Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

As the Catholic World digests the new Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” or “Joy of Love” issued on the 8th April, most commentators would suggest that Pope Francis’ document on the family reflects an “organic development” of church teaching. There are true innovations, but no break in tradition and teaching of the Church. One comment from John Gehring, Catholic program director at Faith in Public Life in the USA says:

"Pope Francis is driving a nail in the coffin of fortress Catholicism by urging church leaders to build bridges not walls. The document is both hopeful and a powerful rebuke to those who put judgment before Grace. The Pope knows that doctrine is most alive when it is a doctrine in the streets, walking into the complexity and messiness of real life."

One thing that is clear in the ‘Joy of Love’ is that the document clearly is focused on helping everyone from teenagers to the elderly, men and women, gay or straight, married or single and those in every state of life or relationship with the church, reflect on how they can enter more deeply into this lived mystery of God’s love, which always starts with where we are, and not in some hypothetical point of where we might or should be.

One of the most important red button issues that was raised at both Synod’s was divorced and remarried Catholics and their relationship to the Church. “Amoris Laetitia” picks up this theme of conscience-based moral discernment in applying it to the pastoral situation of the divorced and remarried people who “can find themselves in a variety of situations, which should not be pigeonholed or fit into overly rigid classifications leaving no room for a suitable personal and pastoral discernment. Included in some of these cases are those who are certain in conscience that their previous and broken marriage had never been valid. The principle outlined in the synod’s final report as that pastoral discernment must always carefully distinguish individual situations in the recognition that there are “no easy recipes,” a phrase that is drawn Pope Benedict XVI’s address to the Seventh World Meeting of Families in Milan.

It is clear to most that the ‘Joy of Love’ emphasizes the need for greater reflection and discernment by pastors and Catholic couples in so-called “irregular” situations as they look for ways they can participate more deeply in church life. This is nothing new as Pastors have always been in conversations with people when they find themselves in some difficulty in being part of the Life and the Church.

If Parishioners would like to talk to me about any issues raised in the “Joy of Love” please contact me via phone or email.

May the blessing of the Risen Christ be with you and your families this Easter Season,

Fr Mark Franklin P.P.
Rite of Christian Baptism
We welcome into our faith community
Gracie Laidley Dwyer, daughter of Steffan and Lucy, who receives the Sacrament of Baptism at St Thomas More Church, Sunshine Beach on 17th April.

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
to Francis and Mary Jayaraj
who celebrate this special occasion on 21st April.
We pray that God will continue to bless their lives together and that they may grow ever closer to Him and to each other in the years that lie ahead.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
This coming Wednesday Ruth, Daniel and Liz will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. On Sunday 24th April they will be received into Full communion with the Catholic Community. Please continue to pray for each of these candidates as they continue their Journey of Faith.

ANZAC DAY MASS
Monday 25th April 7.30am, OLPS Church, Tewantin
followed by the Anzac Day March at 9am at Tewantin.

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations coincides with Good Shepherd Sunday on 17th April.
It’s a day when we as a Church community remember the Lord’s instruction to “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest”. (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). We especially pray for our youth and young people as they consider the call to Ordained, Married, Single or Religious life. You can find more resources at the Vocation Brisbane website: www.vocationbrisbane.com

Message of thanks from Fr Isidore:
I would like to firstly like to thank Fr Mark, our Parish Priest, for all the kindness and help he has shown me during this time and to all the many people including the Office Staff and Parishioners who have helped and offered prayers for me and my mum and family.
I would like to thank all those who prepared the Memorial Mass and prepared the supper following the Mass. I would like to include a thanks to Bishop Brian Finnigan for being present and to the many brother priests who came to support me at the Mass. I ask that you remember my mum on the 19th April as that is the date of her Funeral Mass in Nigeria.
God bless you all, Fr Isidore.

WEEKLY DIARY

Monday 18th April
Monday of the 4th week of Easter
Parish Office hours 9am - Noon and 1pm - 4pm
- 8.30am MASS, OLPS, Tewantin
- 9.00am Holy Hour - Vocations OLPS
- 10.30am Ozcare Anointing MASS
- 7.00pm Parent Meeting Confirmation (New Parents only), Tewantin Church

Tuesday 19th April
Tuesday of the 4th week of Easter
Parish Office hours 9am - Noon and 1pm - 4pm
- 8.00am Rosary, Sacred Heart, Cooroy
- 8.30am Anointing MASS, Sacred Heart, Cooroy
- 9.00am Confessions, Cooroy
- 1.30pm Parent Meeting Confirmation (New Parents only), Tewantin Church
- 5.30pm Parish Finance Council, Parish Office, Tewantin

Wednesday 20th April
Wednesday of the 4th week of Easter
Parish Office hours 9am - Noon and 1pm - 4pm
- 8.45am Kabara Home visit
- 9.45am Carramar Comm Service
- 10.30am Christian Meditation, OLPS
- 5.30pm MASS at St Patrick’s
- 7.00pm RCIA Penance Liturgy Tew.

Thursday 21st April
Thursday of the 4th week of Easter
Parish Office hours 9am - Noon and 1pm - 4pm
- 8.00am Rosary, OLPS, Tewantin
- 8.30am MASS, OLPS, Tewantin
- 9.00am Confessions, OLPS
- 9.00am Divine Mercy, OLPS

Friday 22nd April
Friday of the 4th week of Easter
Parish Office hours 9am - Noon and 1pm - 4pm
- 8.00am Stations of the Cross, OLPS
- 8.30am MASS at OLPS, Tewantin
- 9.00am Novena, OLPS, Tewantin
- 9.30am NNC, Comm Service

Saturday 23rd April
Saturday of the 4th week of Easter
- 9.00am - 12 noon Women's half day Retreat on the Year of Mercy - Sr Helen Dyson OSU, St Patrick’s
- 3.00pm Wedding, St Patrick’s Confessions 4.30pm - 4.50pm, Tewantin
5.00pm Vigil MASS, Tewantin
Confessions 5.00pm - 5.20pm, Cooroy
5.30pm Vigil Mass, Cooroy

Sunday 24th April
Fifth Sunday of Easter
- 7.00am Mass, Tewantin
Confessions 7.30am - 7.45am Pomona
8.00am Mass, Pomona
8.30am Mass, Sunshine Beach
Confessions after 8.30am Mass STM
10.00am Mass, Tewantin
(RCIA Reception into the Church)
5.30pm Mass, Sunshine Beach
Maleny Dairies is a premium, family owned company in Maleny on the Sunshine Coast. Enjoy a farm and factory tour and learn all about the processing of milk from the cow to the bottle and everything in between! You can expect to get up close and personal with one of their Guernsey gals and meet their calves. The tour includes a visit to the dairy to see where the cows are milked and the factory where the milk is processed and then bottled. And of course the tour wouldn't be complete without sampling their range of award winning products.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.
Pope Francis encourages marriage and family life, mindful of ideal and reality
Media release Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 8 April 2016

In his papal document, Amoris Laetitia, ‘The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family’, Pope Francis has created a truly pastoral paper that moves between the ideal and the reality of marriage and family life today, said Archbishop Coleridge on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference today.

Launching the document at 8pm AEST in Rome, the Holy Father writes about marriage as a journey and how ‘the Synod process allowed for an examination of the situation of families in today’s world’, opening up ‘a broader vision’ and a renewed awareness of the importance of marriage and the family, which is counter cultural in today’s society.

Francis does not shy away from key issues that we need to confront including sexual abuse, euthanasia, domestic violence, ‘same-sex’ marriage, sexual identity, accompanying the separated and divorced and care for the most vulnerable in society namely, the elderly, people with disabilities and migrants.

“He weaves all these thoughts into an inspiring call for a revitalisation of marriage and the family. His comments on political and philosophical issues are interspersed with practical discussion of how to listen and talk with one another and how to love,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

In reference to the sexual abuse of children, Francis said, ‘the sexual abuse of children is all the more scandalous when it occurs in places where they ought to be made safe’ (45). ‘On unions between homosexual persons, Francis writes, ‘We would like before all else to reaffirm that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration.’ (250)

Dr Maria Harries, Chair of Catholic Social Services Australia, said, ‘The Holy Father identifies the appalling impacts on families of a huge variety of evils such as war, violence, addictions, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, gross materialism and greed that lead to isolation, despair, loneliness, fragmentation of families and peoples everywhere.

‘And he invites us to not lose hope but to walk with and embrace families who suffer, married couples who are in trouble and those who feel alienated.’

Shawn and Branka van der Linden, a married couple with four young children, who represent the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council, said, ‘To have a Church document that speaks in a realistic way about the practicalities of family life, is a great encouragement and relevant to our lived experience.’