



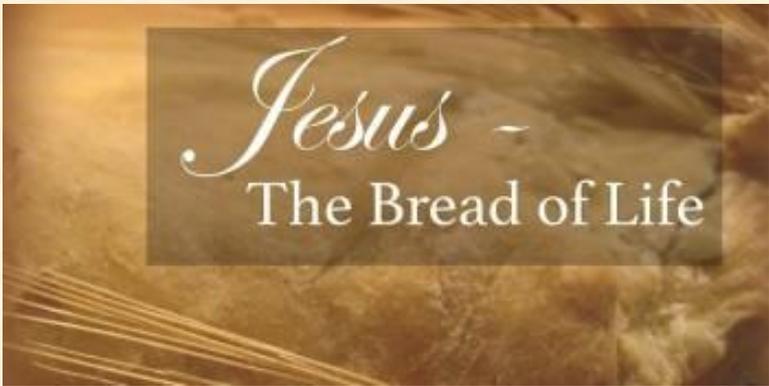
*Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*18th August / 19th August*

**Parish Administrator**  
Fr Martin Cruickshank  
**Parish Office**  
Fran Kernaghan  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9.00 am – 2.00 pm  
Phone: 60251516  
Email: [sacredheartna@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartna@gmail.com)  
Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

**Mass Times**  
SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm  
SUNDAY: 9.30 am  
**WEEKDAYS MASSES: This week:**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thurs & Friday 9.30am  
**First Tuesday of the month:** 11.00am Mass  
at Mercy Place.

**RECONCILIATION**  
SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM  
**BAPTISMS**—By appointment  
Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

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Wisdom invites us to her banquet. Since she is the way to God, those who accept her invitation will feast on the things of God. This is not a paltry meal that meets only our basic needs. It is a lavish banquet with delicious food and exhilarating drink. The banquet of wisdom is an apt symbol of the generosity of God, open to all, enriching all. This is in sharp contrast to the kind of feasting that is depicted in the epistle. Fools succumb to the temptations of the evil days in which they live and they feast on selfishness, ignorance and debauchery. Two banquets are set before us. Both of them are tempting. Which one will we choose?

The banquet that Jesus offers is like the banquet of Wisdom. However, it far exceeds even Wisdom's table. At Jesus' banquet, we feast on his body and his blood. If we feed at the table of the LORD, we will have life because of him, and we will be raised up on the last day to live forever. This is truly a bold claim and a hard saying. We are told that the food we eat is his body, and what we drink is his blood. We are told that his body, not merely his teaching, is the true bread that came down from heaven. We are told that only if we eat and drink what he offers will we have eternal life. He makes the claim and extends the invitation. How will we hear it? How will we respond.

(Dianne Bergant CSS)

# Parish Community



*We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Patrick Walshe, Laurie Moretti, Jim Glasgow, Therese Gorman, Elwyn Farrugia, James McLoughlin, Michael Papworth, Jamern Emmett.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Noel Glasgow, Nan Doughty, Joyce Doolan, Jack Doyle, Kathleen Slattery, Mavis Hills, Werner Pallman, Montey Meyer, Maria Douba, Thomas Hunt, Iris Pierpoint, Joan Carthew, Jeffrey Amy, Richard Malez, Joe Packer, Carmel Onley, Mary Bradford, Daniel Chandler, Annie Phillips, Bill King, Neville Crowther, Herbert Hudson, Sean Ryan, Jim Rice, Harry Cooper, Timothy O'Leary, Pat Deveney, Peter Mathew.

*Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## Prayer for the Sick

*We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.*

*May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.*

*We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen*

## ROSTERS

### Sat / Sun: 18th / 19th August

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Kellie Gordes	Leanne Michael
<b>Lector 1</b>	Karen Purtle	Terry Hillman
<b>Lector 2</b>	Barbara Godde	Michael Stephenson
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Pat Hopkins Catherine Cutler	Kansas Michael MACE Sisters Carey Menz Dowling.
<b>Cantor Musicians</b>	Brian Waters Val Hayes	Bernadette and Wendy
<b>Counters: Brian &amp; Carmel Butts</b>		<b>Cleaning Group: Group 4</b>

### Sat /Sun: 25th / 26th August

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Foley	Bede Hart
<b>Lector 1</b>	Pat Hickman	Rosalie Martin
<b>Lector 2</b>	Brian Waters	Ray Murtagh
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jeneice Harding Pauline Mulquiney	Gemma Whitehead Fran Kernaghan Marjorie Serbinek
<b>Cantor Musicians</b>	Margaret & Ed Brown Judy Foley	Anne McIntyre Val Hayes
<b>Counters: Volunteer</b>		<b>Cleaning Group: Group 5</b>

## Prayer for Drought Areas

Our heavenly Father, we acknowledge our ingratitude when we have taken your goodness for granted, when the heaven has poured forth rain and the earth has produced its fruit.

Yet now we cry to you for help, as the drought in New South Wales deepens and other parts of Australia.

Have mercy on our land; have mercy on the people of the land. May your bountiful hand send forth rain upon our parched earth.

Fulfil your promises that while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest shall not cease, so that those in remote and rural areas may find relief from their distress and glorify your name for the provision of their needs.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

“To nourish ourselves from that ‘Bread of life’ means being in tune with the heart of Christ, to assimilate His choices, His thoughts, His behaviour.”

# Parish News

## Plenary Council Animator / Facilitator

It has been suggested that each parish community has a designated animator / facilitator to give direction to the process.

We are looking for someone who is:

- \* A prayerful and joyful Catholic who trusts in the Holy Spirit at work in the community of faith.
- \* A collaborator connected to the community, who is open and committed to supporting local conversations about the future of the Church and its mission.
- \* A good listener who can encourage others and believes in the value of shared discernment, that is, the importance of all voices.

The animator also needs the ability and time to help co-ordinate and promote listening and dialogue sessions in our Sacred Heart Parish community.

If this describes you or a current member of our parish community please contact Fr Martin with the name, contact details and approval of person nominated.

## Parish Pastoral Council AGM—2 Aug 2018

Thanks to those parishioners who were able to attend the Annual General Meeting of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council. Gratitude is extended to members of the Parish council for the generous contribution of their talents and time which enhance the life of our parish community.

Retiring members are Gemma Whitehead and Patricia Parkinson. We welcome new members, Margaret Gawen, Louise Fifield, Catherine Cutler, Barbara Godde and Michael Regan. The efforts of Tony Smit in preparing the financial statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 30 June, 2018, are much appreciated.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Thursday 6 September at 6.00pm in the Presbytery.

## Plenary Council

Following a meeting of the priests of the Murray deanery in response to the Plenary Council to be held in 2020 it was decided to initially hold a number of information / reflection gatherings in a secular location and hosted by an independent facilitator. Thanks is extended to Fr Joel Wallace for taking the initiative in this regard.

Listed below is the relevant information, including dates, times and venues of the gatherings. Please spread the word of this unique opportunity to shape the future of the Catholic Church in Australia among your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. **(To learn more go to: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>)**

**Plenary Council Listening & Dialogue Sessions in Albury** - Facilitated by Dr Rosemary Farrell, these local sessions will offer an overview of the Plenary process and ways that you can contribute to and participate in this listening and dialogue phase. Everyone's experience of faith and the Church is unique and it is important that the Plenary Council hear responses from as many people as possible.

**First Session - Tuesday 28 August 2018 - 7.00pm—8.30pm** at Mantra Albury, 524 Smollett Street, Albury

**Second Session - Tuesday 25 September 2018 - 7.00pm—8.30pm** at Mantra Albury, 524 Smollett Street, Albury

For more information contact St Patrick's Catholic Church on 02 6041 2588.

- Questions of your submission:**
1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
  2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider 2020?
  3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith or the Church you would like to share?

## Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all of your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen

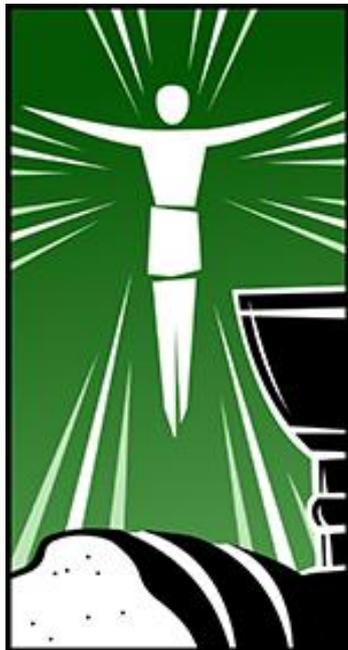
Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

# Liturgy of the Word

*Twentieth Sunday of the Year—Year B*

*Readings: Pro 9:1-6; Eph 5: 15-20; John 6: 51-58*

*Responsorial Psalm:*



***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood  
live in me and I in them, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

## Reflection on the Readings

This gospel passage continues the 'Bread of Life' discourse that we have been following through the Gospel of John for a few weeks now. It overlaps with the reading from last week with Jesus announcing that his flesh is the 'bread of life'. Not surprisingly, the Jewish audience is horrified by the idea of eating human flesh. Jesus drives his point home further with his audience by also referring to the drinking of blood. In Jewish tradition, even to touch blood made a person ritually unclean. Any meat that was to be eaten had to be drained of blood, according to kosher rules. The words used by Jesus in this passage are so confronting that they cannot possibly be taken literally. It is a complete overstatement of the image to try to make sure that a literal interpretation is impossible.

When the gospel writer has Jesus speaking about eating his flesh and drinking his blood he is drawing on a very old image of eating and drinking as representing 'absorbing'; or 'comprehending'; or 'understanding' the message of the speaker. In this ancient understanding, to 'eat the flesh' of Jesus is to take into yourself and accept everything that Jesus stands for; everything that Jesus teaches; everything that Jesus believes. It is an act of faith. When we received Christ in the Eucharist, is this the depth of significance and purpose with which we take communion? Unmistakably, this passage points us to the Christian sacrament of Eucharist. The practice of sharing Eucharist as a memorial of Jesus was already well established in the Christian communities by the time this gospel was written and throughout this extended discourse on the 'Bread of Life' the author provides a direct link between the practice of Eucharist and the teachings of Jesus.

The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is a central doctrine of the Catholic faith. It is regarded as a revealed truth proved by both scripture and tradition. This week's gospel, indeed the entire 'Bread of Life' discourse (Jn 6:26-72), is an essential passage of scripture that supports the teaching of Christ present in the Eucharist. Along with scripture, the other proof of the doctrine is tradition. Since the first century, only a brief time after the death of Jesus, Christians linked their celebration of Eucharist with the words of Jesus at the last supper – they celebrated Eucharist as a memorial of Jesus.

In a world that is obsessed with health and fitness and yet, ironically, also experiencing an ever-increasing overweight and obese population, what we eat has come under greater scrutiny than ever before. 'You are what you eat' has become a catchcry for healthy eating but Catholics have known the truth of this statement for centuries. When we participate in the Eucharist, we not only receive the body of Christ; we become the body of Christ. The people who make up the Church in the world are indeed the body of Christ. In the words of St Teresa, 'Christ has no body now but yours!'



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