



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th August / 26th 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

Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS MASSES: This week:

Tuesday, Wed, 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

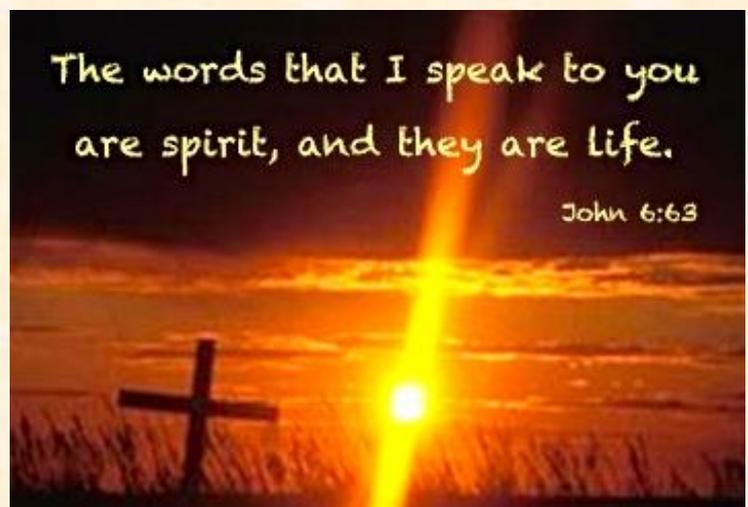
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The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of Jesus had to decide if he was the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose?

The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer.

If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, 'to whom shall we go?' Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.
(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: Maria Lawrowicz, Molly McLaughlin, Stewart Bryant, Maria Paizis, Maria Olympia Carnovale, Pat Boadle, Barry Godde, Valerie Wynack, Jack Doyle, Theresa Lopez, Valda Cunningham, Mary Cox, Tom Quade, Edna Gibson, Robert Rossmann, Joseph Foley, Sydney Flegeltaub, Flo Mitsch, John Worsley, Frank McLaughlin, Thomas Pass, Mark Fraser, Colin Hodda, Olive Thistleton, Frances King, George Keogh, Mary Dick, Raymond Collins.

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: 25th / 26th August

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Anthony Foley	Bede Hart
Lector 1	Pat Hickman	Rosalie Martin
Lector 2	Brian Waters	Ray Murtagh
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding Pauline Mulquiney	Gemma Whitehead Fran Kernaghan Marjorie Serbinek
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Anne McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Desmond Lum & Jane Togher Cleaning Group: Group 5		

Sat /Sun: 1st / 2nd September

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Virginia Mitsch	Jane Murtagh
Lector 1	Barbara Godde	Gavin Dykes
Lector 2	Volunteer	Cathy Nyhan
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim & Kaye Deanshaw	Noelene Cruise Pamela McIntosh Pauline Willis
Cantor Musicians	Catherine Cutler & Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Simon Goss Val Hayes
Counters: Nardia Scarvell & Liz Simon Cleaning Group: Group 6		

Prayer for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

God, no one is stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost and those who have been exiled from their homes.

Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who too was a refugee and migrant who travelled to another land searching for a home.

Amen

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

“The Church without frontiers, Mother to all, spreads throughout the world a culture of acceptance and solidarity, in which no one is seen as useless, out of place, or disposable.”

Parish News

Fr Kevin Flanagan would have celebrated his ninetieth birthday this Sunday 26 August. We welcome members of his immediate family to our celebration of Eucharist. While the parish community of Sacred Heart continues to mourn his loss we rejoice in a life of priestly service lived with great passion, integrity and sensitivity to those in need.

We have been advised that a literary conversation / luncheon between 'Sinning Across Spain' author Ailsa Piper and retired priest Fr Tony Doherty, will take place on Friday 7 September 12 noon—2.30pm at the Atura. \$40 including 2 courses. Bookings close 11am Wed 5 September on 02 6023 8333 or email: writearoundthemurray.org.au



This weekend we welcome to the community of the church through the sacrament of baptism Summer Zoe Beckett daughter of Andrew & Lisa and Lachlan Pat Dallinger son of Mark & Megan.

Plenary Council Animator / Facilitator

Catherine Cutler has kindly volunteered to be the animator / facilitator of our parish based Plenary Council discussions. If you would like to be a part of a team to assist Catherine in this role please contact her on 6025 7847 or email cmmc4321@gmail.com

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?

Feast Days

Monday 22nd August – St Monica
Tuesday 28th August – St Augustine
Wednesday 29th August—Passion of St John the Baptist

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

Liturgy of the Word

Twenty-First Sunday of the Year—Year B

Readings: Jos 24:1-2, 15-18; Eph 5:21-32; John 6: 60-69

Responsorial Psalm:



Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

I have some sympathy for the response of the Jews to Jesus' hard teaching in today's Gospel! For a Jew to be asked to drink blood is as abhorrent as it gets. It is the same as demanding that an ultra Orthodox Jew eat pork!

In almost all the stories in the Gospel of John there are insiders and outsiders, those who understand the message and those who take Jesus too literally and are offended or confused. The flesh and blood given for the life of the world is at one and the same time the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus celebrated in the Eucharist. Jesus was not, literally, offering his arm for his followers to chew! He was referring to the gift he was soon going to give his followers: the example of utter fidelity to God's Kingdom even unto death, and the meal of that Kingdom, the Eucharist. We are the recipients of both gifts and the commission to live them out. The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation is given to us for our mission in the world today and for our journey toward the World to come.

The other response in today's Gospel gives us great hope. In spite of being confused and deserted by his friends Peter hangs in there with Jesus. He holds on to faith when all the signs show that a hasty retreat may be a better course of action. We all know people who remain faithful in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Some of these we can understand – parents with sick children or spouses with ill partners. It's heroic, but understandable. But sometimes fidelity is heroic and inexplicable: when a spouse welcomes back his or her partner after an adulterous affair; when a foreign-born priest or religious will not abandon an oppressed community; when a person will fight a just cause and be persecuted all the way to the end. These are powerful signs of faithful love at work too. It's a fine line to know when fidelity is 'dying to self' not 'killing self'. We are called to the former and often seduced by the latter.

James Keenan in his excellent book, 'Virtues for ordinary Christians' says that fidelity is the bottom line of the Christian life. He argues that the Church has spent too much time preaching about 'infidelities' and too little time teaching about those things that strengthen fidelity. 'Each person', he says, 'has two major moral goals in life: to be just and to be faithful'. Being faithful to his Father, and to us, sums up what Jesus does for our salvation and is exactly what He calls forth from the disciples in today's Gospel. Perhaps because we too easily think it is something difficult, we presume that being faithful to our friends is hardly a moral issue. Yet once we see that friendship is the key to the moral life then we can come to see that living the moral life is about the ordinary interactions of our day.

James Keenan writes, 'To this end we may need to make more calls, write more letters, cook more dinners, take more strolls, linger a little longer with a friend. We may also need to disengage ourselves from the habit of counting or measuring what the other does or does not do or say'.

May this Eucharist enable us to respond to the invitation of the Holy One of God to place fidelity and friendship at the centre of our moral life and attend to the everyday activities that will see us live it out. (Fr Richard Leonard SJ)

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