We continue this week with our series of reflections by parishioners as to a symbol that has meaning for them in relation to Lent or Easter. Thank you to those who have been willing to share with us their thoughts.

Cup of Tea

I have selected a tea bag as my Lenten symbol. A favourite pastime of many people is to relax and refresh themselves with a lovely cup of tea.

A time to reflect and contemplate their day, week, month, year or indeed their lives. So it is with Lent, it is a time of reflection and renewal in the life and love of the Lord.

A time to be positive, take up new challenges and put behind us any negativity that may have crept into our lives.

Lent creates inner wellbeing, an inner harmony which helps “re-charge” and refresh our lives. This is what I get when I ponder over my favourite beverage, a good cup of tea.

By Brett Pollard

My Lenten symbol is a BOAT.

As I navigate my way through life, I encounter times when the water is rough and I find myself adrift in the storm. At these times I feel lost. I need my boat to be a tug to guide me into calm water, where I feel the loving reassurance of Jesus. Life is like that, a constant adaptation between calm water and stormy sea.

Other times my boat is a place of solitude, a place to experience the inner tap on the shoulder. To throw out the excess baggage, and take the time to encounter the storm not as a problem, but an opportunity to explore what is important.

This year I find myself asking the question – How does Jesus fit into my life? How do I live the gospel? Is it sporadically? On the perimeter? Or at the centre?

My plan for this Lent is to recognise Jesus in others and respond accordingly. To remember that Jesus is in the boat with me, no matter whether calm water or stormy sea - we continue the journey together.

As a Christian people we live in the shadow of the cross, whilst remembering we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!!

By Camille Kelloway.
During this year of Mercy we are invited to participate in a “gentle revolution” through our tender and meaningful actions founded on our relationship with a forgiving God. One of the articles I read had 56 ways we can make our actions more merciful, so each week I thought I would share one with you:

Mercy Action # 35
Offer to run an errand for someone.
WE PRAY FOR those who have entered your kingdom: including Fathers Brian O'Dwyer, Margaret Beasley (Roma), Albert Knight, Sam Maiore (Roma), John Walmsley (St. George), Paul Zacka, Lyn Sutton, Thelva O’Shea, Darryl Hennessy, Bub Porter, Darrel Littlewood, Heather Glasser, Nancy Thurecht (Talwood), Anna Van Kuijk, Ray McKenna, Florence “Margy” Pavlicevich, Teresa Butler, Mark Batchelor, Ramon O’Neill, Frank Holland, Noel McGovern, Winston Thorne, Jill Welsh Field, Natalie MacPherson, Erin Laverty, Norah O’Brien, Father John (Jack) Clancy, Father Jeff Scully, Kay Coleman, Marion O’Leary, Matthew Palmen.

For all whose anniversary is at this time: including Arthur Gordon, Peter Spittles, Bronwynne Faddy, Paul FitzGerald, Betty “Topsy” Hunt, George Hartin, Michael Gibbs, Kevin Cook, Claire Park, Mia Beck, Jenny Marsh, Robert Ford, Barry Cook, Barbara Bendall, Ally Brennan, Arthur Gordon, Bill Bishop, Joan Price, Molly McDonald, Joan Turvey, James “Ally” Brennan, Joyce Turvey, Georgia Bourke, Carolyn Sewell, Tom Simpson.


If you would like to include the name of someone in these lists, please check with the person or family concerned and then phone Kath on 4671 5087 (Thursday 9am to 3pm).

Let us pray for all those clergy whose anniversaries occur during this month:
Rev Msgr Michael Potter 01/02/44, Ve A/Deacon Robert O’Shea 02/02/40, Rev Fr Raymond White 08/02/00, Most Rev James Byrne DD 11/02/38, Rev Msgr John Bergin 18/02/00, Rev Fr Michael Hayes 19/02/60, Rev Fr Michael Cronin 20/02/92, Rev Fr Henry MacFarlane 20/02/46, Rev Fr Michael Sheehan 25/02/47

Lord, welcome them into the company of your Saints.
INTRODUCTION

Todays’ readings remind us that we live with the “burden” of choice. God is a patient, loving God who hears the cries and suffering of his people. Mercy is available to all. And yet, we have the freedom to act; and our actions have consequences that sometimes bring pain and suffering to ourselves or others. We may have unleashed suffering that we can’t reverse. But we are offered the gifts of repentance and mercy. They are freely given, but we must choose to accept and embrace them.

First Reading
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
Moses encounters God in the burning bush.

Responsorial Psalm
The Lord is kind and merciful

Second Reading
St. Paul to the Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Learn from the ancestors’ mistakes.

GLORY TO YOU, WORD OF GOD, LORD
JESUS CHRIST! Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
GLORY TO YOU, WORD OF GOD, LORD
JESUS CHRIST!

Gospel
If you do not repent, you will perish.

Prayers of the Faithful

For the church: that we may live as a repentant, merciful people … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For all those experiencing pain and suffering from the actions of others, especially for children … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For families, teachers, pastors, mentors and all who accompany us in our efforts to change … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For the courage to acknowledge our own need for repentance … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those who do not recognise the consequences of their actions … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those preparing for the sacraments and the life changes they bring … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For the needy, the sick and the dying among us; and for those who have died … remembering your mercy, we pray,