



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th January / 20th January 2019

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 02 6025 1516

Email: sacredheartna@gmail.com

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

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

**WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week: Tuesday,
Wednesday & Friday 9.30 am**

**First Tuesday of the month: 11.00 am 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 readings that are offered to us as we begin Ordinary Time carry over some of the themes that we considered during the Christmas season. Then we celebrated the new era that God inaugurated through the birth of Jesus. Now we look deeply into our minds and hearts to see just how open we are to the demands of that new year. Last Sunday we considered the manifestation of the Spirit at the time of the baptism of Jesus. This Sunday we contemplate the various manifestations of that same Spirit in our own lives. Finally, we are brought to realise that this variety of Spirit-filled ministries is intended to be a source of Christian unity and not of fragmentation or division.

One of the major themes gleaned from the readings for today is that of the call to newness. God summons us to something new, gives us a new name, provides us with new experiences, launches us into new ministries, and calls us to sing a new song of praise. Even Jesus experienced a call to newness. Through Mary, God called him out into ministry, a ministry that would bring the fruits of the eschatological age of fulfilment to the whole world. We may be inclined to think of Pentecost as the season of the Spirit, but in reality the newness of God always comes to us through the Spirit regardless of the season of the year. In the world of the new age, the real glory of Jesus will be manifested in the variety of the gifts of the Spirit given to the church.

(Dianne Bergant)

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Tony Iverson, Sr Therma (MACE), Patricia Watters, Mary West & Fr Jim Victory

ANNIVERSARIES: Louis John Payne, Paul I'anson, Ada Pertile, John Briggs, Kevin Houlihan, Jack Whitty, Garth Clifford, Brian Lane, Zachary Peters, Alma Hancock, Hilda Brewster, Rosemary Cossor, Gilford Hailstone, Norman Lane, Gus Mitsch, Norman Gray, Ian Miller, Jim Berkley.

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: 19th / 20th January

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Anthony Foley	Rosalie Martin
Lector 1	Michael Byrnes	Michael Stephenson
Lector 2	Karen Purtle	Terry Hillman
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim & Kaye Deanshaw	MACE Sisters Cathy Nyhan Fran Kernaghan
Cantor	Brian Waters	Simon Goss
Musicians	Judy Foley	
Counters: Nardia Scarvell & Liz Simon		

Sat / Sun: 26th / 27th January

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Virginia Mitsch	Sr Carina Morton
Lector 1	Kellie Gordes	Ray Murtagh
Lector 2	Barbara Godde	Colleen Day
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Noelene Cruise	Kevin Kennedy Richard Parkinson Trish Parkinson
Cantor	Margie & Ed Brown	Catherine Cutler / Judy Lindsay
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters: Desmond Lum & Jane Togher		

Prayer for our Country Australia

Lord God, your Spirit has moved over the face of Australia, and formed from its dust a rolling brown land.

Your Spirit has moved over its warm tropical waters and created a rich diversity of life.

Your Spirit has moved in the lives of men, and women, and children, and given them, from the dreamtime, an affinity with their lands and waters.

Your Spirit has moved in pilgrim people and brought them to a place of freedom and plenty.

Your Spirit moves still today in sprawling, high rise cities, in the vast distances of the outback, and in the ethnic diversity of the Australian people.

Lord God, in the midst of this varied huddle of humanity you have set your church.

Give us, the people you have so richly blessed,

a commitment to justice and peace for all nations;

and a vision of righteousness and equality for all people in our own country.

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Love is the greatest power for the transformation of reality because it pulls down the walls of selfishness and fills the ditches that keep us apart."

Parish News

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

The next roster for the months of February, March, April and May is being drawn up. Could you please phone Fran or Gemma at the office your unavailability for these months.

If you are not already on the roster and wish to minister to our parish community as a lector/eucharistic minister please contact the Parish office by phone or E-mail.

LOST PROPERTY

Any items left in the Church are placed on the trolley at the main entry to the Church facing Mate Street.

A wooden carved Madonna and child has been bequeathed to us by Margaret Power. It has been placed on the southern wall of the reading/reflection room.

Blessing upon the New Year

Lord, At the beginning of this new year, I offer you my life.

Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness.

Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving.

Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within.

Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed so that we may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

Amen.

Feast Days during the Week

Monday 21st January—St Agnes

Thursday 24th January—St Francis de Sales

Friday 25th January—Conversion of St Paul

Saturday 26th January—Australia Day



This weekend we welcome to the community of the church through the sacrament of baptism Nate Scott-Young son of Timothy and Fiona; Harry Thomas Scott son of Stephen & Melissa; Ellanor Marion Harmon and Abigail Marie Harmon daughters of Veritii and Steven.

Outreach Visitation

It is planned to begin visitation of Parishioners who are ill, unable to come to Mass, bereaved, live by themselves etc in mid February 2019.

If you would appreciate seeing a friendly face or two, we would love to call on you in your home or nursing home.

So that plans can be made can you please contact the Parish Office on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday 9am to 2pm on 6025 1516. Please leave your name and phone number and preferred day for visitation.

Water Blessing

This water that comes to us from the Rivers which flow through the heart of the Wiradjuri country, may this water continue to give life and refreshment to all of us.

The waters remind us of our Baptism and our belonging to this community. May the blessing of this water deepen our Life in the Spirit and give us the courage to walk in the way of our culture and in the way of Jesus.

Let us now bless this water:

'Blessed are you all powerful God, who in Jesus, the living water of salvation, blesses and transforms us. Grant that when we use this water we will be refreshed inwardly by the power of the Holy Spirit to give us the strength and courage to walk in the new life of following Jesus, our Light'.

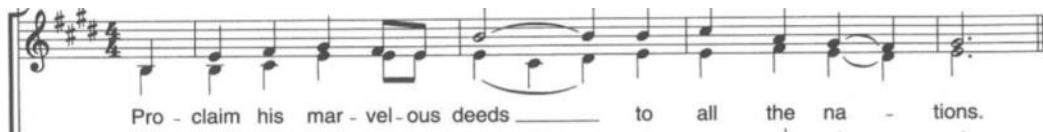
ALL: We embrace and accept our belovedness. We are ready to go forth into the New Year following in the footsteps of Jesus to love and serve others.

Liturgy of the Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings: Is 62: 1-5; 1 Cor 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11

Responsorial Psalm:



Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel

to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

Today's first reading from Isaiah is one of several references in the Old Testament that use wedding imagery – bride and groom – to describe the relationship between God and the people of Israel. The imagery is never that of an 'old married couple' but rather young lovers entering into a new life together full of hope; full of romance; and full of passion. This image of God and the people as bride and groom would not have been lost on the first audiences of today's gospel passage. Immediately, they would have recognised the significance of Jesus' first outing in public ministry being at a wedding feast – at the coming together of God and God's people, Jesus is present! It is a very neat and quite deliberate follow on from the prologue of the Gospel of John where the gospel writer uses the image of 'the Word made flesh who lives among us' to describe Jesus. The Word has come into the world and the first public appearance is at an event that symbolises the relationship between God and God's people.

The interplay between Jesus and his mother is very interesting in this gospel event. In this particular gospel it is one of only two occasions that Mary is mentioned: this event at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and then at the foot of the cross as he is crucified. Mary does not ask Jesus to do anything. She simply states, 'They have no wine', but one can almost hear the motherly tone with which it was said. I'm sure Jesus was left in no doubt that he was expected to do something about it. When he tries to avoid the issue, Mary apparently ignores his objections and instructs the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them. No fuss; no argument. How do mothers do it?

What must the servants have been thinking? First of all, there was insufficient wine for the feast. They probably knew who was going to wear the blame for that ordering mistake! Then they're told to fill the enormous water jars with water, draw some into a serving vessel and go and present it to the steward of the household – effectively their overseer; their boss! They must have been very nervous about how the steward would respond to what they were taking to him. Yet they, along with Mary and Jesus, were the only witnesses to Jesus' first miracle! Even the steward was unaware of the miracle. The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the 'finishing touch' to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the 'finishing touch' to the relationship between God and God's people to that point.

(Greg Sunter)

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