



## *Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*26th January / 27th January 2019*

### **Parish Clergy**

Fr Martin Cruickshank

### **Parish Office**

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

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### **Mass Times**

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm**

**SUNDAY: 9.30 am**

**WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:**

**Wednesday & Friday only 9.30am**

**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**

### **CHURCH STORES.**

**Religious gifts and supplies shipped  
overnight. Phone (02) 9233 2268.**

**[churchsupplies@ozmail.com.au](mailto:churchsupplies@ozmail.com.au)**

**PAULINE BOOKS AND MEDIA**

**Phone (03) 9882 3424**



In both the reading from Nehemiah and the Gospel passage, we see the dynamic power of the word of God. Paul's teaching originated as oral proclamation, and like the texts read by Ezra the priest and the one interpreted by Jesus himself, it was first proclaimed aloud. Only later were these proclamations written and handed down from one community to another, from one generation to the next.

The word of God elicits various responses. In the first reading, the people cried out in response: 'Amen, amen! So be it! We hear and we will obey!' From the verses contained in today's gospel, we do not know how those who heard Jesus' interpretation reacted to it. We do know that both audiences listened intently to the sacred words of Scripture. Can we do less? Are we eager to obey? Do we view the law as a treasure, as life-giving? Have we learned to live with each other as members of one body, each member being important and contributing to the total health of the entire body?

Both Ezra and Jesus proclaimed the word of God within the context of a liturgical celebration, a setting similar to the ones wherein most people today hear God's word proclaimed. According to the teaching of Vatican II, the liturgy is described as the source and summit of our lives, and the liturgy of the word is an essential part of that celebration. With the people of Ezra, we are invited to respond: 'Amen, amen! Thanks be to God!'

(Dianne Bergant CSA)

# Parish Community



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Pat Osborne, Margaret Gordon, Tony Iverson, Patricia Watters, Mary West, Fr Jim Victory.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Jack Jolley, Bryan Palmer, Donald Murphy, Mary McPherson, Vivian Duell, Barbara Quirk, Frank Douba, Kevin McAlroy, Joan Cruikshank, Molly McCarthy, Bob Cherry, Hilda Joynson, Peter Carroll, Charles Thome, Mary Miglionico, Reginald Scammell, Antonio Audino, Edna Hudson.

*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: 26th / 27th January**

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

**Sat /Sun: 2nd / 3rd February**

| Ministry   | Vigil                               | 9.30am  |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Commentator</b>                               | Anthony Foley                       | Roy Thompson  |
| <b>Lector 1</b>                                  | Ed Brown                            | Gavin Dykes   |
| <b>Lector 2</b>                                  | Volunteer                           | Ray Murtagh   |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                     | Catherine Cutler<br>Jeneice Harding | Ann Marie Whiting<br>Pamela McIntosh<br>Gemma Whitehead |
| <b>Cantor Musicians</b>                          | John Van Lint<br>Judy Foley         | Ann McIntyre<br>Val Hayes                               |
| <b>Counters: Peter Toner &amp; Gordon Bryant</b> |                                     |   |

## 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, 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.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

## A Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):

"In order that the family walk well, with trust and hope, it must be nourished with the Word of God."

# Parish News

## **Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors**

Please pick up your new roster from side table at front of the Church.

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.

## **Catholic Mission Diocesan Director, Diocese of Wagga Wagga—Part-time 2 days per week**

Catholic Mission is the international mission agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. It comprises the four Pontifical Mission Societies. Locally and globally, we answer the call to love God and to love our neighbour, and work to establish the Reign of God through building communities of missionary disciples who share their faith by proclaiming the Word, supporting Church communities and people in need, acting for justice and creation, and through the Society of the Holy Childhood, adopting child-focused, community-based development programs.

In Australia our work includes delivering community education and mission engagement programs; forming active partnerships with parishes, community groups, minority and cultural groups and the national schools network; and facilitating a sustainable program of fundraising.

This senior position calls for a highly motivated and experienced leader who has a passion for mission, a comprehensive understanding of the global issues of aid and development and an ability to work independently, but collaboratively, while juggling competing priorities.

For a short video on what it's like working at Catholic Mission, please refer to: <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/about-catholicmission/about-us#our-people>

For more information please refer to our full advertisement, including selection criteria, as well as position description @ <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/jobs-at-catholic-mission>

Send your applications on or before the closing date to: [employment@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:employment@catholicmission.org.au)

**Applications close Sunday 17 February 2019.**

Maureen Stirling has moved to Bowral to be closer to her family. Maureen and her late husband Bill have been much valued members of our parish community for 59 years. We wish her improved health and every blessing in the road ahead.

## **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.

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.

## **Feast Days during the Week**

Monday 28th January—St Thomas Aquinas

Thursday 31st January—St John Bosco

Saturday 2nd February—Presentation of the Lord



# Liturgy of the Word

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C*

*Readings: Neh 8: 2-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12: 12-30; Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21*

*Responsorial Psalm:*



**Your words, Lord are Spirit and life.**

## Alleluia Verse:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor  
and freedom to prisoners.**

**Alleluia!**

## *Reflection on Australia Day*

Australia is a place to which people have been attracted over the millennia to forge a new future. First, the original inhabitants coming down through Asia, and then the settlers, migrants and refugees of the last 220 years. (Of course, the convicts were a less voluntary part of the movement of peoples!)

Most were attracted by a vision of a different future, a future where human beings could relate to each other differently to the old order in Europe, and more recently in the Middle East or Africa or Asia or Central or South America.

People were and are prepared to take the risk of being dis-located, of re-locating because of that vision of a different future, particularly a future not determined by the violence of feud and warfare which had characterised their homelands for generations, centuries, and even millennia. They come because they aspire to be someone different, to do something different, in ways not predetermined by centuries of custom and tradition in their home society. Is this movement of people to Australia a 'chance event'? Is it just another phase of world history? No.

I recall walking down a corridor in the Vatican, the wall of which was painted with a map of the world. Where Australia is, there was just ocean blue. It was painted before European explorers began to map our coastline! Those mapping expeditions gave us our name 'Australia'? De Quiros, the great Portuguese explorer of the 16th Century, set out on a quest for '*Terra Australis del Espiritu Santo*', South Land of the Holy Spirit. Right from the start, the full title of our land was bound up with the Holy Spirit.

I am confident that 'Australia' is a work of the Holy Spirit, no chance event in world history but a gathering of peoples for a Divine purpose. One of the most distinctive works of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the breaking down of ethnic, tribal and language barriers between people. That is why Christianity spread like wild fire across the Roman Empire.

Australia is a place where that Pentecostal impulse is felt very strongly. People from every nation, tribe, ethnic, and religious group on the face of the earth have relocated here and are creating a new sort of society. Human beings can relate to each other free from past structures of oppression and division in their old homeland societies.

They have come, in their millions, to escape the histories of societies where everyone 'knew their place', to a land where we relate to each other for our inherent worth. Hence the great Australian characteristic: 'egalitarianism'. Have we responded to the Holy Spirit perfectly? No. Our treatment of the earliest inhabitants of this land was shameful, and is not yet fully remedied as the Lord of the Sermon on the Mount desires.

Our treatment of those genuinely fleeing persecution in their homelands falls short of what the Lord of the Sermon on the Mount desires. But on the whole, we are creating a version of the Kingdom of God under the Southern Cross of which we can be proud.

So, Australians All, let us rejoice –

For our land abounding in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare,

For our freedom to share life in our 'Common-Wealth',

For the divine Spirit of Pentecost attracting us to follow Jesus in this  
*Australia del Espiritu Santo*, South Land of the Holy Spirit.

(Fr Michael Tate)

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