

## What is happening at St Catherine's Parish in 2022?

Philosophy, Theology & Apologetics Talks: Throughout the year, Fr Greg will continue to give a series of talks that seek to highlight and promote the intellectual richness of the Catholic faith. Catholicism is a religion of *faith and reason*! Under the patronage of St John Henry Newman, a modern scholar and convert to Catholicism, the talks will give parishioners the chance to deepen their understanding of the faith in order to be able to defend it in public life. Some topics that might be covered include:  
Philosophical and scientific proofs for the existence of God. What can we learn from Plato and Aristotle? What are some of the doctrinal differences between Catholics and Protestants? What is marriage and why is it important? What is the theology of the body?

Men's Breakfast and Formation: Every third Saturday of the month beginning February 19<sup>th</sup> 2022. Beginning with Mass in the church at 9.15am followed by a cooked breakfast and a talk.

Basics in the Spiritual Life: Three Steps to Grow Closer to God. In the month of May, Fr Greg has been asked by the Archdiocese to present a short three-part course on the spiritual life. The talks will be Zoomed to participants across the Archdiocese but Fr Greg is suggesting they be presented here at St. Cath's.

Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy: Various events and opportunities for social and spiritual outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves will be provided throughout the year. I envisage details to be released following the next meeting of the Committee for Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy in early February.

Children's Liturgy: Will take place on Sundays during the 9:30am Mass for all children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion (ages seven and under). If any adults are interested in getting involved in this venture, please let Fr Greg or Karen Varga know. This will commence shortly after the school holidays.

Mother's Prayer Group: Date(s) and time TBC. An opportunity for the mothers in our parish and parish school to gather for prayer and friendship following a morning Mass here at St Cath's.

Women's Retreat Day: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May, held at St Catherine's Catholic Church, Gynea. The theme this year will be: "Shine" - The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Jn1:5. All women are welcome. There will be some excellent guest speakers, time for prayer, confession, and convivium.

Guest Speakers: On the Seond Wednesday of the month, beginning in March, the parish will host a guest speaker who will address a different topic on faith and morals. Our first guest speaker will be Ms Monica Doumit speaking on Women & the Catholic Church. Monica is currently the Director of Public Affairs and Engagement for the Archbishop of Sydney, an Adjunct-Senior Lecturer in Law, a regular political commentator and columnist in various media outlets, and (besides law) has postgraduate qualifications in bioethics.

Children's Choir: A new children's choir will be established in 2022. Further details will be provided.

Parish "Marian" Pilgrimages: Details TBC. We will organise a bus trip for parishioners to visit some of the special Marian Shrines for a day of prayer and friendship.

Youth Mass: The new 5pm evening Mass on Sundays will be orientated towards our youth. A new youth minister will shortly be engaged to help facilitate this.

More to come...