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.

Compass with a Heart

Guidance and love are the two symbols of Lent that opened my heart and lead me back to God’s opened door. I was at a time in my life when I needed guidance and direction and God didn’t let me down. I know I was not without sin and I know in my heart God never judged me or gave up on me, because from compassion comes forgiveness and forgiveness was in God’s heart for the woman who committed adultery – not condemnation.

How easy it is in life to judge or condemn someone when we ourselves have made our own mistakes. Words can hurt and we have to account for them. Speech is God’s gift and we must weigh our words in the sight of God. God loves all of us equally, so it is up to us to change and be that better person. We should all follow God’s example – love, compassion, and forgiveness is in all our hearts – so let our hearts shine bright.

Lent is our time to join hands in prayer, close our eyes and let God into our hearts and say thank you for showing us how much you loved us, through giving of your life to save us. Thank you for loving me Lord. So I ask the Lord – How can we make amends? Lord put more compassion into our hearts and guard our tongues and let us always remember what gives us hope and keeps us together is love. God loves us and forgives us and He will love us into perfection. Amen.

By Denise McCormack.

Symbol – Listening

This year I have been asked by Fr. Michael to present a symbol to add to our board of symbols. My symbol is a listening device used to assist hearing. This Lent I hope to improve my listening skills, to make a point to smile, greet and make conversation with someone who is not in my everyday circle. I also need to listen to my own inner self and recognise my inadequacies.

Pope Francis asks us to be a church that is capable of meeting people on their way.

Remind me O Lord, that Lent is not about austerity and gloom, but about becoming more effective instruments of your love and mercy.
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 # 22**

Offer to run an errand for someone who finds it difficult to get around.

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**LEFT:**
Recently we celebrated the baptism of Leila Kathryn Jill Finnigan, she is pictured with her mother and father, Hope and Scott and her brother, Rory.

Lord, watch over this precious child and shower her and her family with your grace.

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**RIGHT:**
Congratulations to Harlow Marie Klowss, who last month, was welcomed into the Catholic community. Harlow is pictured with her parents Ricky and Courtney and big brother Isaiah.

May she know all the joy of Christ’s presence in her life.

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**Parish Council**
Next meeting will be at the Parish House at 3.30pm on the 16th March, 2016.

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Please find the DRIVER REVIVER volunteer timesheet on the front table for 24/03.

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**ON THE FRONT TABLE**
You will find the “white” books that cover Easter Monday to Pentecost with thoughtful reflections. Please take your free copy.

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**Want to play Carpet Bowls?**
Parish Centre from 9.30am.
Next game: Monday 14th March, 2016.

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**Mercy Action # 22**

Offer to run an errand for someone who finds it difficult to get around.
WE PRAY FOR Those who have entered your kingdom: including Guy Langhans, Danielle Brennan, Father 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 Kuijck, Teresa Butler, Mark Batchelor, Ramon O'Neil, Frank Pavlicevich, Betty “Topsy” Hunt, George Hartin, Michael Gibbs, Kevin Purcell, Jacob Webber, Kathleen Darcey, George Billsborough, Michael McCall, Anna Van Kuijck, Kay Solomon, Marion O’Leary, Matthew Palmen.

For all whose anniversary is at this time: including Donald Frith, Arthur McCall, Kevin Warby, Les Lunney, Ruth “Bub” Lunney, Kenneth Purcell, Jacob Webber, Kathleen Darcey, George Billsborough, Melissa Morrissey, Margaret Ash, Dulcie Saunders, Virginia Wilkie, Margaret Oliver, Bill Park, 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


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 Fr Dominic Burke (03/03/68)  Rev Fr Joseph Skelly (10/03/70)
Rev Fr Kevin Ryan (12/03/11)  Rev Fr Bernard Kane (13/03/11)
Rev Fr Ronald Walton (16/03/70)  Rev Fr Patrick Brady (25/03/54)

Lord, be merciful to your servants, the Bishop and Priests of this Diocese, welcome them into the company of your Saints, in the Kingdom of light and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

WELCOMERS AT DOOR
TRISH WELSH & PAM MORRIS (13/03)
JENNIFER MAKIM & DAWN LLOYD (20/03)
MARIA MAGOFFIN & JILL LENNON (26/03)

WELCOMER AT MICROPHONE
PHIL ORMES (13/03)
MARIA MAGOFFIN (20/03)
PAT THOMPSON (26/03)

1ST READER/PSALM
CLAIRE CHARLES (13/03)
ROS PHILLIPS (20/03)
ST MARY’S SCHOOL (26/03)

2ND READING/ALLELUIA
MICHAEL NOLAN (13/03)
MARY COLLINS (20/03)
CAMILLE KELLOWAY (26/03)

EUCHARIST MINISTERS
ROSE KEENH, CAMILLE KELLOWAY, DAWN LLOYD (13/03)
CARMEL SCHAUERBUNG, SUE MCGOVERN, VOLUNTEER NEEDED (20/03)
CAROL ORMES, MARY COLLINS, ST MARY’S STAFF (26/03)

DATA PROJECTOR
CAROL ORMES (13/03)
LEEANN WELSH (20/03)
ROS PHILLIPS (26/03)

MONEY COUNTERS
TERRY & MARGARET RYAN (13/03)
MARY COLLINS & ROS PHILLIPS (20/03)
DENISE MCMORRACK & JENNIE LAWLESS (26/03)

GREENS ROSTER
MARCH: PHIL & CAROL ORMES
APRIL: MICHAEL & JACK SCHAUMBURG

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS:
05/03/16
ENVELOPES $512.00
LOOSE $272.00
Caritas (to date) $434.35
INTRODUCTION
Lent is full of wonderful stories of mercy. Today we ponder Jesus' mercy toward the woman accused of adultery. His actions are not an invitation for her to continue in her sinful behavior, but a reminder of God’s loving faithfulness. Those who judge her are confronted with their own need for forgiveness. And she who has been shown mercy is challenged to live out of the new thing God is doing on her behalf. Where mercy abounds, all kinds of new things can happen.

First Reading
Isaiah 43:16-21
The Lord is doing something new.

Responsorial Psalm
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading
St Paul to the Philippians 3:8-14
Being one with Christ is worth everything.

PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF ENDLESS GLORY! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF ENDLESS GLORY!

Gospel
John 8:1-11
Parable of the woman caught in adultery.

Prayers of the Faithful
For the whole church that is need of forgiveness and mercy … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those of us who lay heavy burdens on others by judging or condemning them … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those whose past mistakes cause them to live with burdens of guilt or shame … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For the grace to forgive those who have offended us, or to make amends with those whom we have offended … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For peace in a world in turmoil, especially for women, men and children who have never known peace … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those preparing for baptism or reception into the church at Easter … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those who have suffered abuse, physical or mental at the hands of others, especially those who have been betrayed by the church … 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,