



ANG BINHI

Ang Binhi" (The Seed) is the official newsletter of the Catholic Filipino Australian Chaplaincy of Brisbane

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VOLUME NO. 11 ISSUE NO. 2 / MARCH to MAY 2008

A WELCOME DINNER

by: Fr. Marce Singson

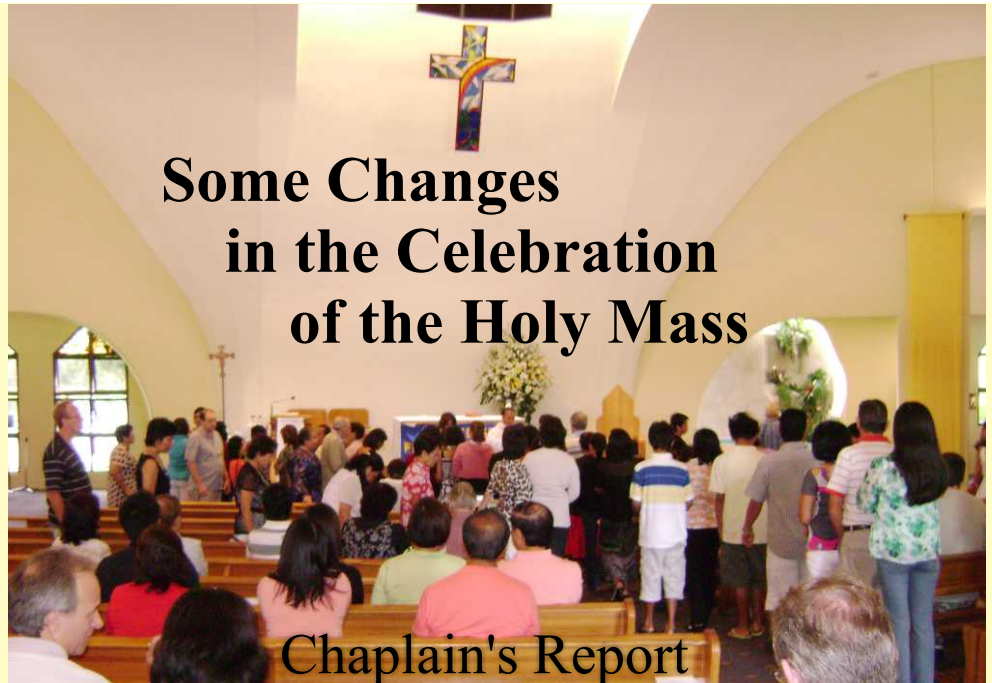
Everybody knows that Filipino Skilled Workers (FSW) are mushrooming in Australia. In our archdiocese, the presence of these brave and hardworking *kababayans* is obviously felt in areas such as Caboolture, Bribie Island, Darra, Goodna, Ipswich, Karana Downs, Springfield Lakes, Wynnum and a handful of them are also spread at Gold Coast.

In line with our cultural heritage and Filipino values, we warmly welcome them in Australia to show our friendliness and hospitality. In this regard, the Filipino Chaplaincy will host a WELCOME DINNER for all the Filipino Skilled Workers on 31st May, Saturday, from 5:00pm onwards at the Chinese Community Centre at Runcorn. Sub-chaplaincies of Caboolture, Ipswich, Gold Coast and our Filipino community at Wynnum will provide buses to pick them (FSW) up and to bring them home. The celebration involves no cost at all. Everything is FREE!

The purpose of this gathering is not only to welcome our *kababayans*, but also to give them an orientation of the way of life in Australia, to give them some directories and agencies and individual persons to whom they can turn to in times of need for help due to problems or crisis while working in a foreign land. Famous and delicious Filipino dishes will be served at table. Lechon will be there too. It will also be a night of fun as some groups of Filipinos will present native and modern dances. The celebration will be concluded with a disco.

I therefore personally invite all Filipino Contract Workers, regardless of religion, to please come and join in this special night for you. If there are other areas where our FSW reside and are not mentioned in this article please let me know soon so we could coordinate with them. For buses in different areas, please contact the following:

Caboolture: Jo 0406 175 725
Ludy 5495 5273
Ipswich: Thelma 0439 728 267
Sol 0431 836 275
Gold Coast: Mary Ann 0416 331 233
Menchie 0414 285 512
Wynnum: Grace 0447 996 287
Brisbane: Efren 0416 051 454
Mabel 0416 149 235
Amy 0412 999 502



Some Changes in the Celebration of the Holy Mass

Chaplain's Report

Archbishop John Bathersby sent an official letter, dated 8 April 2008, to all priests and migrant chaplains in the archdiocese, regarding some changes in the celebration of the Holy Mass. Attached with his letter was a copy of the **GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL (GIRM) AUSTRALIA 2002: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE**. It is therefore my obligation, as chaplain, to disseminate this very important document to all the Filipino Catholics. Below are the excerpts of the document:

"Recently, the Australian Catholic Bishops received notification from Rome that the Australian edition of the new **General Instruction of the Roman Missal has been approved**. The Bishops decided to implement the new instruction on **11th May, Pentecost Sunday**. Two changes will affect the people at the celebration of the mass, thus:

1. The **first** change concerns the posture of the people at the end of the Preparation of the Gifts. At present, when the priest invites us to: "Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father." And the people, **while sitting**, respond: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands...." From May 11th, the people **will stand** as the priest says: "Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice...." And say our response: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice...."

2. The **second** change concerns how we come forward to receive Holy Communion. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal

acknowledges that the common posture in Australia for the reception of Holy Communion is to **STAND**. By everyone following the common practice and **standing** to receive communion, Holy Communion becomes a true sign of unity among those who share in the same table of the Lord.

At present, different gestures of reverence are being used when people receive communion. To show that we are one in Christ, all communicants are asked to use a common sign of reverence from 11th May: "**When approaching to receive Communion, the faithful bow in reverence of the Mystery that they are to receive.**" Communicants are to make a simple bow of the head when they step forward to receive the consecrated elements from the minister. Such a bow can be done simple, without disrupting the flow of the Communion Procession.

As regards the **second** change, receiving Communion is either by tongue or by hand. What the document would like to implement is the common bodily posture in receiving it, namely: **STANDING AND MAKE A SIMPLE BOW OF THE HEAD** in reverence to the consecrated elements.

In full respect to the hierarchy and to maintain that unity and obedience with the Church, I therefore urge all Filipino Catholics to execute this mandate effective 11th May 2008. I am pretty sure that your local parish priests will also disseminate the same information. *Fr. Marce Singson*

The Power of your Love

In our daily lives we always wanted to see the bright side and ignore the darkness. We love what's good because it's God's love that is creating that goodness for us. We go to church to practice our faith and listen to the words of God. We praise God in different ways and one is thru music. The song "The Power of Your Love" is one of my favourite liturgy songs as the lyrics are so meaningful and inspiring. Like most of all religious songs the Words are His gift to us.

I inherited my faith in God through my mother. During earlier years, practicing our faith was very traditional and tedious but I'd still go to church and pray. It was inadequate and I prayed and asked God for miracles to happen. We all did. We attend masses and many religious ceremonies but when we leave the church, our lives no longer reflect our belief in God. We all confessed our sins to God with our lips but deny Him in our lives. We recite the Creed but find it hard to live the Christian life. I know this is still common today. I've found that realization comes after what happens through experiences.

As we grow older we take things more seriously. We try to keep the importance of His commandments in our lives and being attached to Him will surely give us the way to remain alive and grow deeper and be fruitful. We as humans are called to imitate God's love. Loving is obeying the commands and wishes of our beloved. It applies to our relations with others and with God. We have our own individual expertise and talents. These are God-given gifts, therefore we must use them in God's way. Now I often I ask: How do I serve God and people? What's the best way to translate my love into action? He has given me so much, what can I give back in return?

May is my favourite month of the year. May 4th marks the feast day of our Lord's Ascension, we celebrate the living and lasting presence of Christ with us. Pentecost is celebrated on May 11th, fifty days after Jesus' resurrection and symbolizes the coming of the Holy Spirit. We also celebrate Mother's Day on this day. May 18th it's the Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity which touches our lives at every point, the three persons who started the whole process of redemption and the mainspring was love. The fourth and last Sunday of May is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, we remember that the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist isn't physical but it's unique presence called sacramental. All four Sundays are being celebrated with Holy Masses each week in four different areas of the chaplaincy. We also celebrate in May the feasts of Our Lady of Fatima (May 13), Our Lady Help of Christians (May 24), Sacred Heart of Jesus (May 30), and the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May 31). Mayflower Festival or Flores de Mayo is also very popular event to celebrate for Filipinos. Lastly, a thanksgiving for Nora and myself our birthdays also falls in May.

Three Hundred Sixty-Six Days with the Lord is my personal guide and a true instrument in bringing the words of God to my daily life. I thank God and all the people in the community who've touched and inspired me while serving the Catholic Filipino Australian Chaplaincy of Brisbane.

Ang Binhi Newsletter is publish every three months - it's our way of reaching out and keeping you updated with current happenings and future community events in the chaplaincy. We encourage everyone to share their thoughts, experiences and activities by sending us a short article to ealtez@bigpond.net.au. You never know, what you may be keeping could be a treasure to others.

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Coordinator - Efren A. Altez, Vice-Coordinator - Vic Bacud, Minutes Secretary - Olivia Anderson, Corres. Secretary - Mabel Duncan, Treasurer - Grace Moon, Asst. Treasurer - Amy Duncan, Chaplain - Fr Marce Singson, Binhi Editor - Art Pagaduan

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Mothers

Since the creation of the world, a profession has existed which has ensured its survival. It is a profession through which God redeemed humanity, which was immersed in sin and condemned to eternal death. In reality, it is much more than a profession, it is a vocation: motherhood. From it all human life springs forth and we know as Mother Teresa said, life is God's love in action.

God chose to demonstrate His creative love through mothers. Each child born is proof of that love. Mothers collaborate with God the creator, not only in the formation of their children's bodies, but more importantly, in the salvation of their immortal souls. It is precisely in the womb of a mother where God instills an immortal soul in the first instant that a tiny human being is conceived. Can there be a greater or more dignified vocation than that of being a mother?

On the 11th of May we celebrate Mother's Day. Let us greet our mothers, grandmothers and mothers-in-law a Happy Mother's Day. Wherever they may be, give thanks and pray for them for their love and sacrifices.

I want to share with you a story. Kevin went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with most of his family including his mother-in-law. While visiting Jerusalem, Kevin's mother-in-law fell seriously ill and died. Kevin went to the Australian Consulate to make arrangements to send the body back to Australia for burial.

The Consul told Kevin that sending back the body to Australia would cost thousands of dollars, while burying the body in Jerusalem would cost only a few hundred dollars. Kevin thought for some time and responded, "I don't care how much it will cost to send the body back; that's what my wife and I want to do." The Consul said, "You must have loved your mother-in-law very much, considering the difference in price."

"No, it's not only that," says Kevin. "You see, I know of a case many years ago of a person who was buried here in Jerusalem. On the third day he rose from the dead!" "I just can't take that chance!"

In Mark 1:29-31, Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law. Peter loves his mother-in-law, and so he asked his friend Jesus to heal her. It demonstrated how important mothers-in-law are even during the time of Christ.

On the 13th of April, 4th Sunday of Easter was Good Shepherd Sunday. In John 10:1-10, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows and call his sheep by name. Mothers are proven to be good shepherds.

There is a story about a mother who named all his six sons Jose. When asked how they get to know whom she is calling, her response was: "Oh, that's easy. I call them by their surnames."

Mothers are also healers by nature. When little children hurt themselves, they call out their mothers, "Inay ko po!" and the supermother is there instantly at their side. Call out your Dad, oh boy, you are in trouble, big big trouble!

There was a healing retreat sponsored by the Marriage Enrichment Movement recently, a successful one I was told. After the retreat, Fr. Nards Mercene asked the attendees who want to get involved in the healing ministry. Who volunteered? Of course, mothers. What we need in our community are good shepherds and healers. Good leaders and followers are borne out from them. Amen.

Parable of the woe man

Art & Rose Pagaduan

A man was sick and tired of going to work every day while his wife stayed home. He wanted her to see what he went through so he prayed, "Dear Lord, I go to work every day and put in eight hours while my wife merely stays at home. I want her to know what I go through, so please exchange our bodies and respective roles."

God, in His infinite wisdom, granted the man's wish. The next morning, sure enough, the man awoke as a woman. He cooked breakfast for his mate, awakened the kids, fed them breakfast, packed their lunches, drove them to school, came home and do the dish washing and laundry. At 10:00 am went to the post office to pay the electricity and telephone bill, then went grocery shopping.

At 1 p.m. he hurried home to make the beds, clean the house, dust, and sweep and mop the kitchen floor. Ran to the school to pick the kids at 2:50 pm. Then he set up the ironing board and watched TV while he did the ironing.

At 4:30 p.m. he began peeling potatoes and washing vegetables and prepared to cook for supper. After supper he cleaned the kitchen, ran the dishwasher, folded laundry, bathed the kids, and put them to bed.

At 9 p.m. he was exhausted and, though his daily chores weren't finished, he went to bed where he was expected to make love.

Wake up the next morning and immediately knelt by the bed and said, "Lord, I don't know what I was thinking. I was so wrong to envy my wife's being able to stay home all day.

"Please, oh please, let us trade back." The Lord, in His infinite wisdom, replied, "My son, I feel you have learned your lesson and I will be happy to change things back. But you'll have to wait 9 months, though."

"Why that long?" the man said desperately. "Because you got pregnant last night!" the Lord replied.

The celebration of the Divine Mercy at St Carthage Church, Gordon Park

I was surprised at the good response of all those who attended the celebration. I was happy to see our "kababayans" present from the north, south, east and west. All the other sub- chaplaincies were also well represented. As usual the celebration was followed by a shared fellowship at the church hall and everyone enjoyed themselves to the utmost.

The Choir was absolutely terrific and they delivered beautiful music and singing of which we are all very thankful and grateful for.

The most touching to me is that during the celebration of the Holy Mass and even at the fellowship, I felt a feeling of unity, camaraderie, friendships amongst all present. I believe that celebrations such as this great feast day brings about oneness to the chaplaincy which gives joy, beauty and much meaning to our life as a community.

I therefore urge everyone to continue their faith-filled support and prayers for our Filipino Chaplaincy for the greater glory of God and His Blessed Mother. May God bless us all!!!

- by Amy Duncan



DANCE NIGHT: Time flies. And before you know it, 3 months have gone it is now time to catch up and reflect on the goings on in the Chaplaincy. We in Caboolture are happy and grateful for the Lord's continuous presence in our midst. The Holy Spirit has been with us as we bravely faced the demands of our local Chaplaincy. As in any community, we have been tested with the day-to-day demands of living: marriages, baptisms, funerals, birthdays, etc. Our biggest test was our Easter Dance Night last 19th of April. We are grateful for the ever-present and unstinting support of our Caboolture Filipinos whose loyalty to their Chaplaincy can not be faulted. The Caboolture Memorial Hall once again reverberated with laughter and music as our Catholic Filipinos partied the night away - Caboolture style! This was an overwhelmingly successful evening. We were blessed with the talent of our DJ, Lloyd Saniel, from the Gold Coast. But an unexpected plus was the presence of a young lady from Logan Central- Caviteña girl Rowena Sabuero! My! Did she really bring the house down! Her repertoire of songs very much equaled the virtuosity of our DJ! The music was great! The food was great! The music was great! The venue was great! But the Caboolture Filipinos... they were truly GREAT! Praise the Lord!

We are also happy to report that attendance to our monthly Chaplaincy Mass has been improving consistently. And even non-Filipinos now make it a point to attend our Chaplaincy Masses. They just love the ambience that emanates from a Filipino community.

EL SHADDAI PFFI:

The Caboolture Cell Group celebrated its 2nd Anniversary on 15th March. This was held at the Chapel of St Columban's College. Praise and worship songs filled the hall as testimony after testimony of our Lord's constant love and care left no doubt in our hearts of the greatness of El Shaddai. Holy Mass was celebrated with Fr Quentin Culpeper, its Spiritual Director, officiating.

An equally great blessing of Our Father God was granted the following month when Hervey Bay Cell Group celebrated its 13th Anniversary on the 26th April. Thank You, Lord! Great love and joy was felt by all attendees as there was an almost never-ending joyful songs of praise and worship. Musical talents from the young and old came from the children of El Shaddai. Holy Mass was officiated by Fr Joseph Hien Van Vo of St Joseph's Parish, Hervey Bay.



FILIPINO, CAR ACCIDENT VICTIM

On 14 April Fr Marce Singson visited Alfredo Bosch at Gold Coast Hospital. Alfredo landed in Australia as a tourist for 6 days, a privilege given by his company in the Philippines. Alfredo arrived on March 4 and on the day of his arrival he was hit by a car as he was crossing in the street at Surfers Paradise. He has 4 kids in the Philippines. His wife arrived on March 8 to care for him at the hospital. Alfredo seems to be a Catholic because he asked for a blessing from Fr Marce.

The Catholic Filipino-Australian Chaplaincies of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich and Caboolture contributed a total of \$1,500 as financial assistance to help with the expenses of medical treatment for his extensive injuries. Alfredo has no relations or friends here in Australia. Alfredo might still stay in Australia for two months for his rehabilitation. Our thanks to the Gold Coast Chaplaincy who initiated helping Alfredo and few individuals who opened their wallets for the cause. May your generosity be blessed by the Lord.

FLORES DE MAYO AND SANTACRUZAN

A 9-day novena will start on Thursday 22nd May finishing on Saturday 31st May. Flores de Mayo and Santacruzán on June 1st at Casey Hall, Fairway Drive Clear Island Waters from 10:30am to 5:00pm. Program starts on with sagalas, choir number and dance group performances.

YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE DINNER PARTY. Featuring Craft Band on Saturday, 12th July 2008 from 6:00 to 11:00pm at Albertwaterways Community Centre corner Hooker & Sunshine Blvd. Broadbeach Waters (opposite Pacific Fair). Tickets \$15 adult, \$10 Children. Proceeds to go towards Give a Life Project with PGH Pediatric Cancer Ward.

ALL NATIONS MASS CELEBRATION

Sunday 27th July 2008, 11am Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters to be celebrated by Bishop Joseph Oudemán. Multicultural food stalls and entertainment will commence after mass at Casey Hall. Our Gold Coast Chaplaincy will take part in this great event. All are invited!

Philippines Now the 12th Most Populous Country

By: Fr. Marce Singson

With an estimated population of 91,077,287 (as of July 2007), the Philippines is now the 12th most populous country in the world according to the report of the United Nations Population Fund. China, comprising of 20% of the estimated 6.6 billion world population (as of July 2007) topped the list with an estimated population of 1.319 billion, followed by India with about 1.122 billion people or 16% of the world population.

The United Nations agency said Asia accounts for more than 60% of the world's population with almost 3.8 billion people, while Africa accounts for 12% with 840 million people. European countries comprise 11% of the world's population with 710 million people. North America comprises 8% with 514 million people; and South America 5.3% of the world's population with 371 million people.

The 15 most populous countries in the world are:

1. China 1.319 billion people
2. India 1.122 billion
3. USA 300 million
4. Indonesia 225 million
5. Brazil 186 million
6. Pakistan 165 million
7. Bangladesh 147 million
8. Russia 143 million
9. Nigeria 135 million
10. Japan 128 million
11. Mexico 108 million
12. Philippines 91.077 million
13. Vietnam 84 million
14. Germany 82 million
15. Egypt 75 million

Afterthought - Salubong 2008

The Salubong Easter Sunday Mass which was held at 5:00am of 22nd March 2008 was the first task that was assigned to the newly elected officers of the Catholic Filipino-Australian Chaplaincy of Brisbane. Planning was initiated by our chaplain Fr Marce Singson months before. All actions were coordinated by Efen Altez to all officers.

When we are given task to re-enact what action took place at the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are given an opportunity to serve. It is not a 100% copy cut of the original resurrection but it is the sincere heart intent that what we are commemorating is simply an expression of our gratitude to our Lord Jesus. We are grateful to Jesus and we thank Thee for the gift of resurrection for all of us. It is the pillar of our Christian faith. Eternal life over death! The day when Jesus resurrected, His disciples were in great surprise, confusion and some in disbelief. Jesus calmed everyone and simply said "have faith and believe". He also gave some powers and instructions to his disciples to heal the sick and evangelise with a promise of his second coming in glory at judgement day (this is the final salubong). Then Jesus ascended to heaven and that concluded the first salubong between Jesus and His disciples.

Our salubong started with the early morning angels singing the alleluia. There was a big group of religious congregation. In attendance were previous officers of the chaplaincy who always supported the salubong like Ben & Vicky Bulaong, Art Pagaduan, Adel Cos and many others. The women group in line was led by Mother Mary from a distance, while Jesus led the men from the opposite place. The two groups met at the main entrance door of the church then continued to be seated for the holy mass. The images of Jesus and Mother Mary were enthroned in front of the altar. All the apostles are in complete vestments. A big thanks to the Maximilian Kolby Choir for their golden voices throughout the mass. The homily of Fr Marce is about the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus in our Christian faith and life. It was full of life and spirituality both for the soul and mind to keep everyone awake giggling! Everyone was happy. Breakfast was over flowing with Filipino food like pandesal, puto, pansit and suman. Maraming sobrang pagkain for take away. God has blessed us all. Let us all join together to thank God for this opportunity that we are able to practise freely in Australia, our tradition. Maraming salamat sa lahat ng dumalo. Thank you Fr Marce for your directions and proactive cooperation from the current officers of the chaplaincy. We hope to see a bigger congregation for next year's salubong.

And so this is our symbolic Filipino traditional salubong which we practice every year with the Catholic Filipino-Australian Chaplaincy of Brisbane. - Vic Bacud

Brisbane Chaplaincy NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Brisbane Chaplaincy Mass: Our thanks to the Couples for Christ (Northside) who offered their services to sing at St Flannan's Church chaplaincy mass on April 20. The choir's lead guitarist is Joey Hizon, an active Single for Christ member. The chaplaincy is really blessed with so much talents and dedication. Hope to see you again next month.

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima: The Our Lady of Fatima Parish in association with the Hispano American, Filipino and Samoan communities wish to invite parishioners, community members and friends to celebrate with us the feast day of our parish patron saint. The annual event will take place on Saturday, 10th May, start praying rosary at 9:15am, Holy Mass at 10am to be celebrated by Archbishop John Bathersby and followed by a special experience of multicultural foods and entertainment.

Marriage Enrichment Movement (Brisbane): Dance Night on Saturday, 24th May. 6:30pm at Wavell Heights Bowls Club, 175 Edinburgh Castle Rd. Wavell Heights. Music provided by Fire & Rain Band. Tickets \$10. Food, drinks available for sale plus raffles and door prizes. Proceeds for future seminars and newly created healing ministry. Contact Mike Tibayan on 0419149114.



May 4th, Sunday, 11:30am, Mass of the Lord's Ascension, Sacred Heart Church, Gold Coast.

11th, Sunday, 1:00pm, Solemnity of the Pentecost, St. Peter's Church, Caboolture.

18th, Sunday, 12:00noon, Solemnity of the Trinity, St. Flannan's Church, cnr Handford & Beams Road, Zillmere.

25th, Sunday, 12:00noon, Solemnity of the Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, Robertson Road, Eastern Heights.

30th, Saturday, 5:30pm - Flores de Mayo, 6:00pm St Bernardine's Church, 25 Vergulde St. Regents Park

Jun

1st, Sunday, 11:30am, Flores de Mayo Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Gold Coast.

8th, Sunday, 9:30pm, Barrio Fiesta Mass, Yeronga Football Club, Cansdale St.

8th, Sunday, 1:00pm, Chaplaincy Mass, St. Peter's Church, Caboolture.

15th, Sunday, 12:00noon, Chaplaincy Mass, St. Flannan's Church, cnr Handford & Beams Road, Zillmere.

21st, Saturday, 9:30am, Annual Filipino Pilgrimage, Marian Valley, Canungra.

22nd, Sunday, 12:00noon, Chaplaincy Mass, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights.

25th, Wednesday, 7:00pm, Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Mass, St. Carthage Church, Gordon Park.

Jul

6th, Sunday, 11:30am, Chaplaincy Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Gold Coast.

12th, Saturday, 6:00pm onward, Gold Coast Chaplaincy Night (TBA)

13th, Sunday, 1:00pm, Chaplaincy Mass, St. Peter's Church, Caboolture.

16th, Wednesday, 7:00pm, Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Carthage Church, Beaconsfield Tce. Gordon Park.

20th, Sunday, 12:00noon, Chaplaincy Mass, St. Flannan's Church, Zillmere.

26th, Saturday, 9:00am onward, Chaplaincy officers' Rendezvous: Gold Coast, Ipswich, Caboolture & Brisbane, Gold Coast

27th, Sunday, 12:00noon, Easter Sunday Mass, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights.

Aug

3rd, Sunday, 11:30am, Chaplaincy Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Gold Coast.

6th, Wednesday, 7:00pm, Feast of the Lord's Transfiguration, St. Carthage Church, Beaconsfield Tce. Gordon Park.

10th, Sunday, Chaplaincy Mass, St. Peter's Church, Caboolture.

16th, Saturday, 5:00pm onward, Ipswich Chaplaincy Night, Uniting Church Social Hall, Booval

17th, Sunday, 12:00noon, Chaplaincy Mass, St Flannan's Church, Zillmere.

24th, Sunday, 12:00noon, Chaplaincy Mass, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights.