

## Parish of St. John the Baptist - Perth.

*Parish Priest - Fr. Wolodymyr Kalinecki*

20 Ferguson St. Maylands. WA 6051; **ph/fax** (08) 9271 4711; **mobile- 0418 926 267**

**Email**—w.kalinecki@ozemail.com.au

*Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate -Sr Nicodema Zemliak - away til 15th Feb  
16 Ferguson St, Maylands. 6051— (08) 9272 9361*

**Editor - Luba Valega - luba\_valega@hotmail.com** (08) 9276 3160 - 0401 309 228 mbl

### PARISH WEEKLY NEWS 12th –19th Feb 2012

*This is a weekly Parish newsletter for all to read to inform you of what is happening in our Parish and share with you some interesting reading.*

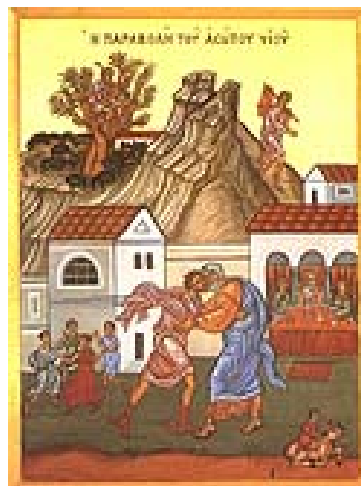
### This week-Readings Epistle 1Cor 6, 12-20 Gospel Luke 15, 11-32 —34th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of Prodigal Son. Tone 2

**Epistle 1 Cor 6:12-20** 6:12 “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are expedient. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be brought under the power of anything. 6:13 “Foods for the belly, and the belly for foods,” but God will bring to nothing both it and them. But the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. 6:14 Now God raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up by his power. 6:15 Don’t you know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! 6:16 Or don’t you know that he who is joined to a prostitute is one body? For, “The two,” says he, “will become one flesh.”\* 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. 6:18 Flee sexual immorality! “Every sin that a man does is outside the body,” but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 6:19 Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God? You are not your own, 6:20 for you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

**Gospel Luke 15:11-32** 15:11 He said, “A certain man had two sons. 15:12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of your property.’ He divided his livelihood between them. 15:13 Not many days after, the younger son gathered all of this together and travelled into a far country. There he wasted his property with riotous living. 15:14 When he had spent all of it, there arose a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. 15:15 He went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 15:16 He wanted to fill his belly with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him any. 15:17 But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough to spare, and I’m dying with hunger! 15:18 I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. 15:19 I am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.”’

15:20 “He arose, and came to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 15:21 The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 15:22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 15:23 Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat, and celebrate; 15:24 for this, my son, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found.’ They began to celebrate.

15:25 “Now his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 15:26 He called one of the servants to him, and asked what was going on. 15:27 He said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.’ 15:28 But he was angry, and would not go in. Therefore his father came out, and begged him. 15:29 But he answered his father, ‘Behold, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed a commandment of yours, but you never gave me a goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 15:30 But when this, your son, came, who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’ 15:31 “He said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 15:32 But it was appropriate to celebrate and be glad, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found.’



### Reflection of the Week Great Lent



In the past, we have gone through Great lent by looking at the Sundays, and following their progression leading up to Pascha. This year, let us treat Lent a little differently. During the Liturgy of Presanctified gifts, during Lent, we hear the series of readings from Isaiah.

Really, when you really start reading it, the Book of Isaiah is an exciting book to read. If you realise that this was written about eight centuries before Christ it makes it more incredible and exciting.

This book is the prequel to the whole Jesus story. It talks about Jesus as the suffering servant. When we read the Book of Isaiah, we understand the Theology of the prologue to St John's Gospel much better. The reason being is that this book is it's foundation. The whole concept of pain and the necessity of pain in the life of Christ is discussed here, eight hundred years before He was born. This is especially important in the season of Lent, because we look at the concept of how pain is necessary if we are to succeed in riding ourselves of sin in our own lives.

There are three stages of looking at our personal sin during Lent.

The first stage is denial. We are happy to admit to some kind of abstract notion of being sinners, but nothing too specific. It does not really apply to us.

The second stage, I refer to as the Chocolate stage. Here, we will say, I will give up chocolate or some other similar triviality and promptly feel good about ourselves, without really having done anything to make ourselves a better person.

The third stage is to understand, that we have done wrong things in our lives. If we are to become, what God wants us to become, we must really do something about it. Yes, sometimes to say goodbye to sin means a bit of pain. We sin because we enjoy it. We will stop sinning, because it is plain wrong. We fast and deny ourselves that which gives us pleasure, because it is necessary to do so in order to concentrate on that which leads us to doing bad.

Similarly, we will be looking at the world today. The occupy movement, the Pope and Patriarch Sviatoslav have all addressed an important issue. This issue is one of using the world's resources. Putting it simply, there are people of power who pay themselves absurdly huge amounts of money. There are people on the other hand who walk the streets of the same cities starving to death. This is morally wrong by any standards. Inevitably, this will lead to a breakdown of society. A simple understanding of history shows this.

**These issues are looked at in the Book of Isaiah.**

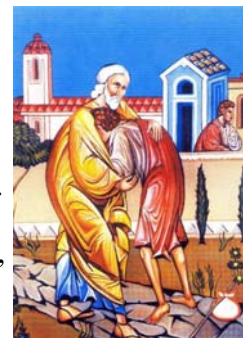
We shall begin our discussions next week. At the conclusion of Lent, we shall look at the Paschal Sermon of St John Chrysostom.

**Right Rev. Olexander Kenez**

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3. **Return from Exile ( Sunday of the Prodigal Son)** from Great Lent - Journey to Pascha -  
by A Schmemmann

On the third Sunday of preparation for Lent, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32). Together with the hymns of this day, the parable reveals to us the time of repentance as man's return from exile. Prodigal son, we are told, went to a far country and there spent all that he had. A far country! It is this unique definition of our human condition that we must assume and make ours as we begin our approach to God. A man who has never had the experience, even briefly, who has never felt that he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one who is perfectly "at home" in this world, and its life, who has never been wounded by the nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand what is repentance.



Repentance is often identified as a cool and "objective" enumeration of sins and transgressions, as the act of "pleading guilty" to a legal indictment. Confession and absolution are seen as being of a juridical nature. But something very essential is overlooked - without which neither confession or absolution have any real meaning or power. This "something" is precisely the feeling of alienation from God, from the joy of Communion with Him, from the real life as created and given by God. It is easy indeed to confess that I have not fasted on prescribed days, or missed my prayers, or become angry. It is quite a different thing to realise suddenly that I have defiled and lost my spiritual beauty; that I am far away from my real home, my real life and that something precious and pure and beautiful has been hopelessly broken in the very texture of my existence. Yet this is repentance and so it is also a deep desire to return, to go back, to recover that lost home. I received from God wonderful riches: first of all life and the possibility to enjoy it, to fill it with meaning, love and knowledge; then in Baptism - the new life of Christ Himself, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the peace and the joy of the eternal Kingdom. I received the knowledge of God and in Him the knowledge of everything else and the power to be a son of God. And all this I have lost, all this I am losing all the time, not only in particular "sins" and "transgressions" but in the sin of all sins: the deviation of my love from God, preferring the "far country" to the beautiful home of the Father.

But the Church is here to remind me of what I have abandoned and lost. And as she reminds me, I remember: "I have wickedly strayed away from Thy fatherly glory." says the Kontakion of this day, "and wasted with sinners the riches Thou gavest me. Then I do raise the prodigal's cry unto Thee, O bountiful Father: I have sinned against Thee; take me back as a penitent and make me as one of Thy hired servants..."

And as I remember, I find in myself the desire to return and the power to return: "...I shall return to the compassionate Father crying with tears; Receive me as one of Thy servants..." Lent itself is a pilgrimage and repentance - as return.

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**Sincere sympathy to Oleh and Eugene Kazimer on the passing to heaven of their stepfather Michael Fitiak on 7th February, 2012**

**Funeral Wed 15th February at 1.45 pm. Burial at Karrakatta. Vichnaya Pamyat—Eternal memory**

## **Presentation of the Lord—15th Feb (2nd Feb)—Blessing candles**

On this Feast day, we see Jesus forty days old, carried into the temple in Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph, to be recognised as God's Messiah by the aged Simeon and Anna.

According to the Law of Moses, a Jewish mother and her baby came to the Temple 40 days after the birth for the rite of purification and presentation. The first born male is presented to God and the child is dedicated to the service of God.

Simeon and Anna represent the true Israel of God. They have kept the law given through Moses. They have worshiped in the Holy place, the Temple, and they are alive to the unexpectedness of God's providence.

Simeon and Anna are inspired by the Holy Spirit to see in this child the Holy One of Israel, long awaited. They themselves are old and have grown old in the service of God. They have that widened perception which comes with continual praying.

LITURGY- At the Liturgy, we read in Luke 2:22-40 about this meeting. Joseph and Mary marvelled to hear what Simeon said. Mary treasured this in her heart. Simeon prophesied to Mary: "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword."

Mary was early made aware of the suffering which would come through being the mother of the Redeemer of the world. "The greater the love, the greater the suffering." Anna, the prophetess, was about 84 years old. She served God in fasting and prayer, night and day, in the temple. When she saw the Child, she gave thanks to God, and spoke about Jesus to those others of the faithful remnant who lived in Jerusalem.

The Epistle is taken from Hebrews 7-17. The author writes about the greater one blessing the lesser one. Although we think that Simeon, who is older is blessing the Child Jesus, it is actually Jesus, who is God before all ages, who blesses Simeon.



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## **Parishioners who died in the Month of February**

Bohdan Baczynski	20/ 2/1955
Mihajlo Baran	1/ 2/1963
Ivan Denys	13/ 2/1970
Katerina Stefaniuk	20/ 2/1970
Vasyl Paliszak	13/2/1976
Marian Kulchytsky	17/2/1979
Anna Hruzewycz	9/2/ 1981
Julia Marunczyn	22/2/1986
Vasyl Dumitro	3/2/1992
Dmytro Hrynykiw	24/2/1995
Roman Humeniak	4/2/1996
Maria Lehkyj	3/2/1996
Anna Korzec	12/ 2/1998
Kataryna Rusyn	15/ 2/1998
Roman Bochorsky	17/ 2/1998
Hryhorij Maslij	14/ 2/1999
Marian Pilkiw	22/ 2/2000
Kataryna Marko	23/ 2/2000
Mihajlo Wolaniuk	6/ 2/2002
Fedir Kisur	23/ 2/2002
Maria Rynasevich	25/ 2/2002
Ihnatij Horodetsky	19/ 2/2005
Kataryna Jakowyna	4/ 2/2006
Anna Pelech	13/ 2/2007
Antony Kleps	26/ 2/2007
Mariana Salapak	9/ 2/2009
Ivan Hreb	10/ 2/2009
Anna Prymak	13/ 2/2009
Gregory Valega	4/2/2011
Michael Fitiak	7/2/2012

### **Words of Wisdom**

Heavenly Father, I realise that the people You have placed around me and in my life are human beings made in Your image and worthy of my respect. Help me to always treat other people with gentleness and humility, loving them in the same way that You do. Amen

Lord, help me to have a kind attitude toward everyone - even people I don't understand or agree with. Help me to view Your Word like it's as sweet as honey and to make my own words sweet to the world around me. Amen

Heavenly Father, I want to be the kind of person who has a welcoming heart toward other people. Whether I have little or much, help me to be willing to share it with those whom You bring across my path. I want all who enter my home to experience Your peace, love, and joy as we fellowship and break bread together. Thank You for Your example of hospitality and for welcoming me into Your family. Amen.

DAILY THOUGHT God blesses us every day with things we don't necessarily ask for, things we might take for granted: a place to live, fresh air, the beauty of nature, friends and family. But for some blessings, He chooses to make us part of the process by encouraging us to ask for what we need and want. And the truth is that we experience life and blessings more fully when we look to God for all our wants and needs, either through expressing gratitude or petitioning Him for our needs.

Day.	Date.	Time.	Feast.	Special Feast Days - Julian Calender
<i>Sun Tone 2</i>	<i>12th Feb, 2012</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>Holy Liturgy</i>	<b>34th Sun after Pentecost Prodigal Son</b>
<i>Mon.</i>	<i>13th Feb, 2012</i>		<i>No Holy Liturgy</i>	
<i>Tues.</i>	<i>14th Feb, 2012</i>	<i>8:30am</i>	<i>Holy Liturgy</i>	
<i>Wed</i>	<i>15th Feb, 2012</i>	<i>9am 1.45pm</i>	<i>Holy Liturgy Funeral &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</i>	<b>Stritennia—Presentation of the Lord to the Temple Of Late Michael Fitiak</b>
<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>16th Feb, 2012</i>	<i>8:30am</i>	<i>Holy Liturgy</i>	<b>Simeon and Anna</b>
<i>Fri.</i>	<i>17th Feb, 2012</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Holy Liturgy</i>	
<i>Sat</i>	<i>18th Feb, 2012</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Holy Liturgy</i>	<b>Holy Liturgy in English</b>
<i>Sun Tone 3</i>	<i>19th Feb, 2012</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>Holy Liturgy</i>	<b>35th Sun after Pentecost—Meatfare Sunday</b>



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all special occasions.

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Dianella Flowers and Baskets are supporters for our Ukrainian Church of St John the Baptist Perth.

**A RESTORATION (Maintenance) fund** has been organised for our Church renovations. This is separate to the yearly upkeep (podatok) fund. If you wish to donate, please see Mr Basil Czwerenczuk. The Church building is in need of repairs and so the Parish Council is asking for your support.

**Total now \$5793.00**

**Donations—**

Church donation—Mr W Slobodian \$100.00 and \$20.00 for flowers  
Many thanks for your kind donations.  
May you receive God's blessings

**Important dates**

Bishop Peter Stasiuk, Fr O Kenez and Fr Stefan Sapun will be visiting Perth from 16th-23rd Feb

Great Lent starts 27th Feb (fasting day)  
Good Fri—13th April, (fasting day)  
Palm Sun/ Easter fete—8th April  
Easter (Julian) 15th April

**Church calendars are still available—  
cost \$12.00**

**See Luba Valega (in Perth)**



God's creation at its best

**Gardening Roster for church grounds**

Please put your name on the list to volunteer to help mow the lawns and do some gardening at the Parish.  
If everyone helps then you may only need to do this one or two times a year. Please try to do the lawns at the beginning of each month or when it needs it. Please let Luba or Lynette know if you can help.  
Thank you for your assistance. Much appreciated

**Gardening Roster:**

**February ?**

**Cleaning Roster:**

Natalia Liakishev –Sat 11th Feb

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Dear Members, Parents & Friends  
Hartius!

It's certainly been a busy time with Christmas, Tabir at Ern Halliday, Rizdvo, Carol-singing, Rukopash Hopak workshops with teachers from Ukraine & Malanka. I think I need some hollidays to get over the holidays!



Our CYM Education Program begins this Sunday, 12th February. We'll be outlining our program for the year & doing a little bit of preparing for the Shevchenko Concert.

Bearing in mind CYM's motto 'Boh i Ukraina' (God & Ukraine) the program is:  
09.30am Holy Liturgy  
11.20am sv. Shevchenko preparation  
11.50am Sausage Sizzle

NB By midday, having caught up with God, your Uki friends & had a bite to eat, you're ready to enjoy the rest of the day.  
Please inform, invite & encourage all your family and friends 2 attend.  
See you there!

CYM Perth  
PO Box 22, Maylands WA 6931