



Legion of Mary

Senatus of Sydney

Bulletin

February 2023



FEBRUARY 2023 - ALLOCUTIO

Sr Angeline Arellano - Lopez

Spiritual Reading for February 2023

On this Lenten journey of ours 2023, all of us should try very hard to be a reflection of God's love to others.

We look around and love is almost lacking due to selfishness and secularism in the world.

We as legionaries should always try and actively bring love to others in the way we act, say, think and of course from the heart.

We should have the discipline and plan on how we are going to go about life.

We may think that the works that we do could be small but the effect of the planting of the seed, may last beyond our lifetime.

So we should be thankful to Frank Duff, Alfie Lambe and Edel Quin, for if not due to their efforts, the Legion might not have spread far and wide in the world, and the effects are felt years after they had gone.

Our legionary life should be long and wide ranged, aiming towards a greater goal or purpose of God's plan for us. Short and thin view of life leads us to a meaningless and selfish life.

To carry out this plan, we need unceasing prayers and a non-tiresome heart, for us to keep trying.

Our Lord said from Ezequiel 36:26-27 – I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. I will put my spirit in you and I will see to it that you may follow my laws and keep all the commands I have given you.

Always remember that Jesus dying on the cross for mankind, fulfilling His purpose was borne out of Love and through Jesus' love, came the gift of salvation for all. So the law of love is both physical and spiritual with the only purpose of ending in heaven.

So let us walk faithfully in the love of Christ, no pain no gain, no crown, no glory and continually surrendering with the commitment to God. Jesus said to gain life, "A man should love God with all his heart, mind and strength and should love the neighbour as himself.

May our Mother Mary who loved God enough by obeying God in his redemptive plan for man, who loved God enough to say "Yes" (Fiat) help us fulfill our purpose in this life.

So we all pray for helpful, happy, good and patient heart, a strong heart to face life's challenges, a heart so devoted to our God, a heart willing to sacrifice, devoted heart, cheerful heart, positive heart, tender heart, heart with living faith and seeing each and every one that we meet in the image and likeness of God.

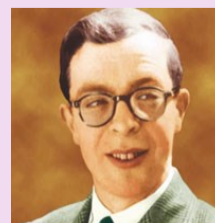
May we all be given the graces and blessings to be the image and likeness of God to others. Amen



Pray for
Beatification of:



Frank Duff



Alfie Lamb



Edel Quinn

Legion of Mary
Founded 7 September 1921



February 2, we observe the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, honoring Jesus Christ's presentation in the Temple when he was a young child.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. ~[Luke 2:22-24](#)

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses. Jewish Law prescribed that two ritual acts needed to take place for a firstborn son. First, the mother of a newborn son was ritually unclean for seven days, and then she was to "spend thirty-three more days in a state of blood purity" (Leviticus 12). During these forty days she was not to "touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled." For this reason, today's feast has at times been called the "Purification of Mary." Second, the father of the firstborn son was to "redeem" the child by making an offering to the priest of five shekels so that the priest would then present the child to the Lord (see [Numbers 18:16](#)). Recall that the firstborn male of all the Egyptians, animals and children, was killed during the tenth plague, but the firstborn males of the Israelites were spared. Thus, this offering made for the firstborn son in the Temple was a way of ritually redeeming him in commemoration of protection during that plague. Since Jesus was presented in the Temple for this redemption, today's feast is now referred to as the "Presentation in the Temple."

"Candlemass" is also a traditional name given to today's feast because as early as the fifth century, the custom of celebrating this feast with lighted candles had developed. The lit candles symbolized Simeon's prophecy that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." Lastly, this Feast has been referred to as the "Feast of the Holy Encounter" because God, in the Person of Jesus, encountered Simeon and Anna in the Temple.

Today's feast is celebrated in our Church forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. It is in that holy encounter that Jesus' divinity is manifested by a human prophet for the first time. At His birth, the angels proclaimed His divinity to the shepherds, but in the Temple, Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" ([Luke 2:38](#)). Thus, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

As we celebrate Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' ritual redemption, we should see them as acts in which we are called to participate. First, each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven. Yet we are invited to enter that Temple in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. It was her consent to the will of God that opened the door of God's grace to us all, enabling us to spiritually become Jesus' "mother" by allowing Him to be born in our hearts by grace. With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight.

We must also see Saint Joseph redeeming us as he presented Jesus in the Temple. In offering Christ Jesus to the priest to offer Him to the Father, Saint Joseph also presents all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us.

Ponder, today, your soul being the new temple of the Lord, and acknowledge your need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter into the temple of your soul, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within you.

My saving Lord, Your loving parents offered You to Your Father in the Temple in accordance with the Law You revealed to Moses. In that offering, our souls are purified and we are offered to Your Father with You. I thank You for the gift of salvation and pray that my soul will always radiate Your light as You dwell within me. Jesus, I trust in You. (From Hallows)

Friendly Reminders 

- 1. March Senatus Meeting will be Sunday, 26 March 2023 and April Senatus Meeting will be Sunday, 23 April 2023
- 2. Acies Saturday, 18 March 2023 : at Holy Spirit Parish North Ryde .
- 3. We need more volunteers for the CIC shop.
- 5. Soft copy of reports to be sent to Sr Grace a week before the Senatus Meeting . Email: grace54@hotmail.com

Please put your orders to Br Ricky Lopez (text order to: 0409127842 or email to: Sydney Senatus or rickypez1@gmail.com) on the updated and latest version of The Legion of Mary Hand book and your stock orders too.

Please pray for:

- 1. The causes of Frank Duff, Edel Quinn, and Alfie Lambe .
- 2. For all the sick Legionaries, families and friends
- 3. For all the newly ratified and appointed officers, all the sick and deceased legionaries, and all active and auxiliary members.



February 14, we celebrate Valentine’s Day— Valentine, also known as Saint Valentine of Rome, was a Catholic saint. He is considered the patron saint of lovers. VALENTINE’S WEEK 2023: Valentine’s Day is a holiday celebrated on February 14 every year around the world.



THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM



At the end of our Lenten Sacrifice, the Church calls us into the three most holy days of our liturgical year. On Holy Thursday morning, traditionally Diocese throughout the world will celebrate the Chrism Mass. In this special mass, all priests of the diocese renew their promises made at ordination, and the holy oils for the diocese are blessed and consecrated. On Holy Thursday night, the church celebrates the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, where we celebrate the Last Supper and the first Holy

Mass. On Good Friday, we celebrate the Passion of Christ where we read from the Passion Narrative according to the Gospel of John as well as adore the Holy Cross and pray for the world. On Holy Saturday during the day, no liturgies can be celebrated. This day, on Saturday in the daytime, nothing

happens as Christ rests in the tomb. At sunset, the church celebrates the Easter Vigil, which includes a special fire, lots of candles, many readings and hymns, and the return of the Great Alleluia! These three very holy days hold so many mysteries and special prayers for the church at large.





Fr Ben's proud and happy parents and parishioners sharing the joy of his first mass. Below is a background story whilst Fr Ben was a Deacon on getting to know our new Legion of Mary, Senatus of Sydney Spiritual director. We thank Archbishop Fisher for Fr Ben.

RIDGE-BUILDER – A DEACON'S STORY – BENJAMIN SALIBA

Aiming to be a bridge-builder can be a great goal – and massively hard work. A builder's apprentice would slog away at the foundation earthworks, pouring concrete. Equally, the construction engineer would have several years of involved study and learning from those already in design trade. For Benjamin Saliba, the many years of training will be crowned on 6 August 2022, when he is **called to ordination as a Catholic priest** for God's People, in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

Communities have been critical for today's deacon, along his vocational road. Born into a strong Catholic family in suburban working-class Bankstown, his parents, Anne and Sam, "sacrificed a lot", he says in raising him and his brother to become men of respect, and religious faith. In Ben's Middle Eastern heritage and culture, family and community are central, so going to church on a Sunday was a "non-negotiable".

Ben's schooling was Lasallian, at De La Salle Bankstown in 1997 as a Year 7 boy. The school, transmogrifying into **La Salle Catholic College** the following year, had impact on his friendships, academic learning, and sports life, as he played representative basketball, volleyball and tennis. He was elected College Captain in 2002. Personal commitment grew with the responsibility and leadership duties.

His mother Anne could see that he was "well respected by his fellow students throughout primary and secondary". She notes Ben's dependability, and willingness to help others. He appreciated his teachers, with Mr. Michael Egan (Deputy) and Br. Ambrose Payne (Principal) as great supportive figures.

University studies in communications and public relations led to a ten-year career in architectural sales consultancy in an import business. As many a growing young man, religion was not strongly invested in through adolescence, but his national consultancy role meant being on the road often. There was time for Ben to listen to faith talks on CD's. In addition, he was involved in his Catholic parish's faith formation programs; this drew him back to his Christian faith more deeply.

Dissatisfaction with a purely secular lifestyle led him to offer **service, in a ministry**, on several overseas missions in the Philippines. This relationship with the international institute of "Missionaries of the Poor" occupied some months each year from 2013 to 2016. Decision time came with entering the Good Shepherd Seminary in Homebush in 2016.

Five years of education and short ministerial parish placements allowed further affirmation of his "vocation", with learning, prayer, and discernment, in relationships with many priests and several church communities. After ordination as **Deacon Ben**, he had a major 6-month placement at St Jerome's Punchbowl.

Reports for the month of February 2023

1. Mother of The Mystical Body Marrickville Curia

Works:

Giving miraculous medals with leaflets, to children being prepared to receive their first Holy Communion in various schools.

Visit the sick & bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are sick & unable to attend mass.

Leading rosaries before masses. Leading Divine Mercy Chaplet after masses.

Attend funeral Masses. Praying the five glorious mysteries of the rosary and the Chaplet of mercy for the repose of the soul of the deceased and those who mourn them.

Praying the Rosary before funeral Masses in the parish and attending the mass if able to do so.

Manages the movement of the pilgrim statue of the Immaculate Conception throughout the year.

Visiting Nursing Homes, serving as Eucharistic Minister at parishioner homes.

Provide transport for people who would otherwise not be able to attend Mass and/or Legion functions.

Offers to arrange with the Parish Priest for confession, Holy Communion anointing of the sick. Managing the work involved with organising the sanctuary.

Help to organise workshop for Altar Servers, Acolytes and Readers course.

Join and attend meetings of the parish Liturgy and other committees in the parish.

Standing by to assist in a Parish recruitment drive.

Carry out work requested by the Parish Priest and parish activities which may include:

Managing the Piety goods stall. Welcoming parishioners to Sunday Mass.

Looking after altar linen, preparing for special feast days, e.g., decorating

Singing in choir, serving as acolyte at masses Dusting & regular house keeping of church furniture.

Help maintenance the cleanliness of toilets facility & church yard etc.

2. Queen Of Angel Praesidium Enmore Ind

Works:

We are doing as much as possible during this pandemic, keeping in touch with our older parishioner(Indonesian Church)by ringing them and visited our auxiliary member.

Visited the elderly when allowed. Nursing home and hospital's visitation were suspended and still many conditions of entry for visitors because of Covid 19.

3. Our Lady Star of The Sea Praesidium Terrigal

Works:

Transport to mass each week & shopping members are giving medals and leaflets to those they meet.

Catechist at primary schools & High School ,2 members involved with the RCIA again this year. Power Point, Altar Society, Prayer Groups; Choir music. Holy Communion is taken to the sick and housebound . Alter Serving Readers at Mass.

4. Canberra Goulburn Curia

Works:

Home-to-home visitation by praesidia has resumed following Covid-19. Miraculous medals, Bulletins, devotional items and Catholic reading materials are offered. Ongoing home visits were made to practising, lapsed and non-Catholics, mainly house-bound and elderly.

Auxiliaries were visited and encouraged in their apostolate.

Several praesidia bring the Pilgrim Virgin statue/icon to families and facilitate family prayers, fostering devotion to Our Lady and a sense of community.

Two praesidia are active with "Enthronement of the Sacred Heart".

One praesidium regularly prays the rosary before Catholic funerals in two churches. Other praesidia have also prayed at funerals on request.

Three praesidia have been involved in the organisation of overnight adoration.

Rolling novenas on Zoom have been conducted jointly by two praesidia with several non-legion people joining.

A number of public rosaries have been held in various town centres and other localities and used to promote crowd contact.

Visits to nursing homes conducted by 3 praesidia.

Convalescent and general hospital patients were visited and have been well received.

Pamphlet stands were maintained in two churches.

Two praesidia led the Rosary after Saturday vigil and before Sunday afternoon masses.

One praesidium is providing transport to Mass for a parishioner.

Piety stores have been conducted by several praesidia .

Sacramental gift packs for children's first Holy Communion and Confirmation are provided by one praesidium.

Regular promotion and opening of church libraries by one praesidium.

RCIA program support by one praesidium.

One praesidium assists with children's liturgy during Sunday Mass.

Distribution of holy water undertaken by two praesidia

5. The Sacred Heart Curia, Illawarra

Works:

Calling or visiting auxiliary members for welfare check and to inform and invite them about legion functions

2 Circulating the pilgrim statue of our Lady of Fatima

3 Minding the parish piety stall

4 Taking Holy Communion to the home bound and to nursing home residents

5 Two legionaries are sacramental coordinators for Catholic primary school and for state school children: organising and teaching in First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs

6 One legionary is an RCIA coordinator, and she also facilitated Baptisms of children

7 Teaching catechism (special religious education) at public/state schools

8 Organising and leading weekly devotions to our Mother of Perpetual Help and to St Michael & the Holy Angels; organising and leading first Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and first Saturday devotion to our Lady of Fatima; leading Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Church; leading Prayers for Vocations; organising prayer meetings, bible sharing groups, cenacles.

9 a legionary oversees the St Michael Adoration group and another worked on the St Bernadette Carlton Adoration website

10 Praying the Holy Rosary and Legion prayers before funeral Masses

11. Making Rosary bead for distribution to children making their first Holy Communion and Confirmation

12 Providing Miraculous Medals with leaflets to children being Baptised

13. Reflection Days organised for legionaries led by Fr Manuel Santiago

Works of Service

1 Promoting daily/weekly adoration, providing transport for people to attend Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and legion meetings

2 Organising hospitality after Sunday Mass once a month to talk about and promote the Legion of Mary

3 Helping Mission by making knitted squares for blankets to be sent to the needy through Wrap with Love by two praesidia

4 One legionary produces the weekly parish bulletin and writes the Prayer of the Faithful for Sunday Mass

5 Legionaries serve as acolytes and lectors; clean the Church, wash the altar linen, prepare the altar for Mass and Baptisms; arrange the flowers .

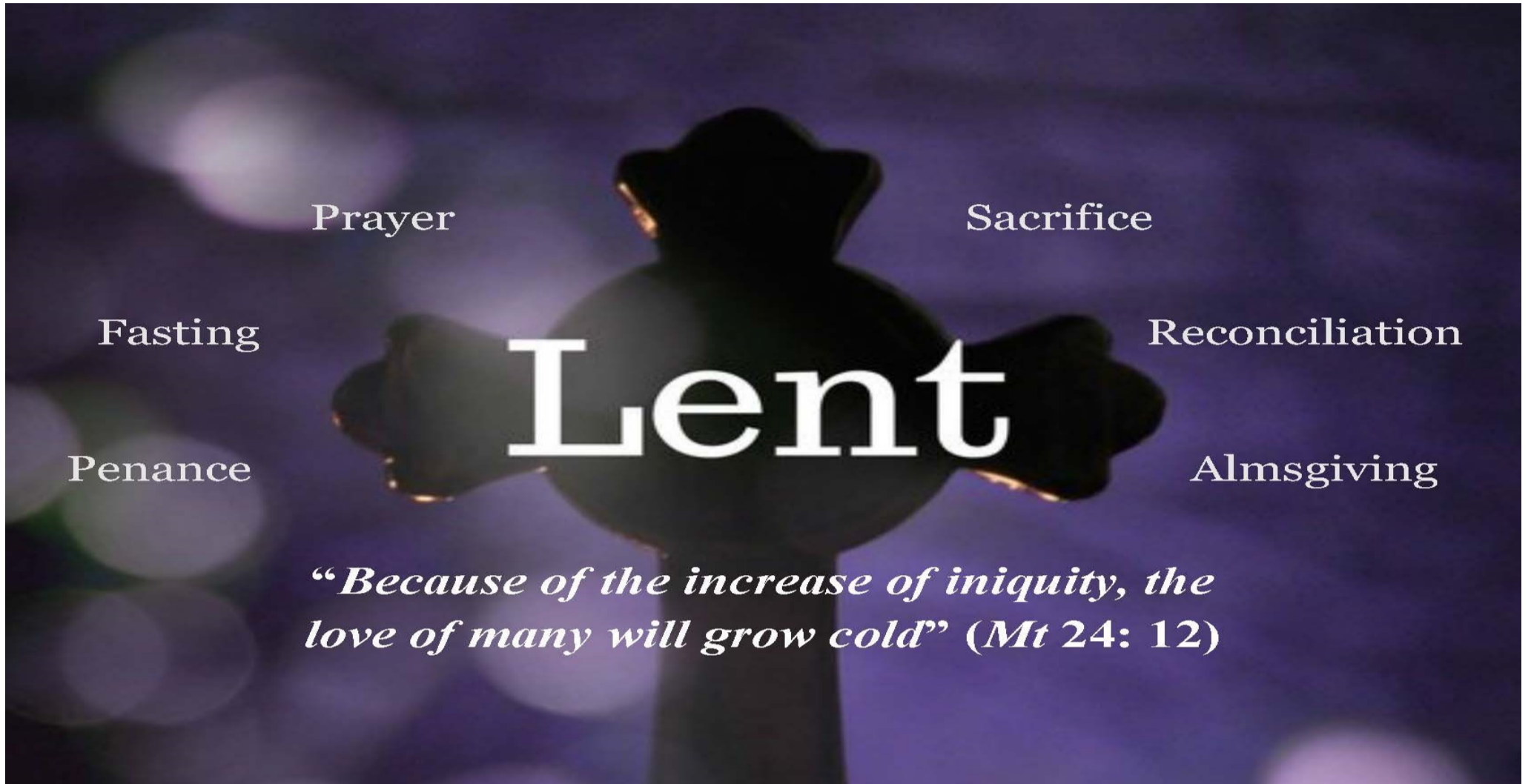
LENT 2023

The Season of Lent starts 22 March 2023, on Ash Wednesday

What do the ashes symbolize?

The ashes symbolize our mortality. They are a physical reminder that our bodies will decay, but our souls will live on in eternal life. Fr. Antony Kadavil further reflects on the symbol of the cross of ashes on our foreheads, The cross of ashes means that we are making a commitment – that we are undertaking Lent as a season of prayer and penitence, of dying to ourselves. It also describes our human condition: it says that we are broken and need repair; that we are sinners and need redemption.

Most importantly, it tells us that, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to carry our crosses.



Please Remember the dates below

Lenten
Retreat
With Sr Damian Lai S.P.C

A Biblical Walk with our God of History, Mystery & Majesty

25 MARCH
10:30 am - 3:00PM
MAGNIFICAT ROOM
BYO LUNCH

All Welcome!

18 MAR
Saturday
1 PM

Parish Lenten Recollection
St Joseph's Catholic Church
2 Missenden Road, Camperdown NSW 2050

Charbel Raish
- FOUNDER OF PAROUSIA - PRESENTER

Joelle Maryn
- ACTRESS - SPEAKER - TV HOST

Program

- Welcome
- Talk and Q&A w/ Charbel Raish
- Afternoon Tea break
- Testimony, Q&A, and book signing w/ Joelle Maryn
- 6pm Vigil Mass

FREE ENTRY | FREE TO REGISTER AT PAROUSIAMEDIA.COM





Legion of Mary Senatus of Sydney The Acies 2023

All active and auxiliary members are called to renew their consecration to our Blessed Lady.

*'Confident that you will so receive me-and use me- and turn my weakness into strength this day,
I take my place in the ranks of the Legion, and I venture to promise a faithful service'*

The Acies will be held at the following venues
Further Enquiries: (02) 9660 6131

Sydney Councils	Date & Time	Venue
Senatus of Sydney	Saturday,18 March 2023 at 10:30AM	Holy Spirit Parish,191-195 Coxs Rd.North Ryde
Blacktown	Saturday,25 March 2023 at 2:00PM	Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton.136 Hyatts Rd. Plumpton.
Cabramatta	Saturday,25March 2023 At 9:30 AM	St Brendan Catholic Church, 50 Northam St.Bankstown
Campbelltown	Saturday,25 th March 2023. At 2:00PM	St John the Evangelist Catholic Church Campbelltown
Illawarra	Saturday,25 th March 2023.At 2:00PM	St Catherine's.123 Gynea Bay Rd. Gynea
Marrickville	Saturday,18 March 2023 At 9:00 AM	St Christopher Church. 235 Tower St,Panania
Normanhurst (Korean)	Sunday,26 th March 2023 At 12:30PM	Queen Of Peace Catholic Church, 18 Stuart Ave, Normanhurst NSW 2076
Northern Suburbs	Saturday,25 March 2023 At 10:00AM	Sacred Heart Church.1 Keenan St. Monavale .NSW 2103
Revesby (Vietnamese)	Saturday,25 March 2023. At 8:30AM	St Luke Church. 92 The River Rd. Revesby 2212
Silverwater (Korean)	Sunday,05 March 2023. At 12:30PM	Sydney Korean Catholic Church,26 Carnavon St. Silverwater
Bathurst	Saturday, 25 March 2023. At 8:00AM	The Assumption Church,Margareth st.Bathurst
Canberra Goulburn	Saturday,25 March 2023. At 10:30AM	St. Josephs Parish Hall,61 Boronia Dr,O'Connor ACT 2602
Brisbane	Sunday,26 March 2023. At10:30 AM	St. Patrick's Church,58 Morgan St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.
Murwillumbah	Sunday,26 th March 2023. At 9:00AM	St. Joseph's Church, Tweed Heads
Auburn Bankstown	Saturday,25 th March 2023. At 11:30	St. Mel's,7 Evaline St.Campsie NSW 2194

What is this " ACIES "

The best way to describe the "ACIES" is that it is the most important Legion function of the year. During this ceremony we will consecrate ourselves to Mary by renewing our Legionary Promise, so that we may better work in union with her as we do our Legionary battle against the evils of this world. In this consecration we open our hearts to Mary, so that she may guide us and bless us through the year. It is said that one cannot be truly devoted to our Lady's legion if one does not attend this ceremony, as you will not have within you her spirit

