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.

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING
A Tour with Maria Forde
For ten years I have been taking Australian’s to the Emerald Isle to experience the beauty of Ireland for themselves. Discover the North and the South of Ireland, listen to great music, make new friends and visit wonderful destinations. Highlights have included Newgrange, the Cliffs of Moher, Aran Island, Dingle, the singing Monks of Glenstal Abbey, Connemara, Belfast, Glendalough. I invite you to join e. Enjoy beautiful accommodation, travel in a luxury coach with an Irish driver / guide and have an amazing experience. Departing September 18th and returning October 5th. Numbers are limited to 20. Tour / airfare and tour only prices available. To obtain your itinerary please contact Chris Moloughney at Emerald Travel on 03 96709696 or email Maria Forde at mforde@alphalink.com.au

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for various positions advertised through the Archdiocese. Current positions include
- PA/Office Manager, Catholic Vocations - East Melbourne
- Administration & Domestic Support, Northern Region Bishop - Moonee Ponds
- Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper, St Peter Chanel - Deer Park
- Communications Officer, Media & Communications - East Melbourne


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

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

QUEEN OF HEAVEN
Holt St, Ardeer
9.00am Wednesday
9.00am Sunday

ARDEER HOUSE
NURSING HOME
11.00am Wednesday

CUPPA AFTER MASS
Join us next Saturday evening, 5th April, after th Vigil Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Please bring a plate to share. Bottles of water blessed during Mass will be available.

WESTERN HIGHWAY DEANERY NEWS
Copies available at each church. Easter timetables for local parishes and information about the Deanery Leadership Team.

CLEANERS
Sat 4th April (MG) W Pendecki, M Wolosz
(SfT) No Cleaning
(QH) E Princi, R Buttigieg, J Farrugia

THANKSGIVING
Weekly TG Pledge: $1645
Last Week’s Giving: $1024
Presbytery Collection: $594

COUNTERS
5th April EASTER
Team 5: J Cammileri, M Buhaguar, J Zammit

READINGS
Today
Isaiah 50:4-7
Acts 10:34:37-43
Psalm 22
Psalm 118
Philippians 2:6-11
Colossians 3:1-4
Mark 14:1 – 15:47
John 20:1-18

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
Good Friday, 9.00pm - Queen of Heaven (Syro-Malabar) Mass of the Lord's Supper
3rd April 10.30am - Queen of Heaven to Mother of God Stations of the Cross
Easter Vigil 3.00pm - Mother of God Solemn Ceremonies
4th April 6.00pm - Mother of God (Polish) Solemn Ceremonies
Easter Sunday 12.00noon - Mother of God (Polish) Blessing of Food
5th April 5.00pm - Mother of God (Polish) Vigil Mass
Easter Monday 8.00pm - St Theresa's Vigil Mass
9.00pm - Queen of Heaven (Syro-Malabar) Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday 9.00am - Queen of Heaven Mass
5th April 10.30am - Mother of God (Polish) Mass
10.30am - St Theresa's Mass
Indonesia: Sustainable Food For Life

When farmers in a remote West Timor community learn to terrace land, harness water and grow sustainable crops for life, they’re able to guard against unpredictable weather and prosper.

Changing weather patterns affect us all, but there is significant evidence to suggest that the poorest people of the world are the most vulnerable to the consequences of global climate variations.

Vinsen (39) is a farmer living in West Timor, Indonesia. Until five years ago, his farm had always experienced predictable weather, but recently the weather has become increasingly erratic and difficult to forecast, causing havoc for his crops.

While weather was predictable in the past, it didn’t mean that farming was easy or profitable. Farmers in Vinsen’s community experienced poor soil fertility and significant erosion. They tried to combat the problem by frequently moving fields. “In the past, we practised shifting fields agriculture, working for two years in one field then moving on,” says Vinsen.

With this kind of farming Vinsen had no food security for his family, which made him anxious about providing for the future.

In 2010 and 2011 things took a dramatic turn for the worse, when Vinsen’s village was hit by heavy rains and strong winds, which destroyed crops and killed livestock. Incomes plummeted and famine spread throughout the area.

Fortunately, Vinsen’s family did not experience famine, but recognising their vulnerability he enrolled in the Sustainable Agriculture Program – an initiative supported by Caritas Australia and run by local partner Yayasan Mitra Tani Mandiri (YMTM).

Respecting the environment and our role as Stewards of Creation, the YMTM Program provides training for farmers like Vinsen, who learn to plant long-term crops in addition to short life-span crops like vegetables. This helps them to build a stable, sustainable livelihood that means they can survive crop fluctuations and unexpected weather events.

In each village there’s a YMTM Field Officer to help and advise on challenges faced by the farmers. In Vinsen’s village the farmers learnt to terrace their land and turned sloping land into a series of increasing steps. Upland terracing and planting stabilises hillsides and provides additional security from landslides. It also helps prevent erosion, increase soil fertility and harness valuable rainfall. This single change has made a huge impact on both the efficiency and the sustainability of the community’s farming.

Through the program farmers also learnt to work effectively in groups to farm their land. Vinsen enjoys this shared feeling of purpose, as well as the increase in productivity that allows them to cultivate greater areas of land.

Since the YMTM Program, Vinsen’s income has increased by 25% and his family are living without fear of food insecurity. From his garden, Vinsen has produced many different kinds of plants, and has a sustainable, secure food source for life. As a result his family is happy, healthy and far less vulnerable to future climate variations.

“Before the program I was very anxious,” says Vinsen. “But now I do not worry. There is always cassava, banana and taro in the garden. We will not be hungry.”

Through the program, Vinsen also acquired the business skills to establish a savings and loan group so he can grow his income and become more independent. He’s also the leader of the farmer groups and is passing on all that he’s learnt to others in his community, and engaging more farmers in the program.

“I have a prosperous life, a very supportive family. For that I work very hard,” says Vinsen. “Now my children can go to school and become successful persons. Thank you so much to the people of Australia who have helped support YMTM.”

Please donate to Project Compassion 2015 and help farmers in remote West Timor grow sustainable crops for life, regardless of changing weather patterns.