MARY'S ROSE NEWSLETTER

Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet

Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians Marian Valley
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News from 'Marian Valley'

Dear Pilgrims,

Lent is underway, and while Tropical Cyclone Alfred approaches the coast of Southeast Queensland, we are reminded of the turmoil and chaos that can beset our lives. The howling winds and heavy rains can be intimidating and even frightening, forcing us to seek shelter and safety.

Similarly, as we embark on the journey of Lent, we are invited to confront the turmoil and chaos that can beset our souls. The temptations and struggles that we face in our daily lives can be overwhelming, forcing us to seek refuge in the loving arms of God.

Just as the cyclone brings strong winds and heavy rains, Lent brings us the "storms" of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These spiritual disciplines can be uncomfortable, inconvenient, and even painful at times, but they are necessary for us to grow in holiness and to prepare ourselves for the resurrection of Christ.

Through prayer, we seek to deepen our relationship with God and to discern His will for our lives.

Through fasting, we seek to detach ourselves from the things of this world and to focus on the things of heaven.

Through almsgiving, we seek to share our blessings with others and to demonstrate our love and compassion for those in need.

Just as the cyclone forces us to seek shelter and safety, Lent invites us to seek shelter and safety in the loving arms of God. We are called to repent of our sins, to return to the Lord, and to trust in His mercy and compassion. We are called to acknowledge our weaknesses and limitations, and to seek the strength and guidance that only God can provide.

Just as the cyclone will eventually pass, and the sun will shine brightly once again, Lent will eventually come to an end, and we will celebrate the joy and glory of Easter. But for now, let us embrace the journey of Lent, with all its challenges and opportunities for growth. Let us seek to deepen our relationship with God, and to become more like Christ, who suffered and died for our salvation.

As we pray for those affected by Tropical Cyclone Alfred, let us also pray for ourselves, that we may be strengthened and guided on our Lenten journey. May we emerge from this season of prayer and penance as renewed and revitalized disciples of Christ. May we be filled with a deeper sense of faith, hope, and charity, and may we be empowered to live out our faith in the world.

As we journey through Lent towards Easter, let us remember the words of Psalm 18, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." May we seek shelter in the loving arms of God, and may we rest in the shadow of His presence. May we be protected from the storms of life, and may we emerge from this season of Lent as stronger, wiser, and more faithful disciples of Christ, to rejoice in his resurrection.

Our Lady of Jasna Gora and Help of Christians… Pray For us!!!

Fr. Zachary Lewis O.S.P.P.E.
Ash Wednesday A.D. 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2025

The main celebrants for:

SATURDAY 24 MAY
Our Lady Help of Christians - Bishop Bill Morris

SUNDAY 13 JULY
Fatima Day - Fr Anthony Robbie

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST
Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa
- Fr Casimir Zielinski

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
Our Lady's Birthday - Bishop Columba

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER
Fatima Day - Fr Getulio Gonclaves-Neto

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER
Fatima Day & Marian Valley's 30 anniversary
- Bishop Columba

FR ALBERT'S FAREWELL

On Fatima day Sunday 13 October 2024, around 130 people attended Fr Albert Wasniowski's farewell mass. Fr Jarek & Fr Zachary concelebrated at the mass.

The day included the usual Fatima program of 10am Holy Hour, 11am Mass followed by lunch, then at 1pm a Eucharistic procession. During the lunch time break, pilgrims gathered in the canteen with Fr Albert, for the cutting of the cake and to share memories of his Marian Valley days.

FR ALBERT'S TALK

When Fr Albert first arrived in Australia in 1997, his first posting was at Marian Valley. He said, this place was his first love of Australia, although he had limited knowledge of the English language.

Since 2014, whilst Prior at Marian Valley for 8 years, Fr Albert recounted three memorable challenges:

Firstly, just after arriving at Marian Valley to take up the role of Prior, there was a major flood. In March 2017 ex-cyclone Debbie poured down 32 inches of rain within 48 hours causing washouts and damage to statues. This was just before Easter. "The place was a disaster, I could not believe it," he said, "but thanks to the many volunteers and monks, the place was restored within a short time, just in time for the Good Friday event."

Then in 2019, notorious bushfires raged across South-East Queensland. The day before Our Lady's birthday celebrations on Saturday 7 September 2019, the fires struck the Gold Coast hinterland. Emergency crews asked Marian Valley residents to prepare for evacuation due to the threat of fires moving along the Beechmont-Canungra ranges. Fortunately, Marian Valley was saved from any danger, and Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green was able to go ahead with the celebration of the mass, and surprisingly around 100 pilgrims arrived for the event.

Finally, during the Year 2020, there was the COVID19 virus which caused disruption to the events held at Marian Valley. Br Bruno Kanamis and Fr Albert were both stranded in Poland for around nine months, unable to return due to border closures.

Ah yes Fr Albert, the adventures of Marian Valley, but you survived!

All the blessings to you Fr Albert on your new posting to the Smithfield Parish in Sydney.

Fr Albert cutting the cake

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a "Year of Jubilee" and the motto is "Pilgrims of Hope." The 2025 Jubilee Year began on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026, the Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord.

Pope Francis

PILGRIMAGE

May this Jubilee Year be a time for refreshing our souls, a journey to strengthen our faith and increase the love of our Church. The Holy Father has called on all Christians to become pilgrims of hope.

PLENARY INDULGENCES

The decree signed on 13 May 2024 by Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, the head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, provides Catholics with the opportunity to gain indulgences by making pilgrimages, prayerful visits to specific churches, or by practicing works of mercy during the holy year.

REQUIREMENTS

Confession, Holy Communion, Prayer for the Pope's intentions, and the exclusion of all attachment to sin, even venial sin.

Each indulgence requires a separate Communion and Prayer, ideally on the day of the indulgenced act. Only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day, but a second is possible if applied to souls in purgatory.

QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCIS

"May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever."

FR DAMIAN

In mid-October 2024 Fr Damian Mosakowski OSPPE transferred from Smithfield Parish in Sydney, to the Marian Valley community. He will be administrating mostly in the Nerang Parish. Fr Damian is also the Vicar Provincial of the Pauline Order in Australia.

Fr Damian Mosakowski

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL

BLESSING & OPENING

On Saturday 5 October 2024 it was a joyful, holy day for the opening and blessing of the newly built Divine Mercy Chapel at Marian Valley, held on the Feast Day of St Faustina Kowalska.

Divine Mercy Chapel

The main celebrant on the day was the Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE, Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese. The Bishop was assisted by Fr Jaroslaw Zan, Fr Anthony David, Fr Albert Wasniowski, Fr Zachary Lewis, Fr Damian Mosakowski, and visiting priests Fr Jan Bialasiewicz (Darra/Jindalee Parish), Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy (Gatton Laidley Parish), and Fr John Zhao (Hendra Parish).

A large marquee provided cool, shady protection for the 680 pilgrims who travelled to Marian Valley for the occasion. There were buses from New Farm, North Brisbane, Toowoomba, and the Gold Coast. Thank you bus coordinators Xavier, Alzira, Babu and Theresa.

It was a busy schedule for the day. The normal First Saturday program was included in the day's events, beginning with 10am Holy Hour, 11am Mass, lunch, followed by 1.30pm Eucharistic Procession to the Fatima Grotto. The day concluded with the Divine Mercy Chaplet being sung in the newly opened Divine Mercy Chapel.

Marian Valley Choir - Robyn Maciejewski, Jan Chalmers, Deanna Ryan, Margaret Young

BENEFACTORS

The Pauline Fathers thanked Jan and Bill Webster and family for their generosity and kindness. In his speech, Fr Jaroslaw said, "Your selfless contribution has made this chapel a reality, providing a sanctuary for our pilgrims at Marian Valley to worship, reflect and grow in faith. Your gift is testament to the power of compassion and mercy."

Jan Webster has a very special devotion to the Divine Mercy, and was involved in all stages of the construction and furnishings of the new Chapel. Jan has been a pilgrim to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Vilnius,

Continued on next page...

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL *Continued...*

Lithuania, and the Divine Mercy Sanctuary, in Krakow, Poland, which are both significant Divine Mercy places of pilgrimage. Jan has said that the culmination of this project has been one of her heartfelt ambitions to build a place dedicated to the Divine Mercy to foster increasing awareness of this devotion.

Her husband Bill, having a Construction Engineering background, had the difficult task of manufacturing the roof structure according to the architect's plans, resulting in a beautiful, unique finish.

During the mass, the Webster family members assisted in parts of the mass. Jan's son Brett and grand-daughter Ellie did the readings, and three of the grandchildren Charli, Jacob & Olivia took up the offertory.

Bishop Columba with the Webster family – Scott, Charli, Tracey, Bill, Olivia, Jan, Jacob, Ellie, Brett and Melissa

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Divine Mercy Chapel took several years to complete due to unforeseen obstacles. These unexpected events included the constraints of COVID19, the lack of tradespeople and materials, and of course weather problems, to name just a few.

Anthony Grange – Project Manager

However, we were very blessed to have a registered builder, who is one of our volunteers, to project manage the construction of the Chapel over the duration of several years. We gratefully thank Anthony Grange for his wonderful work in sourcing the tradies and materials, and managing the project to the finish. Thanks Anthony, and also to Julanne Murphy who was the Project Overseer.

We thank Ziggy & Lucy Pawlikowski who played an important role in the interior design, including the furniture, artistic painting, stations of the cross sculptures, and the display of the relics.

Right: Ziggy & Lucy Pawlikowski

Both St Faustina and Pope St John Paul II's relics are on display in the Chapel along-side their portraits. Blessed Michael Sopocko's relic is encased in the altar which was blessed by Bishop Columba during the mass. On each side of the rear walls is a picture of Blessed Sopocko and Mary, Mother of Mercy.

Procession of St Faustina relic, with Jan Webster, Bishop Columba, Bill Webster

DIVINE MERCY

In Vilnius Lithuania the image of the Divine Mercy was painted in 1934 by a local artist guided by Saint Faustina and this is where the devotion started before spreading across the world.

St Faustina Kowalska lived and worked in Vilnius, and it was during this time that she received her revelations, and started recording her visions in a diary.

The Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Lagiewniki, Krakow, Poland is now the resting place of St Faustina.

CONCLUSION

Fr Jaroslaw Zan thanked everyone who was involved in the construction project. He thanked Fr Albert Wasniowski for his hard work and dedication during the construction project whilst he was the Rector at Marian Valley. Fr Jaroslaw also thanked the volunteers for their tireless efforts in completing the project.

Fr Jaroslaw concluded his speech by saying, "We remember the words of Jesus to St Faustina: 'My mercy is greater than your sins.' May this Chapel be a sanctuary of mercy, where we experience the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father and remind us of God's infinite mercy and love. May you find peace, love, and spiritual nourishment within these walls."

Right: Volunteer Bronwyn Whiting preparing lunch for the special guests

Christopher Brandt, Fr John Zhao, Fr Jan Bialasiewicz, Damon Perry, Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy, Fr Damian Mosakowski, Fr Jaroslaw Zan, Bishop Columba, Fr Albert Wasniowski, Fr Zachary Lewis, Bernard Brandt, Emmanuel Mani Gbanguima,
Front row L to R: Xavier Hagan, Br Bruno Kanamis, Bill Webster, Jan Webster, Michael Mathew, Abraham Mathew, Br Mathew Hall, Mark McHale

SACRED MUSIC

On 12 January 2025, Fr Zachary introduced a new segment at the conclusion of each Sunday mass at Marian Valley on sacred music. The composers are from the Pauline Order dating back to the 17th and 18th century.

A few years ago, the Pauline Fathers started a wide-ranging research project on the large collection of sacred music from the 18th and 19th centuries, and the works are preserved in the Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa, Poland.

For the first 6 weeks, Fr Zachary has played the music of one of the most popular monk-composers of the 18th century, Fr Amandus Ivanschiz OSPPE (1727-1758). Fr Amandus joined the Pauline Order at a young age of 16. He studied music and theology, and was ordained a priest in 1750. Despite his early death at 31, Ivanschiz composed a remarkable number of symphonies, masses, litanies, Marian antiphons, vespers, and Te Deum.

Fr Zachary will be conducting this segment after mass for many weeks, as there is so much material available, and there is still more material being researched in the archives of the Pauline monastery in Poland.

Fr Zachary encourages anyone who is interested in sacred music to stay for around 15 minutes after mass to listen and learn about this remarkable music.

Joan Hughes, Suzanne Redgrave & Patricia Heurich-Ashton enjoy listening to the sacred music being introduced by Fr Zachary Lewis OSPPE.

VOCATION enquiries for The Order of St Paul the First Hermit should be directed to: Vocations Director, Pauline Fathers, 120 Hanging Rock Road, Berrima NSW 2577

RETREAT CENTRE - $50 per night ph. 07-55 333 378
marianretreat@bigpond.com

REMEMBER MARIAN VALLEY IN YOUR WILL

If you wish to remember Marian Valley in your will, the correct wording is:
Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians - Marian Valley - Pauline Fathers - ABN 24 195 762 439
2541 Beechmont Road, Witheren, Canungra Qld 4275

MAY MASS INTENTIONS

It is a custom of the Catholics to dedicate the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you would like to have masses offered for someone special during the Novena prior to the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, your special intention will be placed on the altar. Please return the form to **Marian Valley, PO Box 104, Canungra Qld 4275.**

Cash & Cheque donations are accepted, as well as donations online through Paypal – logon to www.marianvalley.org.au/donate/

CLEAN UP

During November 2024, Marian Valley received steady, constant rain, making the grounds wet and soggy, and producing some landslips and mud swamps. This has kept Br Bruno Kanamis and the volunteers very busy cleaning up the vast grounds.

'THE ROCK'
Overnight, on Wednesday 20 November, a large boulder slipped 80 metres down the hill causing some damage along the way. 'The Rock' has now become a popular 'photo shoot' site for many of the pilgrims.

Jake Kanowski, Robert Murphy, Br Bruno Kanamis OSPPE – cleaning up after the rain damage

LOURDES DAY

For the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Tuesday 11 February 2025, the main celebrant was Fr Ireneusz Czech S.D.S., a member of the Society of the Divine Saviour, also known as the Salvatorians. Fr Ireneusz is currently the Parish Priest of Pymble, in the Diocese of Broken Bay NSW. The concelebrants were Fr Jaroslaw Zan, Fr Zachary Lewis and Fr Akesh Xalxo from Caboolture Parish.

Lourdes day is the annual pilgrimage for the sick and elderly. The program for the day included 10am Holy Hour, 11am Holy Mass with the anointing of the sick and sprinkling of Lourdes water, followed by Eucharistic procession to the Lourdes Grotto, concluding with individual blessings and Divine Mercy Chaplet. There were around 200 pilgrims who journeyed to Marian Valley for this holy day.

Fr Ireneusz Czech S.D.S. – examining the fallen rock at Marian Valley

CYCLONE ALFRED

It is pleasing to report that Marian Valley was fortunate to escape any major damage from Cyclone Alfred.

There were fallen trees and many branches and other debris to clean up around the grounds. Unfortunately, we experienced power outage on Ash Wednesday. The power was restored 9 days later on Fatima Day, 13 March. A generator was used during the outage.

But thanks to hard work from the volunteers and monks, the grounds, buildings and roads have now been restored. It was a worrying time for many people. Numerous prayers were answered. Thanks be to God.

Mark McHale & Br Bruno Kanamis cleaning up the grounds