

The Earthquakes and Storms of Life.

On the 6th and 7th of February 2023, the world witnessed a sudden violent shaking of the ground in Turkey, Syria, and other places. This caused a great destruction of properties and loss of lives. Earth tremors are often because of the movements within the earth's crust. In life, when our relationships, faith, heart desires, finances, and even morality are put to test, we often may claim that we are experiencing some existential earthquakes or storms. But some of these could be what we brought on ourselves, what others brought upon us, or what God has allowed to happen to us.

In the bible, poverty, death, famine, and natural disasters or destruction to properties could be seen as earthquakes or storms for the human person. Luke 21:11 tells us that: "there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines, and pestilences, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven". Whether it is the notion of earthquake in the bible or in any society or nation that we have known, the fact remains that: tremors bring with them a certain amount of difficulty and hardship to the human person.

Consequently, it is at this moment of great difficulty which causes fear, that most powerful and generous nations and individuals show their solidarity, love, and compassion with the people in need who have been greatly impacted in the wake of the earthquake or storm. In as much as we feel terrified for what havoc the earthquake has caused on peoples' lives and properties, it offers us an opportunity to glorify the God of heaven and earth (Rev. 11:13).



Praying for our brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria.

Accordingly, let us give thanks to God for the growth opportunity which he provides to us through these earthquakes and storms of life that change our lives and stories, because they condition us to prepare for bigger events in life and beyond. With strong faith and trust in God, people affected by these tragedies often come out of it stronger with the changes that accompany situations like these. Therefore, may we learn through these existential storms and earthquakes of life to say "NO", when we mean "NO", and "Yes", when we mean "Yes", so that: we can attain the wisdom which God predestined for us, build our character, and so become happy in keeping and following the commandments of God's love, mercy, and compassion.

Fr. Raymond Ugwu, C.S.Sp.

OLQP Pancakes at the Church

Our Youth at OLQP will gather together to make and sell pancakes in the spirit of Shrove Tuesday (a day traditionally reserved for using up all leftover goods before the Lenten season). The vision is to provide food after the masses on the 18th/19th February – the weekend before Lent. There will also be a sausage sizzle. The funds raised will go toward the refurbishment of the Youth Room for future events as well as other areas around the church.

Come and support this good cause with a good meal too!

Special Mass for the people of Syria and Turkey

Fr Chadi Ibrahim, sdb who is a native of Aleppo, Syria,, will be celebrating a special mass for earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria at St Patrick's Cathedral on next Friday 17th February at 5.30pm.

He invites all to join him to pray for the people of Syria and Turkey.

Faith B4U...

Life n' Faith Enrichment

World Day of Prayer Friday 3rd March 2023

The Merrylands Holroyd-Greystanes World Day of Prayer is being held on Friday 3rd March 2023 in the Merrylands Presbyterian Church, Corner of Monitor and Merrylands Roads, MERRYLANDS at 10.30am followed by Morning Tea in the Hall. All Welcome.

Prayer and Reflection with Sr Leone

Sr Leone will facilitate a morning of prayer and reflection on Wednesday 1st March 10am – 11am in the St. George Preca Centre. Morning tea provided, all welcome.

For more information: anne.hines@olqp.org.au.

Lenten Groups.

Lent is an invitation to listen with our heart. **This Lent** you are invited to join a small group and engage with the Scriptures through 'Finding Light Within the Darkness'. This resource seeks to reveal the mystery of God each week through scripture and faith sharing.

Come as you are ... pay attention ... be present ... welcome what comes. Every Tuesday 10am-11am, 28th February - 28th March or Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm, 1st March - 29th March in the Youth Room.

If you would like to join one of these groups please rsvp to anne.hines@olqp.org.au

"Contemplation is not a technique to be mastered but a journey inside ourselves to become one with what already is." – Daniel O'Leary

Soul Food Podcast - Pastoral Formation

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<https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/>

Christ's Catholic Community

Friday prayer group has restarted for 2023.

We gather each Friday. All are welcome.

Time: 10:00am | **Location:** St George Preca Centre

Contact: Pauline 0407 417 039

Retreats

Divine Retreat Centre - Hosting a variety of retreats. Visit: www.divineretreatcentre.org.au

Jamberoo Abbey - Hosting a series of online retreats pondering the values of Silence/ Listening, Reverence and Community.

Visit: jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats

Sharing your faith in 2023

We have need of Special Religious Educators (SRE) to go in to the classrooms at our local primary schools and bring the good news to the children from our parish.

Are you a Uni student, retired or work part time and able to give up 1 hour a week to prepare and teach these children? We will give you training and support as you take on this valuable work.

We currently have vacant classes on Tuesday morning and Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

If you are able to assist or wish to know more please contact the Parish Office 9631 8135.

"How lovely on the mountain are the feet of those who bring good news."

Current SREs are reminded of our meeting on 10th February at 1.00p.m. in George Preca Centre.

Mazda Car Key Found

Please contact the parish office on 9631 8135 if you have lost one.

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Benita Acharya, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Maria Golkowski, Margaret John, Sylvester Joseph, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Bob Nowfel, Brendon Onorato, Delma Ryan, Carmel Thompson, Eddie Vella, Maureen Zarb

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's mission

Domenico Corso, Francesca Ramaci, Valdena Venier, Elaine Candappa, Annie Gomes, Anthony Lawless

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope

Funeral dates at OLQP listed below when known.

Ian Schwenke - 16th February at 11am

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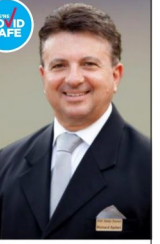
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FaithLIFE Scripture Course

Want to learn more about the Bible? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on Scripture with Dr Michele Connolly rsj, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). **6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Thursdays: 23 February, 2 March and 9 March.** Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Continuing to Build Safe Parishes Together in 2023

An update from the Office of Safeguarding.

Children's Guardian Act 2019 & the Child Safe Standards

From 1 February 2023, the Children's Guardian now has power in law to take action to ensure organisations comply with the Child Safe Standards.

From: <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-scheme/implementing-child-safe-standards/our-approach-compliance-and-enforcement>

What can each one of us do to actively demonstrate how the 10 Child Safe Standards play a very important role in ensuring children in our Parish are cared for and safe in our community?

Our 6 points of Safeguarding Training demonstrates that each person in parish ministry is compliant in Standard 7. Our training also informs all those in parish life of their role and responsibility in ensuring each of the other Standards can be demonstrated as well.

Each Parish Ministry is very important to our faith and local community. Let us all show this by our collective commitment to this training.

If you are still to finalise your Safeguarding Training, please take advantage of the upcoming face to face opportunities around the Diocese. Next week the 'New Year's Dash Training' begins at: Glenbrook, Rooty Hill, Springwood and Quakers Hill. Check with your Parish Office for dates and time. You are welcome to register for any of these training sessions by contacting: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you would like to complete the training independently on our online training platform you can start these modules at any time and complete them at your own pace.

Sign up onto the platform by clicking on this link:
<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org.

Let's get this done and show our Parishes are committed to building safe communities!

LIFTED Launch 23 February

Join young people from around the Parramatta Diocese as we kick off the Youth Year officially at our LIFTED Launch 2023! We'll be joined by Gen Bryant and her band to celebrate our faith, young people and the massive year ahead.

WYD 2023 pilgrims are encouraged to come along for important WYD information.

Register at <https://parracatholic.org/liftedlive/>



Next weeks Readings

1st Reading
Leviticus
19:1-2, 17-18

2nd Reading
1 Corinthians
3:16-23

Gospel
Matthew
5:38-48

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate
14th Tuesday **Sts Cyril**, monk, **Methodius**, bishop

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

PO Box 5035 Greystanes 2145 | 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes

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