

Windmills



Notes from the Ministry District Priest, Yorke Peninsula

February 2020

Greetings

At the end of the month, we will move into the next major season of the year. Our last Wednesday of the month is Ash Wednesday and preceded by the festivities of Shrove Tuesday as we say farewell to meat.

Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year. Lent offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from and it brings our need for a Saviour to the forefront. Like Advent, Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

But unlike the childlike joy associated with the season of Advent, with its eager anticipation of the precious baby Jesus, Lent is an intensely penitential time as we examine our sinful natures and return to the God we have, through our own rebelliousness, hurt time and again. Lent is also an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross - and it wasn't pretty. But ultimately, the purpose of Lent does not stop at sadness and despair - it points us to the hope of the Resurrection and the day when every tear will be dried (Rev. 21:3).

Although the nature of suffering is not one that offers itself to easy explanations or pat answers, the answers we seek seem to make the most sense in light of the Cross. There is nothing in the world - no religion, philosophy, or material comfort - that offers such a powerful answer to life's toughest questions as the two slabs of wood on which our Saviour died.

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Upcoming Events

Ministry District Meeting

Sunday, February 2. 3:30pm
St Benedicts, Minlaton

Blazeaid Catering

Tuesday, February 6, 5pm
Light Church Edithburgh
Contact: Cheryl Bates

Coffee and Craft *(Resumes)*

Friday February 7, 10am (St Benedict)

Child Safe Environment Training

Saturday February 8, 10am (St Benedict)
9:30am for Tea/Coffee to start by 10am

Learning Circle

Wednesday, February 12, 7 pm
Wednesday, February 26, 7 pm
Maggie's Place – Port Victoria
Contact. Coralie 0455 839 885

SYP Book Circle

Thursday, February 13, 4:30pm
Flying Angel Centre

Mission Support Team

All Clergy and LLM's.
Friday, February 14

Minlaton Book Circle

Wednesday, February 19, 7:30pm
Jill Huntley's

Soup Luncheon

Wednesday, February 26, 11:45 for Noon
St Benedict's (Cost \$5)

Edithburgh Ecumenical Service

Thursday, February 27, 9:30am
Catholic Church

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 7, 7:30am
\$5 – St Benedicts, Minlaton

Church Vestry Meetings

Thursday, February 5 – 7:30 pm
Church Council – St Benedict.

Wednesday, February 20 – 4pm
SYP Vestries – Boardroom

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Celebrations

Tuesday February 25.

At this stage we are planning celebrations
at the following locations.

5pm @ St Benedict's, Minlaton

6pm @ Weaners Flat Hall, Yorketown

*These will happen when we get
volunteers willing to help and make this
happen*

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday February 26.

10am St Benedict's, Minlaton

10am St James, Ardrossan

5pm St George's, Yorketown

Gael Training @ St Benedict, Minlaton

Friday, March 20

10am – 3pm *BYO Lunch @ St Benedict's*
Connecting Through Conversation

Wednesday 1st April

11:00am – 3:00pm

at the Cathedral Church, Port Pirie

The Blessing of Oils,
Renewal of Ordination & LLM Vows and
Quiet Day.

*Arrangements for lunch will be advised
closer to the date.*

All Licensed Lay Minister's and Clergy
from our district are encouraged to attend.
Other Lay Members from our
congregations are also invited to come and
join the diocesan family on this special day
leading up to easter.

Can you find the
the mistake?
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Although I was drawn to Christianity in search of joy, it's the Cross that keeps me coming back day after day, year after year. It is this time of year, known as Lent, that I am reminded of what Jesus did for me.

When I look into the eyes of our suffering God, I'm in awe - suddenly the complexity of our Lord, the love of our Lord, the humanity of our Lord shows through. I realize God is not just some nebulous energy source or a grandfather sitting in the clouds - He is so much more. The Cross is where our faith stands when all other faith's fail. Christ's sacrifice and his subsequent resurrection are the true "cruxes" of the Christian faith. Without one there would be no salvation, without the other, no hope. This is why Good Friday and the following Easter Sunday are the most important dates on the Christian calendar - even more so than Christmas.

We may need to think about adjusting our life pattern. This may mean taking time to pray more and joining with God's people more often. Or taking time to study and read God's word. As we begin a new year, let us aspire to strengthen our faith and devote ourselves to find out who God wants us to be.

Lent is a time when Christians separate from the world; when we find out our faith is not just a feel-good, self-help religion but one that answers the deepest questions of life and eternity. Those who journey through the Lenten season will enter the Easter season with an increased appreciation for who God is and what He has done for us. And the joy of Resurrection, as well as the promises of eternity, will not be soon forgotten.

Andrew

Congratulations to:

Cheryl Bates

Muriel Brokate

Kirsty Dinnison

Barbara Freidenfelds

Dianne Reade

Pamela Biggs

Jeanette Canton

Rosemary Eichner

June Harrison

Joy Birkin

Robert Cook

Michael Ford

Beverly Litster &

Licensed for a further 3 years as LLM's



District Priest

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