WESTERN HIGHWAY DEANERY
Lenten Prayer and Reflection Day Saturday, 28th March, 10.00am to 3.00pm
Preparing for Holy Week and for Easter Renewal of Baptismal Promises
You are invited to a time apart from the rush and pressures of everyday life. Participants will be guided through a day of personal prayer and spiritual reflection as we prepare to celebrate the high point of the Church’s year. Christ the King Church, Churchill Ave, Braybrook and garden outside it. Bring your own lunch and drinks. Cost: donation.
Enquiries/bookings: Deanery.westernhighway@cam.org.au or 9304 2926 Wednesdays between 10.00am and 6.00pm.

Lenten Prayer - Sunday Scripture Readings
Tuesday, 24th March, 10.00-11.00am OR 7.30-8.30pm
Join Sr Denise for four one hour sessions in the new meeting room at St Catherine of Siena Parish, Caroline Springs.

INTERFAITH BUS TOUR Friday 20th March, 10.15am
Pick up at 10.15am at 6-18 Alexandria Ave, Sunshine. We will visit Mother of God Church, Ardeer, Lien Tri Buddhist Temple in Braybrook, and the Australian Bosnian Islamic Centre in Albanvale. Refreshments include morning tea at the Church and lunch at the Temple. Please wear comfortable shoes and modest clothing covering thighs and shoulders.
To book a seat on the bus please phone: 9249 4814. All welcome.

Caritas Australia PROJECT COMPASSION
This week we meet Sarita who was struggling to grow enough food for her family on her tiny farm plot in Nepal. In 2007, with the assistance of a program run by Caritas Nepal, she started a fish-raising business with 11 others. Now, they have a life-long source of food and income. Please donate to Project Compassion 2015 and help people in rural Nepal create a life-long source of food and income to benefit entire communities.
www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion 1800 024 413

MASS TIMES
ST THERESA’S
Drummartin St, Albion
9.00am Friday
10.30am Sunday
4.00pm Sunday
(Syrian Orthodox)

MOTHER OF GOD
Blanche St, Ardeer
10.00am Wednesday (Pol)
9.00am Thursday
6.00pm Friday (Polish)
6.00pm Saturday
10.30am Sunday (Polish)

QUEEN OF HEAVEN
Holt St, Ardeer
9.00am Wednesday
9.00am Sunday
4.30pm Sunday
(Syro-Malabar)

ARDEER HOUSE
NURSING HOME
11.00am Wednesday

LITURGY PREPARATION
Meeting on Tuesday 17th March, 7.00pm at the Presbytery.

SISTER CATHERINE KELLY who lived in the Convent in Blanche St, Ardeer for many years died during the week.

WORKING BEE at Mother of God Church
Sunday 29th March at 9.00am for a clean up before Easter.

RECONCILIATION Saturday 22 March, 10am at St Theresa’s

EVENING PRAYER GROUP
Thursdays, 7.00pm at Queen of Heaven. All welcome.

CLEANERS Saturday 21st March (QH) S Matthew (MG) J Archabuz, B Wawrowski (StT) No Cleaning

THANKSGIVING Weekly TG Pledge: $1645
Last Week’s Giving: $1088 Presbytery Collection: $456

COUNTERS 22nd March
Team 3: M Azzopardi, C Scicluna, E Correya

VOCATION NEWS A few copies are available today.

READINGS Today
2 Chronicles 36:14-17
Psalm 137
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

Next Week
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33
Nepal: Sharing Food For Life

With practical training and support, the men and women of the Kolkatla Fish Raising Group in rural Nepal have been able to share their skills and create a life-long source of food and income, where once there was nothing.

Do you know the proverb: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime?”

For most of us it’s simply a saying, but Caritas Nepal, supported by Caritas Australia, has taken these words to a new level, working with men and women in a remote village community to turn a disused pond into a thriving fish-raising business so that together they can share food for life.

While rich in natural beauty, life in rural Nepal is difficult. Many people are very poor, and survive by farming small plots of land, which grow just enough food for their families. Unemployment is high, and very few people have the skills to develop new businesses.

Mother-of-three Sarita (34) attended school until the eighth grade, making her one of the most educated women in her village. Yet her family still struggled to survive. Their small family farm simply couldn’t sustain them. “With the produce from the land we did not meet our food and basic needs,” Sarita explains.

So when Caritas Nepal initiated the Kolkatla Fish Raising Group in her community eight years ago, Sarita was one of the first people to join.

This collaborative program that works for the common good of the wider community, eight men and four women with a low-interest loan, along with all the training and equipment they needed to establish and run a successful business raising and selling fish. “This program embraced the poorest of the poor like us, gave us skills and supported us with funds to invest and make something of ourselves,” says Sarita.

The group leased a natural pond on the northern side of their village, and with a huge amount of hard work and dedication, their business has grown to become one of the most successful enterprises supported by Caritas Nepal.

These days the group produce around 8,000 kg of fish each year, including common carp, silver carp and big head. “There is high demand for fish in our locality and also in nearby markets,” says Sarita. “We are able to sell at a good price.”

With a steady income from the Fish Raising Group, Sarita’s family has bought more land, invested in livestock and planted fruit trees along with their regular crops. All together this means they have long-term earning power, a secure source of food for life and a healthy diet that (naturally) includes a lot of fish!

Sarita is proud that she can share food for life and can now afford to educate her children, so that they will be able to create their own futures. “The program has provided our family with good health and hope,” says Sarita. “And it has become a platform for the unity and growth of the community.”

Please donate to Project Compassion 2015 and help people in rural Nepal create a life-long source of food and income to benefit entire communities.