



St Martin de Porres

**Hallett Cove Catholic Community**  
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January 2024

## Community Newsletter

No 40/2024

### PUT ON A NEW SOUL IN THIS NEW YEAR

Dear people of God, we are already well into the first month of the New Year – 2024. We commenced this New Year with grateful and joyful hearts and minds; praying to Our Lord God and wishing well to each other. We may be uncertain of what this New Year will bring and how it will unfold but with good will, great hope and trust in God, we will abide under his blessing. A beautiful life does not just happen but is rather built by daily Prayer, Humility, Sacrifice and Love.

“The object of a New Year is not that we should have a New Year. It is that we should have a new soul” says G. K. Chesterton. Yes, the New Year provides opportunities for us to cultivate a new soul by gracing us with new occasions and prospects to develop ourselves and serve others as willed by the Infant Saviour. The New Year also presents us with an opportunity for a fresh start, a new perspective and the rediscovery of ourselves within the life of Christ. We remember and give thanks for the past year’s blessings, despite its challenges, adversities and uncertainties, that through God’s grace we remained steadfast. We also thank God for the wonderful Christmas celebration, renewing our confidence that God sent His only begotten Son, Our Saviour, to bring new light and life to our world.

“Stimulate prayer with simplicity and in accordance with Christ’s heart” says Pope Francis. In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has designated 2024 as the YEAR OF PRAYER with a particular emphasis on the ‘OUR FATHER’. The Year of Prayer is not a year about prayer, but a year for prayer. The image of Christ in the manger speaks of a God who wants an intimate relationship with His creation. This presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer and for us to become even more a people of prayer. Prayer is our intimate relationship with God through which we develop and grow in a close friendship with Him. He has always been resolute with the necessity for us to constantly grow in a love of prayer on our journey of faith. Pope Francis also asks us to consider how we might help others to pray; so that they too, can experience a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.

To answer this call to spend more time in prayer let us meditate on the Lord’s Prayer and be revitalised in the



spirit of prayer as were the first believers and followers of Christ Jesus. Pope Francis stressed that the Our Father prayer be set as the cornerstone of our prayer life. If we are not able to begin our prayer with these two words, then our prayer will go nowhere. We must always begin our prayers with “Our Father” and be mindful that we are his children; we have God as our eternal Father, a father who loves us, and a father who knows all our needs. These words also convey the sense of us being as brothers and sisters; part of one human family rather than as Cain hating his own brother. We are also reminded to forgive, to forget offenses against us, and avoid feelings of anger or a desire for revenge. It is important for each of us to examine our own conscience, reflecting on these words as we ourselves petition the Father for our own forgiveness. St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta says, “Praying the Our Father and living it will lead us toward saintliness for Our Father.”

We continue in prayer that the presence of the Lord will fill our lives and our homes; that his Love and Peace will be felt within our families and throughout the world. We pray for the grace to live our life reflecting His love; a reflection that changes the lives of those around us; one that gathers the lost souls, one to heal where love is broken. May God use us in new ways for the Kingdom of God and all for the Glory of the Lord...! Be Blessed Abundantly..!

Fr Prathap

### Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

#### Masses:

7.30am at Sacred Heart College

12 noon & 6.30pm at Brighton

12 noon at Hallett Cove



### *Our Parish Vision*

*A Catholic community enriched by, and centered on, the Eucharist, empowered to bring the Good News to all.*

## Parish Pastoral Council

### **Christmas Ministries-**

*encouraging our parishioners and their families to proclaim the Good News, strengthened within our community, by being an active people of God.*

Thank you to the many parishioners who took part in our Christmas celebrations. Your participation was greatly appreciated.

*Advent is a time to be nourished for the journey of Faith which stretches before us as we embark on a new church year.*

Deacon Tim conducted this Advent Reflection as we approached Christmas.

Kevin Liston also conducted workshops reflecting *Christmas in context of the Big Story of the Universe.*

Pat Carlisle generously showed us different ways of participating in the rosary in the lead up to Christmas. Teresa and Gary Pascoe organised a moving Nativity Play with the children on Christmas Eve. The children dressed as angels and shepherds as they reflected upon the meaning of the birth of Jesus.

Thanks to Deacon Tim, Kevin, Pat, Teresa & Gary for conducting these Ministries to celebrate the Christmas season.

### **2024 Regional Assembly**

The Regional Assembly will be held on *Saturday 4 May, 2024 @ Sacred Heart College, Champagnat Campus, Mitchell Park* from 11am-3pm.

Late last year a proposed program was sent to our Parishes/ Principals and APRIMS of all our Catholic Schools in our region.



### **The draft proposed program includes**

'Meet and Greet' from 10.30-11am

Welcome and brief prayer -11am.

Then follows two presentations from parishes and schools on different ministries and activities

A Sausage Sizzle will be provided @1pm.

This lunch will be followed by a time of sharing and reflecting together with mixed parish/school groups. It is hoped that we will come up with practical suggestions for enlivening our parish / school life and ministries.

This will be followed by feedback

Concluding Prayer will finish the day by 3pm.

*All school families and parishioners of our parish are invited to this event.*

We are all hoping that by celebrating what is already happening, we can be inspired to find new ideas to gain a new lease of Christ and Spirit filled life in our communities. This is also a great opportunity to put into practice the vision set out by our Archdiocese in *Being Church Together*.

There will need to be considerable time and discussion between the schools and parishes before this Assembly is finalized. We will keep you informed as the program becomes clearer.

## **Passionist Family Group Movement**

Have you heard this before?

*Our parish lacks life' or ' We do not know each other' Maybe you have said to your self 'How can we make the Church more relevant for our children ?'*

Well now we can do something.....**JOIN A FAMILY GROUP.**

You can get to know people like yourself and people who are different from you. You will have lots of fun and be able to get support from others. You will have the opportunity to support and care for others.

*In the coming months one of the Passionist Family Group members will attend our mass and speak about Family Groups..*

*I will let you know the Date of this event when it is finalized*

### **Searching for Parish Engagement Scale (SPES)**

We recently received the data and a report on 'Searching for Parish Engagement Scale' (SPES) which many of our parishioners and St Martin de Porres staff & students participated in 2023. Now our school and parish leaders will have the opportunities to reflect on and discuss this information in relation to the NEW 'Being Church Together' document which will guide the very important School/Parish partnership into the future.

This report gives us information to consider how we might approach change and initiatives, considering the attitudes and beliefs in the community.

St Martin de Porres School leadership team has also received the report and intend to engage with student leadership, staff and the Parish on its recommendations.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 'Searching for Parish Engagement Scale' (SPES). There will be further information during the year.

### **Parish Pastoral Council 2024**

Parish Pastoral Council is a very important part of our church and without a Council it would be very difficult to run a successful parish. The Council meets once a month to ensure that key issues are discussed and the voice of the community is listened to. Decisions made at this level always consider where our parish is at and what is best for all our parishioners. At our meetings we communicate regularly with the Parish Finance Council which is focused on ensuring that our spending is kept within our means. Being part of PPC enables our church to work with the staff, children and the families of St Martin de Porres School. I believe that the future of our church is in the hands of our children.

I'm asking you to take a step out of your comfort zone and get involved in our church or encourage someone else who you think might need a little push to be part of our council. I'm inviting you to take up something new in 2024 that you will find rewarding and helps others. I encourage anyone who has any thoughts or questions of joining the PPC in 2024 to please speak to Fr Michael, myself or any member of the PPC. Meetings are held on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. It is a very rewarding and spiritual experience.

Best wishes for the coming Year.

Helen Thompson, Chairperson PPC

## Parish Finance Council

As we look towards 2024 the following budget has been approved by

Fr Michael, the Parish Finance Council and the Parish Council. We are aiming again for a small surplus this year – which can only be achieved where we continue to fund key events within the parish on an as needs basis similar to last year and are supported financially by our parishioners.

There are many ways to financially contribute to our Parish, use any of the boxes in the foyer for both cash & planned giving envelopes at Mass.

Last year we added the tap and go machine, which has been well received – just remember to print a receipt and drop it in one of the boxes with a note if you want your donation to go to anything other than the second collection.

I also would like to acknowledge our Parish School – St Martin de Porres as it continues to support us financially which helps immensely.

We also thank John Paul for his service to the council for the past 8 years, and we welcome 3 new members to the council - Pete Smith, Greg Schar & Malcolm Balkwill.

Pete McKenna (PFC Chairperson)

### Statistics for 2023

Last year at Hallett Cove we celebrated

- 41 Baptisms
- 24 Confirmations (1 Adult)
- 26 First Holy Communions
  - 1 Marriage validation
  - 2 Funerals
- approx. 220 Masses
- 1 Thanksgiving Mass for the newly Ordained Fr James Thomson
- And many other celebrations of milestones
- Monthly morning teas and suppers
  - Lots of Rosaries
  - Fortnightly Reflection groups
  - Involvement in local Ecumenical activities such as Prayer days, Christmas Carols

We have a lot of things happening that you can get involved in—check your weekly newsletter, add yourself to the weekly email (contact the parish office to be added to the list) or check the website [www.hcparish.com.au](http://www.hcparish.com.au)

## Hallett Cove Catholic Community 2024 Budget

INCOME	2023	2024
Planned Giving - Envelope	\$31,112	\$30,000
Planned Giving - Direct Debit	\$13,820	\$13,200
Planned Giving - Credit Card	\$9,968	\$9,960
Unpledged Collection	\$13,050	\$16,500
Donations	\$1,800	\$1,500
Interest	\$135	\$2,300
Other Income	\$2,300	\$1,500
Weddings & Funerals	\$1,500	\$1,300
Sacrament Program	\$1,600	\$1,600
Funcs & Fundraising	\$1,450	\$1,300
Sale of Books & Goods	\$200	\$0
SMDP School	\$7,000	\$7,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$83,935</b>	<b>\$86,160</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Staff Wages	\$21,241	\$16,500
Staff Super	\$2,371	\$2,490
Repairs & Maint	\$3,000	\$3,480
SMDP School	\$7,000	\$7,000
Amenities sa water	\$1,320	\$1,400
Electricity	\$330	\$0
Gas	\$935	\$1,000
ESL	\$330	\$400
Council Rates	\$1,760	\$1,900
Renovation & Equip	\$3,000	\$5,000
Insurance	\$12,100	\$13,980
Office expenses	\$4,950	\$5,200
Phones/IT	\$880	\$1,080
Worship & Parish Ednc	\$3,850	\$3,960
Coersp & car	\$13,390	\$14,600
Plan Giving Expenses + Padre	\$1,650	\$3,120
Func/Fund	\$1,100	\$500
Parish Sacrament Program	\$0	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,207</b>	<b>\$82,610</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$83,935</b>	<b>\$86,160</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$79,207</b>	<b>\$82,610</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$4,728</b>	<b>\$3,550</b>



## Vinnies

# The Hands:

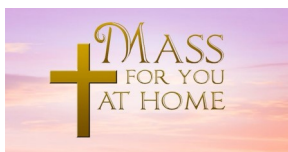
1. The hand of Christ blesses the cup.
2. The hand of love offers the cup.
3. The hand of suffering receives the cup.



A week before Christmas Hallett Cove Vinnies packed and delivered Christmas Hampers to those in our community who are struggling. Hallett Cove Vinnies is part of the Fleurieu Region together with groups from Aberfoyle Park, Morphett Vale, Noarlunga, Aldinga / Willunga and Victor Harbor. Between us over 480 Christmas Hampers have been packed assisting over 700 adults and 1,100 children.

Many families have taken the time to ring and thank Vinnies for the Christmas Hampers they received. As your local Vinnies group we were amazed at your generosity and delighted with your kindness.

To our Hallett Cove Parishioners we say thank you for embracing the spirit of selflessness through your giving and sharing. You have been so generous with your donations which spread joy and warmth to those around us. May your hearts be filled with peace and may the coming year shower you and your loved ones with blessings and serenity.



### Home Masses

In 2024 we would like to offer home Masses. If you would like host a home Mass for your family and friends, please contact the parish office and we can arrange a date and time, or write your details on the sheet in the foyer.

### Craft Group

Our craft group meet each Thursday at 11am in the church foyer. Bring your own craft. They are a small but very supportive group who meet for a chat and coffee and even do



some craft.

All are welcome to join them whenever you can.

## THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS (SA) INC.

Brighton – Marion – Hallett Cove - Glenelg Branch



Hallett Cove Parish report January 2024

Welcome to 2024. The world is having its usual ups and downs, no different to life in Australia. However, our KSC Branch will continue to foster the Catholic faith amongst its members and to support those who are in need. We do this by supporting your parish Vinnies conference plus four other conferences.

We fondly remember former KSC State Chaplain, the Late Mons Rob Egar who passed away. Also, the Late Mons Robert Aitken and recently Aileen Hodgson from Brighton, wife of Bro Pat Hodgson of our branch. We also remember them and our recently deceased parishioners in our Masses & Prayers.

The Formation Program continued with the Gospels of Mathew. There was a reflection on Talents; the usage of our talents and the way they affect our daily lives.

We continue to regularly financially support the five Vinnies conferences in our Branch area. We made donations towards their Christmas Hampers and branch funds. We commend the Hallett Cove Vinnies for their excellent commitment to the disadvantaged in our Parish and neighbouring parish/s.

Our recent wine sales have been successful and we thank the parishioners who purchased wines or gave a donation. We still collect bottles and cans as one of our fundraisers. Please contact Bro Tony Schar 0419127491 for collection.

One of your parishioners, Bro Gary Amott recently completed 50 years membership of the Knights. We wish Gary many more productive years in the Knights and on the golf course!

Finally, in your Masses and prayers, think of those who are sick and suffering in our Parish/s and provide help and comfort if and when required.



Stay Safe and well and Free of COVID.

Bro Tony Schar  
Scribe

## Fred's Van

Fred's Van is operated by Vinnies with 10 centres operating throughout the state. Last year over 40,000 needy people were fed.

At Christie's Beach we fed 3187 thanks to the amazing volunteers who up each Wednesday and Sunday night cook and serve a free hot nutritious meal to anyone who turns up. We use the commercial kitchen at the Wardli Youth Centre on McKinna Parade, Christie's Beach.

Thanks go to Reggie Dallemule, from our Parish, who plans the menus and shops each week. We have another 2 people who shop for the Sunday service as well.

We are always looking for more volunteers, each team is rostered on once a month. We have 4 teams for Wednesday and Sunday nights. Duties include setting up tables and chairs in the hall, wrapping donated bakery items, help prepare the meal and serve the meal, help with the dishes ( we have a dishwasher) and generally clean up the kitchen and hall. We serve each meal between 7 and 8 pm. Volunteers arrive around 5pm and most of the time we are out of the centre by 8.15pm.

Thanks also to Greg Schar and his team at Vinnies for the support given throughout the year.

Bob and I have been volunteering at Fred's for over 21 years, it's been such a worthwhile opportunity to help those who are disadvantaged and struggling with what life throws at them. It's great to be able to reach out in some small way to anyone who needs support whether it be a meal or have a talk.

If you are interested in volunteering at Christie's Beach Fred's you will need to contact Teresa Branch who is the state coordinator of Fred's on 0419857966 or ring Head Office 81128720.

Mary Dittmar  
President  
Fred's Van  
Christies Beach



## Significant Anniversary Blessings—17th September 2023



## Significant Anniversary Blessings—16th September 2023



13 couples received a special blessing for celebrating significant wedding anniversaries in 2023. (2 other couples received a certificate from the Archbishop). If you will be celebrating a significant anniversary (ending in a 5 or 0) this year, and would like to be included in this ceremony this year, please contact Pat in the parish office.



## The Pastoral Meaning of Blessings

*Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask (Collect for Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time).*

The Vatican recently issued a document to elaborate on Pope Francis' innovative teaching on spontaneous or pastoral blessings offered by clergy (*Fiducia Supplicans: On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings*, 18 December 2023). What follows is a paraphrase of some sections of this profound document.

The Holy Father's contribution broadens and enriches of the classical understanding of blessings, which are typically linked to the liturgy (recall the Solemn Blessing at the end of Mass, or the Nuptial Blessing given during a wedding ceremony). By contrast, pastoral blessings are simple and brief, responding to the faith of people who, even in the midst of their everyday life and sins, open their hearts to ask for God's help. Most common is asking for a blessing for rosary beads, a house, a car—or yourself on your birthday!

Clearly, Pope Francis is encouraging clergy to support the faith of people (faith which may be small or great) by assisting them in their weakness with a divine blessing, and to channel their openness to transcendence (which may well lead them to become more faithful to the Gospel). No one should be refused a humble request for the saving presence of God in their lives.

Remember the person in the Gospel who responded to Jesus, *Lord, I believe—help my unbelief* (Mark 9.23-24)? In such pastoral settings, those seeking a blessing are not required to have prior moral or spiritual perfection.

When we seek a blessing, we show ourselves to be people who worship the Lord and deeply trust in God's mercy. With confidence we constantly seek the gift of God's blessing that flows from the Heart of Christ through God's Church. The great blessing of God, the source of all blessings, is Jesus Christ. Jesus warmly embraced and blessed little children (Mark 10.16). His last post-Resurrection act on earth (as he was carried into heaven) was to offer a blessing (Luke 24.50-51). Jesus' treasury of blessings provides comfort, care and encouragement in the mist of our everyday lives.

Blessings **descend** from God, mediated through God's ministers. One of the earliest and best examples is the Aaronic (priestly) blessing: *May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace (Numbers 6.24-26)*. At the heart of blessings is God's abundant delight in us. Another type of blessing, common in the Psalms, **ascends** from earth to heaven toward God: *Bless the Lord, my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name (Psalm 103.1)*. We discover our true vocation when we turn to God with praise. Through God's graciousness, we can also **extend** a blessing toward others. Imagine a parent or grandparent praying: *Lord, look upon these children of yours, grant them health, work, peace and mutual help. Free them from everything that contradicts your Gospel and allow them to live according to your will. Amen.*

Here's my favourite quote from Pope Francis on blessings: *We are more important to God than all the sins we can commit because God is father, God is mother, God is pure love, God has blessed us forever... Even if [our] closest relatives have abandoned [us], because they now judge [us] to be irredeemable, God always sees [us] as God's children.*

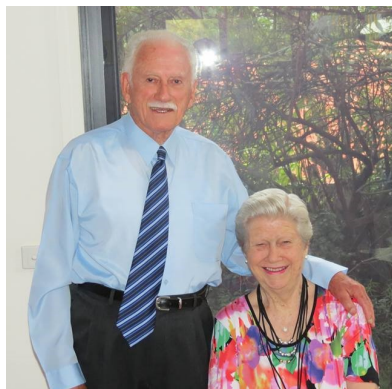
Our world longs to experience God's peaceable blessing, and the Body of Christ can pass on this blessing as much as it lavishly receives it from God. Our Father loves all of us richly. The only thing that remains is for us to rejoice in God's blessing, to thank God, and to learn from God to bless.  
May the Lord bless and keep you, now and forever!

Deacon Tim Grauel



### **Congratulations**

To Maurice and Betty Ralph celebrating their **70th Wedding Anniversary** on the 30th January.



Our **Family Group** has continued to meet for well over 20 years now.

Here are some photos from our gathering in early December where 20 of us met for a meal at The Broadway hotel. There is great fellowship amongst the group.

Rosemary Lowcock



### **Congratulations**

To Robert & Heather Byrth celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** on the 19th January.



See the article from the PPC about setting up future family group in our parish and look out for more information coming this year, to see if you can be involved in a family group.



### **Anointing of the sick**

On the 1st Friday of each month during our 9.30am Mass we offer Anointing of the Sick.

All are welcome to attend and be anointed.

### **Rosary Group**



The Rosary group stay after our Friday Mass (9.30am) and pray the Rosary each week. They also gather some Saturdays at 5.30pm before Mass and pray the Rosary. Look out for special times during Lent or Advent or in October (Rosary Month)

### **Supper and Morning Teas**

Due to the success and community building efforts and demand, we will increase our suppers and morning teas to twice a month beginning in April. They will happen on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. If you would like to volunteer in the kitchen to set up, serve and clean up, please contact Pat in the parish office to be added to the roster.



Donations of food or wine always welcome.



## CHARLIE AND JOY SABA COMMISSIONED AS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER NATIONAL LEADERS



Charlie and Joy Saba have recently accepted the role to be part of Worldwide Marriage Encounter's Australian Ecclesial leadership team. Charlie and Joy have been involved in the Marriage

Encounter ministry for almost 30 years, and were humbled by the nomination from the Australian Council. Over the weekend of 13-14 January, the outgoing Australian Ecclesial Team, Andrew & Marian from Sydney and Fr Emil from Perth, handed the torch to Charlie & Joy Saba and Fr Carl Telford sm from Auckland for the next 4 years. The process was a prayerful one, exploring the spiritual aspects of taking up and letting go of the ministry role as well as passing on information and history.



Charlie and Joy said that the weekend was a special opportunity to “step of life’s merry go round” and just focus on the two of us, like we did in our courting days. The weekend presenting team shared their life’s journey with us and it was refreshing to hear that everyone experiences joys and challenges. We were given time to discuss the various aspects of our relationship in privacy and in the context of our own life.

Like most couples, we had a solid foundation but the weekend helped us to communicate more openly and honestly which led to a better understanding of each other. After the weekend we decided to join a local Marriage Encounter community which supports us to keep our relationship a priority amidst the day to day busyness of life.



A special thank you to Fr Prathap for celebrating a Thanksgiving Mass with the wider SA Marriage Encounter community followed by a shared lunch.

A local couple at St Martin de Porres invited Charlie and Joy to experience a Marriage Encounter weekend in 1994; it made such a positive impact on their relationship with each other and their faith that they decided to remain actively involved in this ministry.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is about to celebrate its 50th year in Australia and over that time it has helped thousands of couples to communicate more deeply and effectively with their spouses, families and communities.

The weekend is also open to Priests in parishes or in religious communities and offers a unique way to revitalise their priesthood and renew the relationships they have with their community, away from the distractions and routine of everyday life.

Charlie and Joy are always happy to chat about this ministry and answer any questions. Alternatively you can visit the following website:  
[www.wme.org.au](http://www.wme.org.au)





## **2024 Year of Prayer**

2024 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, with a particular emphasis on the "Our Father". This presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to become even more a *people of prayer*.



*Someone once said that 'prayer doesn't help our relationship with God, prayer IS our relationship with God!' and so when we become more devoted to prayer, we are building up that Divine friendship. Being Pilgrims of Hope means that we should always be growing in our love of prayer on our journey of Faith. But the Year of Prayer also asks us to consider how we might help others to pray, so that they can experience a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.*

The Year of Prayer is not a year *about* prayer, but a year *for* prayer.

### **Some suggestions for personal Prayer!!!**

#### **Prayer Using Images and Symbols**

For centuries Christians have used the senses to remind themselves of the God who created them.

Nature and art can speak to our senses of God's presence. Candles, crosses and holy images can help us to see God in a new way and to experience what they remind us of; they can also be used as a focus for our meditation or contemplation.

#### **Lectio Divina**

Choose a piece of scripture and read it slowly three times. Pick out the word, words or phrase that speaks to you the most and prayerfully repeat it, listening to what God might be saying to you through it. Allow the word or phrase to guide you in your prayer and think about how you might apply it to your own life in the day or week ahead.

#### **'Work and Prayer' - St Benedict**

Any repetitive or mundane task has the potential to elicit, or become, prayer. Whether praying under one's breath as the job is being done, or by offering yourself and the task for God's greater glory, one can begin to live out the words of St Paul and his desire to see Christians pray always.

#### **Meditation**

This can involve placing oneself in an event from scripture by assuming the person of one of the characters. You experience the event in your imagination as if you were there, reacting to it as it happens. You then see how that experience might help you to understand what Jesus was teaching, or maybe God has spoken to you in a new way about a biblical story or parable.

#### **Contemplation**

One of the aims of contemplation is to simply be in presence of God, as one might with a friend. It is often accompanied by a conscious stilling of our mind and body, which can help us to become aware of God's quiet presence. The repetition of a particular word or phrase, or concentrating on our posture or breathing, can help to remove distractions so that we can focus solely on Him.

## **The Chosen**

The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Jewish oppression in first-century Israel, the series shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings.

.....

I'm honestly really impressed by what the makers of this show have accomplished. It's such a unique take that they've given to the story, this sort of "street-level view" of those people that encountered Jesus. Reading these stories in the Bible again and again makes it easy to become detached from the fact that these were real people living real lives dealing with real struggles, going to work, hanging with friends, making jokes, eating lunch, and stepping in animal poop but they've brought it all to life in an engaging and relatable way where the tight budget seldom shows.

I love that this show doesn't feel preachy, like most Christian media. The way the camera kind of bobs and sways as it follows the action lends an almost documentary-like vibe that makes me feel like I'm simply witnessing a story unfold. No agenda. No sermon. Just good old-fashioned storytelling. Of course, we know that there is a very profound message to it all, but the filmmakers are smart enough to let the audience figure it out for themselves without thumping them over the head with "Christian talk."

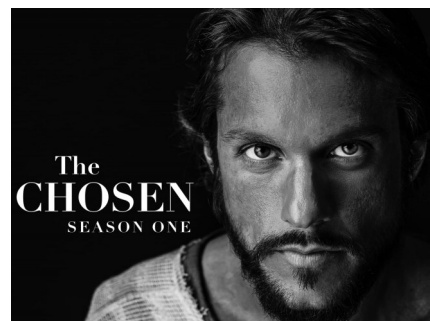
The actor portraying Jesus does so with an unflinching kindness and empathy that makes him instantly trustworthy and lovable in every. single. scene. So props to him for his amazing work and props to the casting team for finding him!

This is a great show that, even if not suited to everyone's tastes, is bound to challenge our mental perception of these people and their stories. It makes these characters feel real, brings Jesus to life in a new way, and has some fun with artistic license while still honoring God's Word.

Watch the first 3 seasons for free

<https://watch.thechosen.tv/>

Season 4 (Episodes 1 & 2) coming to Marion cinema  
1st Feb



## Lent

Ash Wednesday begins Lent. We have Mass here at Hallett Cove on Wednesday 14th February, at 12noon. All welcome.

Our focus for Lent this year will be prayer.

The Rosary group will meet each Tuesday in Lent at 6pm for Rosary—you are welcome to join them.

Kevin Liston will be running a Lenten Discussion group each Wednesday evening at 7pm starting on the 21st February.

Deacon Tim's Reflection group will meet weekly on Tuesdays at 7pm starting on the 13th February.

Project Compassion begins on Ash Wednesday—you are invited to collect a Box or set of envelopes for donations to Caritas. There is a QR code to directly support Caritas on behalf of the Hallett Cove Catholic Community. All donations to Project Compassion are tax deductible.



## Easter Raffle

With the success of last year's raffle, we have decided to do this again in 2024. We are looking for donations to make up Easter baskets to raffle. Donations may be placed in the box in the foyer by the 17th March. Raffle Tickets will go on sale from the 18th February, to be drawn on Palm Sunday.

We will not be having Lenten Donations for Vinnies this year—the Vinnies donations will happen in the middle of the year to support the Winter Appeal.

## Easter 2024

### Palm Sunday 23rd/24th March

Join us for the blessing of the palms and the reading of the Passion during our weekend Masses.

Can you fold your palm leaf into a Cross????

### Holy Thursday 28th March

Mass of the Last Supper at 7.30pm  
Followed by Adoration and  
Night Prayer beginning at 9.30pm

### Good Friday 29th March

Stations of the Cross 10am  
Followed by Individual Reconciliations

Liturgy 3pm

### Easter Vigil Saturday 30th March

A very special celebration begins at 7.30pm to celebrate the Resurrection of the Jesus. We bless and light the new Easter candle, there are many joyous readings and new candidates are welcomed into the church. Wine and supper to follow.

### Easter Sunday Sunday 31st March Join us for Mass at 9.15am

I would like to decorate the church for Easter with flowers—lots and lots of flowers.

I will be looking for donations of flowers.

Live flowers may be brought to the church on Saturday 30th March by 10am for arranging.

I would like lots of created flowers—any size or , medium. If they are made from recycled materials— even better.

Some examples may be paper/fabric flowers, mosaics or drawings, flowers made from cds or records, recycled cardboard rolls or newspaper.



There are lots of ideas on the internet—I look forward to seeing what we can create together.

The flowers would need to be brought to the church by

Palm Sunday. (Box in foyer)

If you would like your flowers back after the Easter season,

please ensure that your details are attached, and I will get them back to you.

Happy crafting!

