

FEBRUARY 14 & 15, 2009 – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Issue Number 296

TROUBLE IN THE VATICAN

I can't ever recall such undiplomatic and in-your-face criticism of the Vatican as we have seen in the last two weeks. It appears it is all over the de-excommunication of the Englishman, Bishop Richard Williamson, who was ordained by breakaway Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre in June, 1988. Three weeks ago, on January 23, three days before the Vatican announcement that the excommunication had been lifted, Swiss TV broadcast an interview with Bishop Williamson who claimed that reports about the Holocaust were exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers. He does not believe that Nazi gas chambers existed and that historical accounts of the Holocaust were "lies, lies, lies."

The situation was not helped by Williamson's "apology" to Pope Benedict for the "unnecessary distress" caused to the Holy Father for what he called "imprudent" remarks. He did not renounce his anti-Semitic comments. How could he? He believes what he says to be historically accurate. This is problem number one for the Vatican.

There is a church in Paris called Saint Nicolas du Chardonnet. It is bigger than any church we have in our diocese and it is illegally occupied by the followers of Marcel Lefebvre. It is a hotbed of anti-Semitism and fascist propaganda, according to last Saturday's edition of *The Tablet*. Marcel Lefebvre himself was influenced by the anti-Semitic Charles Maurras. Pius XI condemned Maurras' far-right *Action Française* in 1926. If I know about this situation, it is a sure bet the Vatican has some knowledge of it.

But there is more to this than meets the eye. Last week it was left to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, to confront the German Pope Benedict about the issue. In Germany (and France), Williamson could be jailed for his comments. Usually the meeting of Heads-of-State, particularly in the Apostolic Palace, is a controlled photo opportunity where gifts are exchanged and obsequious comments made during the meeting with an expurgated version offered to the press by the distinguished visitor



after the visit. There is a set protocol. Such meetings are well-orchestrated and predictable. The "doings" are all done by bureaucrats on both sides long before ever the leaders meet. According to reports, the intervention by the German Chancellor left the Pope angered and the curial officials, shattered. Remembering that the Vatican is a sovereign state, it is most unusual for a leader to meddle in the internal politics of another country.

Then there is the criticism of Benedict himself by German-speaking cardinals and bishops and also by the French Hierarchy which is sending a delegation to Rome to ask about the conditions of reunion for members of this schismatic sect. Cardinal Karl Lehmann, the former President of the German Bishops' Conference has demanded a full apology from the Vatican for revoking Bishop Williamson's excommunication. And in New York, that most populous Jewish city, Cardinal Edward Egan released the following statement, "Yesterday, the Vatican condemned in the clearest terms a statement made by an illicitly consecrated bishop by the name of Richard

Williamson...” I’d say Williamson wouldn’t be welcomed in New York at this time; well not at 1011 First Avenue, anyway.

The Catholic Bishop of Hamburg went even further saying that the Pope’s decision to rehabilitate a British bishop who questions the Holocaust is undermining trust in the Catholic Church and poisoning its relations with Jews. “To rehabilitate a Holocaust denier is always a bad decision”, he said.

The Pope reassured his detractors at his Wednesday Audience. “Precisely in fulfilling this service to unity, which determines in a specific way my ministry as the Successor of Peter, I decided some days ago to concede the remission of the excommunication incurred by four bishops ordained without pontifical mandate in 1988 by Archbishop Lefebvre. I have carried out this act of paternal mercy because repeatedly these prelates have manifested their sharp suffering in the situation in which they found themselves. I trust that following from this gesture of mine will be the prompt effort on their part to complete final necessary steps to arrive to full communion with the Church, this giving testimony of true fidelity and true recognition of the magisterium and the authority of the Pope and the Second Vatican Council.”

While the lifting of the excommunication is only the first step in a process of rehabilitation, I can’t see how Lefebvrists in general will or can change their anti-Semitic stance. This is what they believe. Secondly, the whole reason for the foundation of the Society of St Pius X was over their disagreement about the Second Vatican Council and its outcomes. At the Council, the bishops agreed to change some Catholic traditions, dogma and liturgy. Included with these changes was the announcement of a new relationship with the Jews. Any concessions offered now as peace offerings by the Pope will not change such deep-rooted beliefs amongst these so-called Traditionalists. You only have to spend ten minutes with these people to be convinced of that. For them to agree to the tenants of the Second Vatican Council would be a violation of their conscience and I don’t think we can ask that of them. In fact it would be against Catholic doctrine to do so. Despite the Pope’s good intentions we have to accept that they are not Catholic. They are no more Catholic than those who left the Catholic Church after the First Vatican Council. I admire the Pope tremendously and pray that his “act of paternal mercy” in this celebrated case might be extended to Catholics

who have been excommunicated by virtue of some action they took twenty years ago but still attend mass every Sunday and long to be full members of the Catholic Church again.

Father John



Today’s Readings

First Reading Lev 13:1-2,44-46
Once a priest has diagnosed a person with leprosy, that person is regarded as unclean and must live apart from the community.

Second Reading 1 Cor 10:31-11:1
Think about others, imitate Christ and glorify God in all that you do.

Gospel Mark 1:40-45 Jesus touches and cures a leper - regarded as an unclean person - and in so doing breaks a serious religious taboo.

Next week: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24-45, 2 Cor 1:18-22, Mk 2:1-12

HOLY HOUR every Thursday from 8.00 to 9.00pm including Rosary, prayers, hymns & scripture reading. All welcome!

RETIREMENT VILLAGES SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Warrina – Mass & Anointing of the Sick, Tuesday, 17 February, 4pm.

Nuffield & Hopetoun – Mass & Anointing of the Sick, Wednesday, 18 February, 4pm.

Nordby – Mass & Anointing of the Sick, Thursday, 19 February, 4pm.

Wirreanda - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick, Thursday, 19 February, 11am.

Kilvinton - Mass & Anointing of the Sick, Friday, 20 February, 2pm.

Flinders - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick, Saturday, 21 February, 10am.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES on Wednesday 25 February will be at 6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon and 7.30pm.

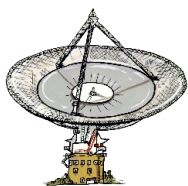
LITURGY CORNER

Who are the lepers of the twenty-first century whom we exclude from society and refuse to touch? Two things stand out in today’s gospel: that the leper had the confidence and courage to ask Jesus to cure him, and that Jesus actually stretched out his hand and touched him. Both would have been considered shocking. And yet in Jesus we have the evidence of God’s healing touch. As Catholics we first experience this touch in our baptism, through water and oil. Every sacrament includes a moment of physical contact – whether the laying on of hands, anointing, receiving the bread and wine which have become the Body and Blood of Christ, or offering one another the sign of peace. ‘Go in peace to love and serve the Lord’: go and touch our world with the love and compassion of God.

The Summit

LENTEN STUDY There will be a Lenten Study Group at 10.00am in the Marian Centre commencing 26 February. If you are interested in attending, would you please ring the Parish Office by tomorrow (Monday) so books can be ordered. Books are \$5 each; Music CD \$20. Any parish groups wanting books, please contact Sr Judy.

The Parish is seeking to appoint a full-time Youth Minister. Applications close on Monday, 23 February. This is a readvertised position and the selection committee feels that somewhere 'out there' will be a person who can fulfil the role as outlined on the parish website at 'position vacant'. It is hoped that short-listing and interviews might take place before Easter.



LIFE BEGINS AT 50 BUS TRIP to Parkes and the Golden West from June 1-6. \$745 pp twin share all inclusive price (\$175 single supplement). \$100 deposit. Phone Harry & Robin on 9634 3354 for details and bookings.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6 MARCH Join with others in your local community under the theme of *"In Christ We Are Many Members, Yet One Body"*. Learn a little more about life for the women of Papua New Guinea. The venue will be Baulkham Hills Baptist Church, 39 Sarah Crescent, Baulkham Hills at 7.30pm.

CATECHISTS NEEDED Part-time or full-time Catechists are urgently needed to teach half hour lessons each week at our local State schools. If you can spare some time Christine Jenneke would love to hear from you on 9484 1190 or 0433 183322.

POSITIONS VACANT

Casual Sacramental Co-ordinator at Blessed John XXIII Parish, Glenwood/ Stanhope Gardens. Phone Rhonda on 9852 0580 for details.

Cook/Housekeeper (2 positions): St Patrick's Parish, Church Hill (near Wynyard), seeks to employ a full-time Cook/Housekeeper (Mon-Fri) and a part-time Cook/Housekeeper (Sun). Phone the parish office 9254 9803.

NEW ROSTERS for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will be out at the end of the month. If you can no longer be involved, or know someone in your group who can't, please leave a message at the Parish Office.

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR SEPARATED & DIVORCED PEOPLE Each month the Solo Parent Ministry provides an opportunity for those who have experienced the breakdown of their marriage relationship, to come together with others to find support and discuss ways in which they can move forward with greater hope. *Stepping Beyond* happens in the last week of each month at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, Blacktown. 6.30 pm - 9.00 pm. Tues 24th Feb: "How do you set and maintain healthy boundaries in your life?". Registrations essential: Eileen Quade: 9890 2968 or equade@bigpond.com.

LIFE Night: CSI - can you solve the crime? A night of finger-prints, DNA, broken-glass, suspects and chocolate. Anyone in Years 9-12 at high school - you be the judge. In the Hall tonight following the Youth Mass finishing at 8.30pm. Brings your friends - we need all the help we can get.

Into LIFE is on Monday night for anyone in Years 7 and 8 at high school. Come along from 7-8:30pm for a fun night with friends. Bring \$2 for supper.

Life Teen produces fantastic **weekly podcasts** for free to help everyone get more out of Sunday Mass. Listen to Mark 'Bible Geek' Hart give an insightful explanation and reflection on the upcoming mass readings. Download these or listen to them online. Subscribe now from www.lifeteen.com or search for 'lifeteen.com' at the iTunes store. An excellent resource for lectors. *Plus*, check out their new podcast **THE171** - for great, down to earth talks on faith!

www.lifeteen.com is a great website for all teens and young adults. Get more out of our Catholic faith - the real answers and facts - along with the latest music and movie reviews and even just some random facts too!

www.lifeteenaustralia.com - for more info on what's on for youth and young adults at St Bernadette's or contact the Parish House on 9634 2622.

ST BERNADETTE'S FOOTBALL CLUB SBFC runs mixed junior teams in the 2009 NSWCFCA Winter Soccer comp., and a midweek Fun Skills program for Preschoolers aged 4-5yrs. **Registrations are being taken TODAY (Sunday) from 9.00am to 12.00 noon outside the parish hall next to the canteen.**

Info and Forms available at www.sbfootballclub.org or contact the Registrar Peter Baguley 0414960472



RETIREMENT UNITS AVAILABLE at Southern Cross Nordby Village at 15 Hill Rd, West Pennant Hills. Enquiries: Julie Andrews on 0408 220092 or jandews@sch.org.au.

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK FOR LENT is a book of six-minute reflections for the 50 days leading up to Easter. Available from the Bookshop for just \$5.

HOLY SPIRIT MISSION *"Crossing the Threshold of Hope"* is the theme for a Mission at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills next weekend 21 & 22 February from 9.00am to 4.00pm Saturday and 11.00am to 5.00pm Sunday. The Speaker is Most Rev Christopher Prowse, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne. BYO lunch. Tea/coffee provided. Phone 9864 2430 or 0404 093118.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2008-2009

A reminder that our next session will be held THIS week on **Tue 17th (4pm & 7:30pm) & Sat 21st (3:30pm) Feb** for Parents and Children, in the Parish Hall. Please continue to pray for all our parish families.

St Bernadette's Parish Community
Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au
 Web page: http://www.stbernadette.org.au

Parish Staff

Fr John Boyle, Parish Priest
 Fr Eugene Szondi, Assistant Priest
 Fr Sunny Michael, ms, Assistant Priest
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw, Sacramental Co-ordinator
 Mr Ian Pomeroy, Into LIFE Youth Minister
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 Mr Michael Watson, Maintenance Co-ordinator

Mass Times for this Week

Sunday Sat 6pm
 Sun 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am & 6pm
 Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

Weekdays Mon 6.45am
 Tue 6.45 am
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15 am
 First Fri 6.45am, 9.15 am
 Sat 8am

Mass on Public Holidays at 8am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am-9am; 4.30pm-5.30pm

Baptisms and Marriages: By appointment only. Contact the Parish House. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mr Paul Colyer, Principal 9634 2898

Please pray for Bernard McShane, Ken Petherbridge, Matilda Corlick, Christopher Millgate, Joe Roumanous, Bernard Cawley and all who have died in the Victorian Bushfires and for the anniversaries of Angela Banno, Carmen Cacho, and Pierre Led Clark (Feb 11) and in remembrance of Kit and George Clews.

Prayers for the Sick: Joan Beach.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – February– 21-22

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Michael Wilson S10	Sue Calabrese John Geoghegan Daniel Mezger	Iciar Quintana, Cathy & Mark Richmond, Alf Jacobs, Carmel James, Stephen & Janice MacMahon, Don & Remie de Leon
7.30AM Zeno Hong S6	Tony Falzon Patricia Bright John O'Dea	Lina Josue, Albert & Gladys Tsang, Colleen & Eric Woodhead, Jo Wickens
9.00AM Joe Josue S7	Trevor O'Shea Brian Blacklock Joanne O'Shea	Karen Askey, Hubert & Christine Jenneke, John Leach, Cathy & Greg Piggott, Trevor & Joanne O'Shea, Lena Madry
10.30AM Budi Kawiadji S8	Tony Smith Philip Golanco Trinity Abbertson-Woo	Anita Christy, Pauline Camilleri, Dorothy Finucane, Elizabeth Fogolin, Philip & Yolanda Golanco, Margaret Hawkes, Winnie & Henry Li

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - February 22

Adult Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion		Musos	
Marc Clasquin	Alex Aguilera	Kate Eagleston	Bass	Singers
Altar Preparation	Amelia Hangan	Monica O'Callaghan	Erich Gracias Flor	Alison Wong
Josh Becker	Annalyce Hangan	Monique O'Callaghan	Piano	Annabel Irawan
Lectors	Cassie Knezevic	Sean Finucane	Alice Bradshaw	Darian Jessup-Lonsdale
Tina Muscat	Fran Rogers	Stef Musgrave	Guitar	Erich Gracias Flor
Vanessa Muscat	Projectionist	Ushers	Daniel Ang	Sara Ang
Altar Servers	Matthew Ashton	Paul Musgrave	Horns/Strings/Winds	Veronica Sahabu
S9	Gift Preparation	Welcomers		
	Jeremy Smith	Alfonso Aguilera		
	Mitchell Johnson-Green	Maria Aguilera		

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Louise Oxford Marianne Holohan	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Jeannette Leach, Cathy Teh, Joanne Leach, Alicia Maunsell	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Bill Lee, Greg Piggott, Christopher Crowe, Eddy Pagnucco
FLOWER ROSTER Tess de la Concepcion	COUNTING (1st Collection) Barry Halpin Gladys Tsang	BOOKSHOP Jan Harrild / Rose Huby / Christine Jenneke / Sharene Lee / Bernadette Boulous