

PARISH DIARY:

This coming Week:

- Monday 6th February ... - 6.30pm: Life Teen Planning Meeting
Tuesday 7th February ... - 7pm: Men in Christ AND - 7pm: Choir Practice
Wednesday 8th February ... - 5.30 - 6.30pm: Faith formation – Grades 5, 6 & 7
- Ministers of the Eucharist Meeting
Thursday 9th February ... - 6.30pm: Care group meeting in the classroom
- 7pm First Baptism instruction AND - 7pm: RCIA
Friday 10th 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 11th 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

11th & 12th February – Second collection for the Pontifical Mission Society (Holy Childhood)

Future Dates:

- Wednesday 15th February ... - 7pm: Lectio Divina – Praying & Meditating with Scripture. Please bring your Bible. Text: Matthew 5: 38-48 (Gospel Reading for 7th Sunday – Year A).
Thursday 16th February - 7pm: Ministers of the Word Meeting
Sunday 19th 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 25th February ... - 10am: Altar servers meeting
Sunday 26th February ... - Baptisms
Wednesday 1st 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)



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WEBSITE: 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

4th & 5th 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, 6th 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, 7th February: St. Colette of Corbie, Virgin & Poor Clare, Memorial

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

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

Thursday, 9th February: Genesis 2:18-25,
Psalms 128:1-5, Mark 7:24-30

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

Saturday, 11th 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, 12th February: 6th 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