 1:20--2:4, Psalms 8:4-9,  
Mark 7:1-13

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February:** Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17,  
Psalms 104:1-2, 27-30, Mark 7:14-23

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February:** Genesis 2:18-25,  
Psalms 128:1-5, Mark 7:24-30

**Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February: St. Scholastica, Virgin, Memorial**  
Genesis 3:1-8, Psalms 32:1-2, 5-7,  
Mark 7:31-37

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February: Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of Prayer for the Sick**

Genesis 3:9-24, Psalms 90:2-6, 12-13,  
Mark 8:1-10 Or

Isaiah 66:10-14, Psalms Judith 13:18-19,  
John 2:1-11

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> February: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year**

Sirach 15:15-20, Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34, 1  
Corinthians 2:6-10, Matthew 5:17-37