



# St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

20 August 2017

Grounded in Faith Live in Hope Grow in Love

## Parish Staff

**Fr Mathew Antony MS** - Parish Priest  
e-mail: mathew@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

**Fr Pio Jang** - Assist. Priest  
E-mail: papio.penrith@gmail.com

**Fr Porathur Joy (PJ)**  
Catholic Chaplain - Nepean Hospital

**Lyn Olander** - Secretary / Office Manager  
e-mail: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

**Marthese Sultana** - Admin. Assistant  
e-mail: bulletin@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

**Mary Goh** - Admin. Assistant  
e-mail: reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

**Colleen Nicholas** - Sacramental Co-ordinator  
**Monday & Thursday only**  
e-mail: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

**Fred Keuneman** - Catechist Co-ordinator  
e-mail: catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

## Office Hours 9am - 5 pm

Lunch 1pm - 1.30 pm (Office closed)

## Weekend Mass

**Saturday** 6.00pm Vigil  
**Sunday** 7.00am 8.30am  
10.00am 6.00pm

## Reconciliation:

**Saturday** 9.30am - 10.30am  
5.00pm - 5.45pm

**Adoration:** After Saturday Morning Mass

## Weekday Mass

**Monday** 9.30 am  
**Tuesday** 6.45 am & 9.30 am  
**Wednesday** 9.30 am & 7.00 pm  
**Thursday** 9.30 am  
**Friday** 6.45 am & 12.10 pm  
**Saturday** 9.00 am

**Healing Mass** 9.00am 1st Saturday of month

**Filipino:** 11.00am 1st Saturday of month

**Baptisms & Marriages by appointment only**  
Marriage Prep courses can be booked at  
Parish Office.

## Schools

**St Nicholas Primary** 4721 2623  
Principal - Ms Anita Knezevic

**St Mary Mackillop Primary** 4736 3466  
Principal - Mr Scott Buchan

## Gospel Reflection: Matthew 15:21-28

**Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.**

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

From Loyola Press



## PARISH OUTREACH

**Please pray for** *Lubelia Andrade, Joan Bailey, Madge Clarke, Clive Ling, Paul Sammut Chris Sultana and Bibiana Zahra who died recently George Attard, Lawrence Cacciditolo, Margaret Doughan, Jacqueline D'Silva, June Gale, Francis & Peter Hendry, John Jackson, Elisa & Louis Lewis, Cosme Mamuyac SR, Len & Brian O'Farrell, Olinda Ornelas, Delphine Sarin and Milka Stapic whose anniversaries occur at this time and for Mary Armstrong, Dennis Bryant, Tania Leonard Cobden, Felice, Godfrey Gomez, John Lee, Reg Levinge, John Nettar, William Savage, Norah & Bernard Wilding and Holy Souls.*

**Please pray for those who are sick** *Brett Beath, Dianne Constable, Allen Eyles, Marion Engsmyr, Enrique Esmayor, Romnick Estores, Anna Gal, Darren Gallagher, Pamela Gold, Kerry Hagarty, Patricia Hansan, Sue Herbert, Noel Langan, Rosemary Matthews, Jane McCann, Lisa McDeed, Daniel McEntee, Lynn O'Hare, Baby Phoenix, Barbara Sawyer, Chris Tabone and Rachael Wilson.*

**Hospital Masses** Parishioners are welcome

◆ **Nepean Hospital** every Friday at Midday

*If in need of a Catholic Chaplain whilst a patient is in hospital phone 47343150 or requiring a Priest urgently for an anointing phone 47342000 and request switch board or the nurse on duty to contact the Catholic Priest.*

**Rosary Statue** is in the home of John & Joan McSpadden 3 Timgalen Avenue Penrith.

**Divine Mercy** prayer meeting on Friday 25 August 7pm in PMR1.

### Prayer Meeting

We warmly invite all parishioners, families and friends to join us here at St Nicholas on **TUESDAY 29 August at 7pm in the Hall** to celebrate in Song, Prayer and the Sharing of God's Word.

**Attention: SRE (Catechist) meeting will be held on Monday 4th September at 1.30pm in PMR1.**

*Altar Society roster is available for collection from the sacristy.*

### This Week at St Nicholas

**Monday 21 August**  
*St Pius X*

**Tuesday 22 August**  
*Queenship of Mary*  
11.30am AA Meeting (Hall)  
12.30pm Legion of Mary (Piety store)  
7pm Parish council Meeting

**Wednesday 23 August**  
*St Rose of Lima*  
4pm 3rd Family Session for Confirmation (Hall)  
6pm St Vincent de Paul Meeting

**Thursday 24 August**  
*St Bartholomew*

**Friday 25 August**  
*St Louis IX; St Joseph Calasanz*

**Sunday 27 August**  
10am Combined School Mass  
11am 3rd Family Session for Confirmation (Hall)  
2.30pm Penrith Choir Concert (Church)

### Next Week's Readings

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Isaiah 22:19-23*  
*Romans 11:33-36*  
*Matthew 16:13-20*



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## PARISH / DIOCESAN OUTREACH



## PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

16 SEPTEMBER 2017

# Games

Come and enjoy a night of fun to help raise funds for the youth of the Parish to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in December

**Time:** 7.15p.m for a 7.30pm start **Venue:** Parish Hall  
**Entry Fee:** \$10.00 per person - 8 per table (Payable on the night)  
Child under the age of 18 are not permitted to attend.

**BYO:** Drinks & Nibbles **Provided:** Tea and coffee  
**Bookings:** Sharon – 0418 207 131 or  
Parish Office – 4721 2509

**RSVP for Bookings:** Tuesday 12 September 2017



## Sacramental

This week the children of our parish community will continue their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our third Family Session will be on Wednesday at 4pm and Sunday at 11.15am. Please remember the children and their families as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during the coming weeks.

## Combined School Mass on Sunday 27 August at 10am.

St Nicholas of Myra Parish and St Mary Mackillop Primary School, the students of both schools are invited to take part in the Parish Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to celebrate their faith and participate in the parish. **All welcome**

## Penrith City Choir Celebrating 40 Years

"Gloria" Featuring Vivaldi Gloria. Penrith City Choir, Penrith City Youth and children's Choirs, Vocals soloists and instrumental ensemble here at St Nicholas Church on **Sunday 27 August at 2.30pm**. Book at [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com), for enquiries Phone: 0400 516 630. **More info on notice board. All are welcome**



## St Nicks Movie Night presents .... Tuesdays with Morrie

**When:** Friday 25 August at 7pm

**Where:** Parish Hall on the BIG SCREEN

**Soft drinks and popcorn will be available or feel free to bring something to eat / and or drink before or during the movie and a comfy chair if you wish.**

## BISHOP'S COLLECTION FOR RETIRED AND SICK CLERGY

The Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese of Parramatta assists in meeting the needs of the retired and sick priests of the Diocese, and an annual appeal, *The Bishop's Collection for Retired and Sick Clergy*, is held on Father's Day each year to support the Foundation. It is hoped to raise \$200,000 each year through this appeal. Last year, through your generosity we reached the target with donations totalling \$205,000 and the Foundation thanks you for this contribution. This year the appeal in the Diocese will be held on the weekend of **September 2-3**.

A third collection will be held on this weekend at each Mass. Special envelopes will be available and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. If you wish to claim a tax deduction, please tick the box and write your details clearly on the envelope. Appeal envelopes will be available next week for those who will not be here on the Father's Day weekend.

If you wish you can make online contributions at [csfparra.org.au](http://csfparra.org.au) using your credit card or direct transfer via eft to BSB 067 950 and Account No 001691 in the name of the CSF with reference your name, and send e-mail to [csf@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:csf@parra.catholic.org.au) with your details so receipts can be sent, which we usually do in January.

*Fr Wim Hoekstra Treasurer, Clergy Support Foundation Diocese of Parramatta*

## The Alpha Course Invitation

We would like to warmly invite you all to come and see what the ALPHA Course is all about by attending the ALPHA introduction evening on **Monday 28th August at 6.30pm** in Parish meeting room 1, PMR1. We only need about an hour of your time and a light supper will be served. Please contact Craig and Lesley Walsh 0428 284 568 or [mamreintaid@gmail.com](mailto:mamreintaid@gmail.com) for more information.

### Our Lady of Penafrancia visits St Anthony of Padua Toongabbie Parish

Our Lady of Penafrancia starts her visits to three parishes this year with her visit to St Anthony of Padua Toongabbie parish from 26th August to 1st September. There will be novena at 11:00 am followed by mass at 11:30 am on Sat 26th August. Fr. Joe Manjaly will be the celebrant. After the mass there will be fellowship. The Replica of Our Lady of Penafrancia will be back on her Feast Day Sat 16th Sept.

For further details please contact Jun Relunia on 0419-233-643.

### WALKING WITH REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING PROTECTION

Bishop Vincent Long will launch this important, year-long Diocesan Journey on **Sunday 27th August, 2pm - 4pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, Seven Hills.** *Special guest speaker: Fr Tom Smolich, International Director of Jesuit Refugee Services.* The aim of our Diocesan Journey will be to galvanise a Diocese-wide and faith-filled urge to bring about a culture that values fair and compassionate treatment of people seeking refuge and protection in Australia. If you would like to join others from around the Diocese at the launch, please contact the Social Justice Office on 8838 3461 or register online at: <https://register.eventarc.com/38860/invitation-to-migrant-and-refugee-sundaylaunch-27-th-august>

**Thank you;** *My sister suffered a brain bleed during 6pm Mass on Sunday 06/08/17, thanks to the quick thinking of people around us the paramedics were called and she received immediate care and treatment. On behalf of my sister, I would like to say a huge thank you to the helpful people and quick thinking that helped to save her life. She is in ICU in Macquarie University hospital and is doing well. We cannot thank those that helped and we have you in our prayers. God Bless.*

26/27 August	Vigil	Parish 7am	Roster 8.30am	10am	6pm
Acolytes	J Buttigieg R Howard	D Wiggins	J Relunia J Simeon	C Pemberton D Welfare	B Beath M Pletkan
Servers	J Emerson G Nematic		K Flynn B Payyappilly	Combined Schools	X Whalen
Comm. Rep.	I Bentham	Y Bacchan	S Von Bock	Alan Johnson	N Moniz
Reader	J Hogan	H Ryan	P Nematalla	Combined Schools	A Pletkan
E.M.	C Coyte V Emerson F Keuneman	J McSpadden M Sultana G Wiggins	B Brainwood E Isaaks B Keavy H O'Connor B Oxlade M Stynes P Wheller	Combined Schools	A Alimangoha C D'Mello M Herrick



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