



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

16th/ 17th February 2019

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 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:

Wednesday & Friday 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
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Paul teaches us that, united to Christ through faith and in baptism, we are united in his death and resurrection. With Christ we die to sin; with him we rise to a new life. We cannot wait to see proof of our transformation before we change our actions. The proof is in the lives we live in faith. To deny that we have died and been raised is to deny the resurrection of Christ. Paul insists that they cannot be separated. The challenge is to live in and out of this faith.

Both Jeremiah and Jesus introduce us to such a way of living. It is a way of paradox, a way that moves us beyond the self-centred standards of the world. The poor, the hungry, those who weep, and those who are persecuted are really the ones who are blessed. The victims of our social and economic systems, those who have been ravaged by war or have been made vulnerable by life itself are the ones who, if they place their trust in God, will be blessed in the end. They may appear to be the outcasts of this world, but, if they are filled with faith, they will inherit heaven. The wealth of this world and its pleasures are not the blessings that we might think they are. They can blind us to the real values of life and prevent us from dying to the world and living resurrected lives in Christ. (Dianne Bergant CSA)

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sherrie Gavin, Louise Szabo, Bernie O'Keeffe, Lois Heazlewood, Greg Riley, Jim Brigden, Kathleen Birch, Elaine Brain, Kylie Dawson, Royce Boyd, Sr Pat Osborne.

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen James, Sr Jean Murray, Julie Yonson, Noel Flanagan, Arthur Scott, Drago Hanzic, Colin Watson, Jane Student, James Mallay, Claude Gilson, Keith Clancey, Harry Bevan, John Evans, Jack Gilbert, Monica Bayley, David Rodgers, Barney Frauenfelder, Kylie Evans, Ena Gale, Connie Murphy, Glen McConville, Michael Jones, Aileen Sheahan, Peter Rothe, Matthew Hartwig, Eileen Duck, Maurice Higgins, Rev T Desmond, Jack Lonergan.

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: 16th / 17th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Colleen Day Karen Purtle Michael Byrnes	Rosalie Martin Michael Stephenson MACE Sisters
Eucharistic Ministers	Judy Lindsay Michael Regan	Trish Parkinson Kansas Michael Dianne Treacy
Cantor Musicians	Catherine Cutler/Judy Lindsay Judy Foley	Simon Goss Val Hayes
Counters: Michael Byrnes		

Sat /Sun: 23rd / 24th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Nano Clancy Justin Clancy Paula Waters	Bede Hart Roy Thompson Wendy McFerran
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Pat Hopkins	Frank Glennon Carmel Butts Cathy Nyhan
Cantor Musicians	Margie & Ed Brown Mary Hunt	Ann McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Nardia Scarvell & Liz Simon		

Beatitudes Prayer

Jesus, give us the wisdom and courage to be poor in spirit. . . in a world that glorifies power and fame.
Give us the wisdom and courage to mourn. . . because we know you are with us always.
Give us the wisdom and courage to remain meek. . . and to be mindful of the truth that all we have and all we accomplish comes through you.
Give us the wisdom and courage to always do what is right. . . even when what is right is not what is popular or easy.
Give us the wisdom and courage to be merciful. . . even when it is very difficult to forgive.
Give us the wisdom and courage to be pure of heart. . . even when we feel overwhelmed by jealousy or a thirst for power or popularity.
Give us the wisdom and courage to be peacemakers. . . in a world torn apart by violence.
Jesus, give us the wisdom and courage to remain strong when people make fun of us because we love you and follow you. . . may we never forget that our reward in heaven is great!
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card...In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives."

Parish News

Parish Finance Committee / Council

In keeping with the principles set down in canon law it is my intention to establish a Parish Finance Council. The overall function of this body will be as a consultative group to assist the parish priest / administrator with the stewardship of the material goods of the parish. In the short term, this group will need to advise me in urgent matters that need attention in the area of church maintenance and capital works and to prioritise an action plan. In the long term it will be to help devise a strategy to ensure that sufficient parish finances are available to address pastoral priorities. It will also contribute to establishing a framework for greater shared responsibility within parish life.

A balance of male and female members across a range of ages will help ensure that a variety of perspectives is accessible.

If you have a particular interest or expertise in such matters and wish to be considered a part of this collaborative body please contact our parish office by phone / email as soon as possible.

Plenary Council 2020

A snapshot of Wagga Wagga Diocesan submissions May—December 2018:

Total Respondents - 326

121 Submissions - 24 groups; 97 individuals

Around 229 individuals represented through 24 groups
Responses from men 32%; women 66%

Responses: 85 Catholic; 7 Christian; 0 Non Christian; 3 No Religion.

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.

Volunteers

The practical support of our parish community is required to take communion to those requesting it at the Mercy Hospital, Borella House and the Lutheran Nursing Home on Sundays. If you would be willing to help out on a roster basis at one of these facilities please contact our parish office for further details. While a police check will be necessary you do not need to be a current Eucharistic minister to carry out this act of hospitality and service.

Feast Days during the Week

Thursday 21st February—St Peter Damian

Friday 22nd February—Chair of St Peter



This weekend we welcome to the community of the church through the sacrament of baptism Arwen Grace Bollingmoore daughter of Nathaniel & Kyra.



**Happy Birthday
Fr Martin for
17th February**

Call For Volunteers 2019

Mercy Access, part of Mercy Works and under the auspices of the Sisters of Mercy, provides assistance to Aboriginal children in schools within the Sandhurst Diocese.

We invite volunteers to assist in this In-School Program at St Monica's Primary School, Wodonga beginning in Term 1, 2019.

Hopefully volunteers would have had previous experience and/or interest in the field of education. Adherence to Child Safety Standard Protocols required.

For more information contact Project Coordinator on 0417 674 919 or email ma@mercy.org.au

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 6 March. You are encouraged to participate in one of the Lenten groups that will be operating within our parish community. We will be using the new reflection program compiled by Michael McGirr the coordinator of Faith Mission at St Kevin's College Melbourne. If you wish to be a participant in a group please add your name and preferred day/time to the list on the noticeboards.

Healing & Growing in the Love of God Seminar

From Friday evening 22 Feb to Sunday 24 Feb 2019 at

St Patricks Church with Valerie Murphy, internationally known & 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. See flyer on noticeboards.

Liturgy of the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings: Jer 17: 5-8; 1 Cor 15: 12,16-20; Luke 6: 17, 20-26

Responsorial Psalm:



Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. (Sung)
Happy are they who hope in the Lord. (Said)

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;

your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia!



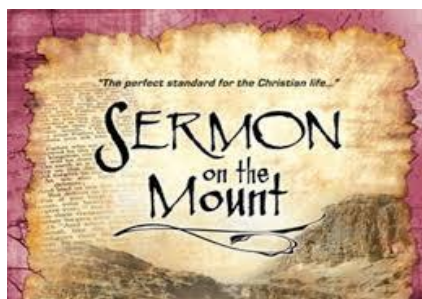
Reflection on the Readings

We are perhaps more familiar with the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew in which the kingdom of heaven is promised to those who are 'blessed' because of their afflictions. Rather than the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Luke presents the same event and teaching as the sermon on the plain as it occurs on 'a piece of level ground'. This version may appear a little more confronting than the Matthew version. Rather than the afflicted being 'blessed', they are to be 'happy'. It seems odd that anybody should be happy to be poor, hungry, mourning or reviled and we would certainly regard these as states of sadness and difficulty; not times for rejoicing at our good fortune! However, this gospel in particular frequently reminds us that God does not think, feel and behave as we might expect. God's actions are frequently contrary to the expectations of society.

The Gospel of Luke makes it plain that the reign of God will upend the structures of society. The lowly will be raised and the mighty will be brought low. It is in this context that the poor, the hungry and the outcast are regarded as happy. Their happiness comes from the reassurance that although they are rejected and dismissed by society, they are indeed the most favoured of God. Whatever the world dishes up to such as these, they can rejoice in the knowledge that in the reign of God their fortunes will be reversed and they will be favoured. However, just as the fortunes of the poor and afflicted will be reversed for the better, those who are rich, well fed, happy and well regarded will also have their fortunes reversed. Alas to them! Their comfort and joy leaves no room for the generosity of God!

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, the author is keen to demonstrate that the message of Jesus is for all people – not just the Jews, but for the Gentiles and Pagans as well. We can see this message revealed in the gathering of people who listened to Jesus' sermon on the plain. We're told there were people from all parts of Judea (all Jews) as well as people from the pagan lands of Tyre and Sidon. The first audiences of this gospel would immediately have recognised the significance of people from Tyre and Sidon standing alongside Jews from Judea.

As part of his sermon, Jesus announces, 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man... This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.' The prophets of the Old Testament were the chosen spokesmen of God. Their message was often unpopular and they were often threatened and berated for challenging the social order. To be treated in this way is in fact something of an affirmation that one's words and actions are reflecting the message of God. The Word of God is confronting and challenging! (Greg Sunter)



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