

upcoming events

the vocation centre runs or supports the following events

Sunday 5 February **Young Adult Mass**
7:30pm at St Stephen's Cathedral
Celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and followed by refreshments in the Cathedral grounds.

Thursday 9 February **ORDINATION - Andrew Chase**
(Rockhampton Diocese)

Sunday 19 February **Fuel**
7:00-9:00pm at St Patrick's Church, Fortitude Valley
Praise and worship with prayer, teaching & Reconciliation.
Run by Emmanuel Youth Outreach.

Wed 22 February **ORDINATION - Paul Chandler**
(Brisbane Archdiocese)
7:30pm at St Stephen's Cathedral

Fri 24 November - Sun 26 November **MenALIVE to the Max weekend**
Camp Bornhoffen, Natural Bridge (Qld)
A new initiative for men from the Brisbane Archdiocese.
Visit www.menalive.org.au for information and contacts.

Wednesday 1 March **Ash Wednesday**

Sunday 5 March **Young Adult Mass**
7:30pm at St Stephen's Cathedral
Celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and followed by refreshments in the Cathedral grounds.

Sunday 19 March **Fuel**
7:00-9:00pm at St Patrick's Church, Fortitude Valley
Praise and worship with prayer, teaching & Reconciliation.
Run by Emmanuel Youth Outreach.

Visit the Vocation Centre website: www.catholicpriesthood.com

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ORDINATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD

The Church in Queensland is about to celebrate two Ordinations to the Priesthood! ANDREW CHASE will be ordained for Rockhampton Diocese on 9 February, and PAUL CHANDLER will be ordained for Brisbane Archdiocese on 22 February.

For both Andrew and Paul, their ordination is an exciting moment that has come after years of study at Holy Spirit Seminary with pastoral experience in parishes, and much prayer and discernment about God's call in their lives. Please pray for both these men as they enter fully into their vocation as a Priest.

PAUL CHANDLER reflects upon his Ordination...

February 22nd marks a significant change in my life and it also marks a defining response to an inner voice that has been part of my thoughts and prayers for about 10 years.

I am excited. I am nervous. I am full of wonder and awe as this day comes closer. Yet, at the same time, underneath there is the gracious presence of God's Spirit who brings peace and an inner certainty of the heart. In going forward to ordination I trust not in myself but in God, who is leading me to the deepest fulfilment of my humanity.

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A Brief Note...

2006 is set to be an exciting year for Brisbane vocations! First off, we have Mark starting in the new role of Vocations Promotions Officer, followed by Paul Chandler's ordination to Priesthood in February. Plus we also plan to introduce several new events and discernment opportunities, which will unfold as the year progresses.

I hope we'll see you again in 2006, and that we are able to assist you as you continue to discern whether God is calling you to the Priesthood.

Luke Plant

Field Officer, Brisbane Vocation Centre

**To be a
PRIEST
is to be a
MAN OF GOD.**

**It is to lead
people in
the vision of
transforming
the world
according to
the mind of
JESUS CHRIST.**

**Archbishop
John Bathersby**

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The Call to Preach

Mark 1:35-39

Jesus came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you."

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Reflection:

There is power in the Good News. When Jesus proclaims His message, He speaks directly to the people's hearts with words of life.

This passage reveals that one of the purposes that Jesus came was to preach the Good News of Salvation and Fullness of Life. Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus proclaims that He is "the Way, the TRUTH and the Life" (John 14:6).

Note that in the middle of this Scripture passage about preaching the Gospel, there is a verse about Jesus going off on his own to pray. Prayer, building upon His relationship with His Father, was the foundation of all of Jesus' ministry.

For many of us, the prospect of standing up in front of people and speaking is scary. But when God calls us to speak, He also gives us the grace to do it and the words to say. We serve God in His strength, not our own.

Are you called to 'Speak Life' - to the Church, to the world, to individuals - as a Priest?



7:30pm

on the 1st Sunday of the Month
at St Stephen's Cathedral

Elizabeth St, Brisbane

Next Young Adult Masses:

5 February & 5 March

Mass with Young Adults from across
Brisbane, followed by refreshments
in the Cathedral grounds.

NEW MAN FOR VOCATION PROMOTION

Archbishop Bathersby recently appointed **Mark Lysaght** to the new role of Vocations Promotions Officer.

As part of his role, Mark will be talking with young men who have shown an interest in becoming a Priest, and visiting parishes, universities and schools to share about Priesthood and God's call.

Over the next few weeks, Mark will be contacting a number of the young men who receive this newsletter.

You will read more about Mark in the next edition of *The Call*.

PAUL CHANDLER reflects on his Ordination

(Continued from page 1)



My journey to this point began in my family, in the schools I went to and among my friends. There I experienced love, understanding and a sense of God who was very much part of our lives. After school, I joined the Christian Brothers, who had educated me. They gave me pre-service education for teaching but after a few years I sensed, in ways that can't easily be put into words, that my life was not entwined with theirs totally. So, when my temporary vows expired I left and continued teaching in Catholic schools around the Archdiocese. I think primarily through the example and friendship of the Oblates at Iona College, where I taught for most of my career, I started to think of priesthood as a possibility for me. It took years, much thought,

prayer and many conversations until I reached the point where I had to go to the seminary to see if the call was real and possible for me.

I am so pleased I did because from the first few weeks I felt I was in the right place. That feeling of congruence and right-fit has never left me. Through hard times and difficulties it hasn't been far away and throughout the years of formation I have received much affirmation that has also been God's way of letting me know I was on the right track.

Now, as I approach the close of one chapter of my life and the opening of another, I am grateful for all that has gone before in my life and full of hope for the future. Not an optimism that everything will be rosy; rather, a belief that in being responsive to God as I am able and where I am, there is peace, there is life in its fullest.

To those who read this, are interested in or thinking about priesthood, my message for you is threefold:

Firstly, keep thinking, keep praying and keep talking about it with those you can.

Secondly, because God deals directly with us, ask God for answers to your questions. God will answer; not with shining lights from heaven but, most probably, in an interior way and through other people.

Be prepared to give the seminary a go. To find that being a priest is right for you is great. To find it's not is also great because in that you're finding more about what God desires and dreams for you.

Lastly, if you can, come along to my ordination and be part of our local church as we celebrate God's abiding fidelity to us and one person's faltering and limited response to our faithful God.

Paul Chandler



New Men in Canali House in 2006

CANALI HOUSE is a house of discernment for the Priesthood, located in the grounds of St Patrick's Church, Fortitude Valley. Several young men are interested in living in Canali House this year, in order to explore further whether God is calling them to become a Priest. During this time, they will be continuing their work or study. It's a recommended step before applying to enter Holy Spirit Seminary.

To find out about living in Canali House in 2006, please contact Fr Ian Wren at Brisbane Vocations Office on 3336 9392, or email vocation@bne.catholic.net.au.