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  
Participants will be guided through a day of personal prayer and spiritual reflection. 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.

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

RECONCILIATION BEFORE EASTER  
Saturday 28th March  
(Individual)  
9.00am - Queen of Heaven  
10.00am - St Theresa's  
11.00am - Mother of God

WORKING BEE at Mother of God Church  
SATURDAY 28th March for a clean up before Easter.

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

CLEANERS  
Saturday 28th March  
(StT) A Nadalin  
(MG) J Bugeja, D Shannon  
No Cleaning

THANKSGIVING  
Weekly TG Pledge: $1645  
Last Week’s Giving: $1308  
Presbytery Collection: $539

COUNTERS  
29th March  
Team 4: G Kaminski, J Farrugia

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE  
Available free today at each Church. Lots of good articles to read.

READINGS  
Today  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51  
Hebrews 5:7-9  
John 12:20-33  
Next Week  
Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalm 22  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Mark 14:1 – 15:47

Dear Parishioners, on behalf of the St. Theresa School Community, I would like to invite everyone to visit the school on Tuesday 24th March and experience and reflect on the Stations of the Cross that each grade has created. They will be set up in the Multi-Purpose Room and you are more than welcomed to pop in at some time throughout the day.  

Doriana, (RE Leader)

MALTESE MISSION  
The Maltese Mission in preparation for Easter will be held at St Bernadette's Parish, 59B Westmoreland Rd, Sunshine North from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th March. The Preacher will be Fr Hector Attard (MSSP). 6.30pm Rosary, 7.00pm Mass, Sermon, Benediction

PALM SUNDAY  
Prayer Service at St Patrick’s Cathedral at 1.00pm. and Walk for Justice for Refugees afterwards at the State Library from 2.00pm. See posters for more details.

EASTER CEREMONIES  
Holy Thursday, 7.00pm - Mother of God (Polish) Mass of the Lord's Supper  
2nd April  
7.00pm - Queen of Heaven Mass of the Lord's Supper  
9.00pm - Queen of Heaven (Syro-Malabar) Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Good Friday, 3rd April  
10.30am - Queen of Heaven to Mother of God Stations of the Cross  
3.00pm - Mother of God Solemn Ceremonies  
6.00pm - Mother of God (Polish) Solemn Ceremonies  
Easter Vigil  
4th April  
12.00noon - Mother of God (Polish) Blessing of Food  
5.00pm - Mother of God (Polish) Vigil Mass  
8.00pm - St Theresa’s Vigil Mass  
9.00pm - Queen of Heaven (Syro-Malabar) Vigil Mass
Peru: Harvesting Food For Life

With the help of Caritas Huacho, a new generation of young mountain farmers are working together to grow and harvest a wide variety of sustainable crops that will provide their families with security and food for life.

Cristian, a 33 year-old farmer, lives in a remote Andean village in Peru. His community lives a traditional life, and until recently the closest water source to Cristian’s village was over a kilometre away, so they had no running water and no irrigation for their farms.

For as long as he can remember, Cristian and his family have always relied on rainfall to water their crops. They planted staples like potato, wheat and maize that would be likely to grow, despite unreliable watering, but were unable to sow high-value crops that demand consistent watering.

“My family and community have always worked to make sure we never lacked mountain produce,” says Cristian. “When there were no rains we suffered a lot, because sometimes the fields would not produce. Despite that we always had some food.”

In an effort to modernise their farming practices, Cristian and 14 other young farmers in his community participated in the Rural Development Program run by Caritas Australia’s local partner, Caritas Huacho.

With materials, capital and training, the program supports farmers and their families in rural areas to establish their own sustainable farms to produce reliable, profitable and long-term crops.

The program helped the 15 young men secure an unused plot of land in their village, then with seedlings and agricultural training, the farmers learnt to grow and harvest sustainable, high-value orchard crops including peaches, custard apples and avocados. They were also supported with materials and training to build an irrigation system to water their fields.

While Cristian raises a few cattle, sheep, cuyes (guinea-pigs) and hens for food, it’s the new orchard that’s made the biggest impact on his family’s diet. They’re now enjoying a bountiful harvest of varied, nutritious fruits in addition to their regular staples. Their steadily increasing family income is also changing the family’s life for the better.

“There is a good market for the peaches that we grow, which sustains our household,” says Cristian. “And custard apples, which also have a good price in markets, provide us with more income than the other crops.”

For Cristian, one of the most rewarding parts of the program has been working with his neighbours. The farmers have helped one another to learn and achieve, and are now beginning to reap the rewards of their hard work. “We all work helping each other. Here, this way in which we work is called aychamoa, which means, “giving each other a helping hand,” says Cristian. “The fact that I and the other partners can grow and develop together makes me proud.”

Now, the 15 farmers and their families can see a brighter future. “We are less worried because we are focussed on development, and with that in mind we are improving ourselves, with the help of Caritas, on the best way to produce,” says Cristian.

Would Cristian like his 3 year-old son to be a farmer when he grows up?
“I would like him to be a teacher so he can come back to the community and develop it,” says Cristian. “But he could consider being a farmer, because now prospects are better than in the past.”

Please donate to Project Compassion 2015 and help farmers in Peru grow and harvest sustainable crops, providing their families with food for life.