



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2nd / 3rd February 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 9.00am Opening School Mass Xavier High School; 11.00am Mercy Place, includes sacrament of anointing.

Wednesday 9.30am

NO mass Thursday or Friday

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

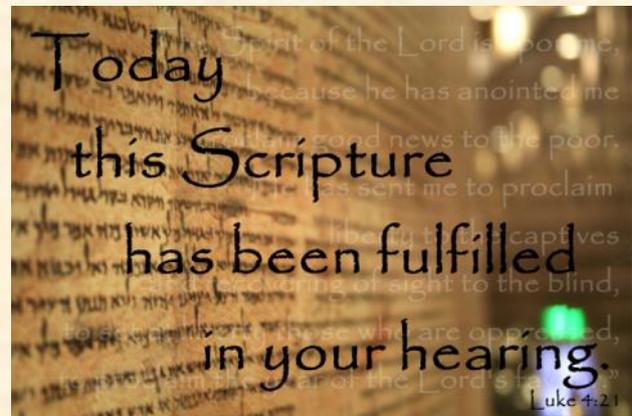
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In the readings for this week we see the reaction of those who hear the word of God. Jeremiah was told that he had been called to be a prophet even before he was born. Yet he had to fight against the people to whom he was sent. Those who heard Jesus were first amazed at his words and then later sought to throw him off a cliff. We too are often quite resistant to the word of God.

Neither Jeremiah nor Jesus recoiled from the implications of their call, regardless of the resistance they experienced. Instead, they entered even more deeply into the call to love. Lest he brood over his injuries, Jeremiah is reassured of God's protection. And, without aggressively demonstrating his strength when he was threatened with harm, Jesus exhibited patience and kindness. Both men bore and endured their bitter misfortunes. This is the image that is placed before us as an example for us to follow.

The call to discipleship is a call to live in the eschatological age of fulfilment inaugurated by Jesus. We can say with certainty that God calls us to a new way of living. We may chafe under the suffering that it could cause us, but we will not be left alone in our distress. As God was with Jeremiah so we can depend upon God to be with us in our need. We must remember that, however we do react, our response must be born out of love. (Dianne Bergant CSA)

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kylie Dawson, Royce Boyd, Sr Pat Osborne, Margaret Gordon, Tony Iverson, Patricia Watters, Mary West.

ANNIVERSARIES: Lillian Nicholl, Chum Day, Alan Gray, Noel Hickey, Michael Bourke, Ada Duncan, Dorrie Hore, Brendan Dodd, Sr Patricia Marcella, Sr Carmella Nesbitt, Les Bright, Max Butts, Fr Jim Clark, Josie Favell, Beryl McBrien, Wayne Boyd, Ben Damhuis, Gordon Doubleday, Nancy Phillips, Betty Harrison, Kevin Hartley, Joan Bruton, Martha Moscher, Peter Urosevic, Ivan Hanrahan, Stephen Kirley, Alice Shanahan, Charles Bowen, Richard Noel Hickey & Joseph Mc Brien. *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: 2nd / 3rd February

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

Sat /Sun: 9th / 10th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Virginia Mitsch Kellie Gordes Barbara Godde	Terry Hillman Richard Parkinson Leanne Michael
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim & Kaye Deanshaw	Mary Lefevre Noelene Cruise Majorie Serbinek
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Bernadette & Wendy
Counters: Brian & Carmel Butts		

Prayer to be Loving People

Lord thank you that your love is patient. Help us show patience with those around us.

Lord thank you that your love is kind. Help us to extend kindness to others.

Lord thank you that true love is not jealous. Help us cast aside feelings of jealousy or hatred towards others.

Lord thank you that your love does not brag and is not arrogant. Help us not to live with pride or arrogance, but to choose to walk with humility and grace.

Lord thank you that true love does not act unbecomingly. Lord help us to extend kindness instead of rudeness towards others. Help us to lay aside the critical tone and tearing down with our words, so that we can truly walk in peace.

Lord thank you that true love does not seek its own. Lord help us not to live selfishly, looking only to our own interests.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Being a Christian is not just about following commandments: it is about letting Christ take possession of our lives and transform them."

Parish News

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 6 March. You are encouraged to participate in one of the Lenten reflection groups that will be operating within our parish community, both during the day and in the evening. If you are prepared to host one of these groups in your home or lead a discussion group in our parish hall please contact the parish office in the coming week. If you wish to be a participant in a group please add your name and preferred day/time (day/evening) to the list on the noticeboard.

We need to order books soon so that they will arrive in time to accompany us on our Lenten journey.

Parish Pastoral Council

The first meeting for the year of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council will be held this Thursday 7 February at 6.00pm in the Parish Hall.

Plenary Council 2020

*When we listen to each other -
We listen to the Spirit*

"I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, styles and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. A proposal of goals without adequate communal search for the means of achieving them will inevitably prove illusory..." *Pope Francis*

Have your say in the life and future direction of the Catholic Church in Australia. The Plenary Council is still accepting submissions from individuals and groups until 6 March (Ash Wednesday) at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au or mail to PO Box 747, North Sydney NSW 2059.

Position Vacant

Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission, Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Part-time position, two days per week based in Wagga Wagga. For 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
Applications close Sunday 17 February 2019.

Sacred Concert with Irish Singer David Parkes:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Thurgoona on Thursday 21 February. 7pm Mass (Fr John Fowles); 7.30pm Sacred Concert. Enquiries phone Fr John on 6043 2222.



This weekend we welcome to the community of the church through the sacrament of baptism Hugh Lincoln Coyle son of Gerard & Kirsty; Evie Leigh Wilson and Lola Anne Wilson daughters of Brendan & Erin.

Parish Morning Tea

This weekend at the conclusion of our 9.30am celebration of Eucharist.

We are also looking for anyone who might be interested in volunteering their time to go on our monthly morning tea roster for 2019. This will mean setting up the hall and organising food. Please put your name down next to the date you prefer on the roster provided at back of church.

The Commissioning Mass for all teachers in Catholic Schools in the Murray Deanery will be held this Tuesday 5 February at 5.30pm in St Patrick's Church, Albury. All welcome to attend.

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.

Healing & Growing in the Love of God Weekend

From Friday evening 22 Feb to Sunday 24 Feb at St Patrick's Church, Albury with Valerie Murphy, internationally known and respected speaker, intercessor counsellor, spiritual director, outreach worker and Co-founder (with Fr Doyle) of Mary of the Angelus Association, a recognised lay organisation.

Valerie has ministered to people from all walks of life; prisoners, royalty, clergy, the homeless, the broken and lost, drug addicts and those with everyday struggles. Motivated by the love of God and her neighbour her association has groups around the world. Come and join us for a weekend of healing, support and prayer.

St Patrick's Church Albury starting with 7pm Mass on Friday 22 Feb and continuing Saturday 23 Feb (9.30am to 5pm) through to Sunday 24 Feb (10am to 4pm) in Slattery House on Church grounds. All welcome. Enquiries: St Patrick's 6041 2588 or Maree 0467 805 100. For more info see our church noticeboards.

Liturgy of the Word

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor 12: 3- 13: 13; Luke 4: 21-30

Responsorial Psalm:



I will sing of your salvation.

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!



Reflection on the Readings

This week's gospel completes the event in Nazareth that began last week with Jesus' declaration of mission. The initial response of the crowd is one of astonishment and approval. However, the people have largely missed the point of Jesus' teaching. When he declared that he had come to proclaim liberty to captives and to set the downtrodden free, Jesus probably didn't expect his audience to just say, 'Oh, that's nice!' The message he preached, and the message that flows throughout the Gospel of Luke, calls for a fundamental conversion of heart; a change to a life motivated by compassion for the lowly. When the people so obviously missed his point, Jesus virtually dismisses them by saying that 'no prophet is ever accepted in his own country'.

To make his point even further, Jesus then cites instances where two of the great prophets of Jewish tradition responded to the needs of pagans from Sidon and Syria rather than the needs of Israel. The two people helped are also very significant. Widows held a special place in Jewish tradition: God entrusted all widows to the care of the whole town. Whenever widows are named as being in need, it is a comment on the society as a whole neglecting its duty of care. Lepers were regarded as absolutely unclean and outcast by virtue of their condition (something that perhaps has never really changed). For Jesus to remind the people of these events is a great reprimand to them. He is, in effect, saying to them, 'if you can't accept my message I will take it to the pagans; the gentiles; and the socially unacceptable.' Is it any wonder that they tried to lynch him on the spot?

Luke is written for a predominantly non-Jewish (gentile) Christian community. Although it had been resolved that one did not have to become a Jew to become a Christian there was still a lingering doubt about preference being given to the Jews. The gospel writer goes to great lengths to reassure his audience community that the message of Jesus was for all people – gentile and Jew alike. This week's gospel is one of many passages that feature gentile people receiving God's acceptance and favour. It's a clear message that the salvation promised by Jesus is available to all who seek it.

The Nazareth event, described in last week's and this week's gospels, provides a 'snapshot' or a summary of the whole of Luke's gospel. In an apparently simple episode, the gospel writer has captured the elements of the remainder of the gospel and laid them out as a foretaste of all that is to come. Jesus is clearly positioned as the one who fulfils the Messianic expectation of scripture. His message of release and acceptance of the poor, afflicted and oppressed is put right up front and the hope of salvation is offered to all people – Jews as well as gentiles.
(Greg Sunter)

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