



St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B
1 AUG 2021

Tel: (02) 4721 2509 | Website: www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au | P O Box 1868, Penrith 2751 |

 @SNOMPenrith

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours 9am - 5 pm
Lunch 1pm – 1.30pm (*Office closed*)

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Manjaly E: joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Asst Priest: Fr Jessie Balorio E: jessie.balorio@parracatholic.org
Office Manager: Jacinta Ortiz E: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Admin Assistant: Mary Goh E: reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator: Rodney Howard E: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Catechists: Fred Keuneman E: catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Volunteer Admin Support: Margaret Cobden & Ursula Gomez

PARISH EMERGENCY NUMBER: 4732 3039

During this Pandemic time Craig Walsh is our Health & Safety Coordinator. Contact 0428 284 568

Nepean Hospital Chaplain: Fr Porathur Joy (PJ)

Deacon: Wilfredo (Willy) Limjap

RCIA Coordinators: Ina & Norm Heffernan
inanorm@optusnet.com.au Ph: 4732 1751

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Nicholas Primary Principal : Ms Anita Knezevic Ph; 4752 3300
St Mary Mackillop Primary Principal : Mr Scott Buchan Ph; 4724 3200



ONLINE MASSES

Due to stay-at-home orders from the NSW Government, all church buildings, adoration chapels and other buildings used for prayer and religious services are closed. Masses will be live streamed on our Facebook page (@SNOMPenrith) on:

- Monday—Friday at 9.30am
- Saturday at 9.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)
- Sunday at 10.00am

PARISH PRIESTS CORNER —Fr Joe Manjaly

Dear parishioners and friends in Christ, I hope that you and your loved ones are well. This lockdown has been such a tough time for everyone. The most important thing to know that you are not alone. We are all in this together and together we will get through this. The truth is that we will come out the other side better in due time. Recently I came across this quote and it made me to think of our life during this lockdown, especially our parish faith community: "If the fire in your heart is strong enough, it will burn away any obstacle that comes our way." That is exactly we all need to have during this time as we can't go to our loved one's place or come to our church for worship and Holy Communion. But we can still learn to practice and share our faith with one another. We all need to create a level of passion and willingness to achieve, regardless of the challenges that come our way to stay connected. Today the Holy Mother Church celebrates the memorial of St. Martha, St. Mary, and St. Lazarus. This family had many challenges and sufferings to endure, and at times they could not connect with their Lord Jesus. However, their house has always been open for the Lord. Their willingness to receive the Lord is a great inspiration for us and we too can seek their intercession to serve Christ faithfully in our brothers and sisters.

This Covid-19 pandemic changed our lives, the world around us, our gathering spaces, our work, and home. I am sure this has sparked fear, frustration, and

anxiety all around. It is easy for criticism and stress to creep in. Yesterday Premier Gladys announced again that the lockdown is extended until 28th of August. We must learn and rethink our approaches during this time to stay connected. We need to find new ways to be in community, to be together, and to uphold one another.

On Tuesday, I prayed rosary with the legion of Mary via Zoom. I was so happy to see the faces of few of our parish members via zoom and what a joy this has brought to me. This was also quite an experience for some in their 70s and 80s to use zoom and see others. This is very simple and therefore the parish will organize some gathering via zoom with prayer services, like lectio Divina, reflections, rosary etc... all you need to have a computer or smart phone. I also encourage the leaders of each group to have some sort of virtual gathering with their groups at least once in two weeks. We the priests and Deacon will always be there to support and help you with this meeting. We will be sending you emails with the link explaining how to log in. I thank you all for your continued support and commitment to your faith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you all and I entrust you and your family to Blessed Mary, Help of Christians!

Yours in Christ,
Fr Joe Manjaly, PP



RCIA GOSPEL REFLECTION

Solemnity of St Mary of The Cross

The Gospel – Matthew 6:25-34

The passage chosen for the feast of Mary MacKillop comes from the **Sermon on the Mount**, and like Mary's life, poses a question we'd rather avoid. In what do we place our trust? Is it material things (*money, food, clothing*) OR is it the God who unfailingly cares for all? **Is our heart set on possessions or on the reign of God?**

It has been said that the most repeated phrase in Scripture is, **"Do not be afraid." We are not to worry. Worry is a lack of faith in God's care and denies the wisdom of God. Worry is a meaningless activity.** – we spend so much emotional energy worrying about things that never eventuate. Worrying is a dead-end street.

Concern is focused on the care and welfare of others. To be concerned about the well-being of others is a good thing. It shows that you care. When you put your own worries behind you, and that's the secret of it all: *The more you do for others the less you worry about yourself.* **Worry is the opposite of faith.**

Concern leads to action.

Verse 26 speaks about the birds that in the sky.

Birds do not wait for God to drop food into their mouths. They search for their food and build their own nests. They are not anxious about these things. Neither should we be anxious about the Father's provision for us.

In **Verses 28-30** Jesus then uses the example of the wild-flowers that grow in the field. **God does so much for flow-**

ers that last for such a short time. When we have faith in God, we have no need to be anxious about clothes. **The problem isn't that we enjoy looking good, but that we give material possessions the primary place in our hearts - the place that is intended for God.** We become preoccupied impressing people instead of pleasing God. Jesus challenges us to keep things in perspective - *to giving material things their proper place in our lives.* "When our hearts are occupied with "material things" instead of "the kingdom of God" we send a message to the world that the main purpose in life is to accumulate and possess material wealth.

OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

- ✠ What does it mean to you when we say that Jesus is God's wisdom?
- ✠ What does discipleship mean for me in my day-to-day struggle?
- ✠ Where is your spiritual focus today, on God or on your own agenda?
- ✠ "Never see a need without doing something about it". St Mary of The Cross 1871). What does that mean to you?

For more information about joining the Catholic Church

Ina & Norman Heffernan

4732 1751

inanorm@optusnet.com.au

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED : Brian John Colbert, Varghese Perepaddan, John Ward, Shirley Miranda, Eulalia "Laling" Garcia Gange, Eva Baulch, Peter Charles Pracy, Elisabetta Catanea, Heather Hort, Luzmilda Ponce-De-Leon, Max Baker, Eliana Gabrera, William Maxwell Hawkins, Augusta Pante & all those who have died from COVID-19.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES : Orlando Palacio, Patricia Elridge, Antonio Samuels and the solus of Cabillan, Azarcon, Rafaya and Debablveus family & all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

DECEASED : Tania Felice, John Nettar, Dennis Bryant, Ron Howe, Margaret Mary Sullivan, Barry Wilson, Anesia Catubigan & all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

SICK : Natasha Sullivan, Majid Lilleh, Easter Kalotay, Lyn O'Hare, Chris Ropati, Daryl Young, Jose Catubigan Sr. Gail Beevor, Tu Tran, Elenita & Lolyn Velayo, Ann & Raymond Thompson, Suzan K. Ferreira, Rebecca Hackney, Terry Donnolley, Olivia Evans, McEwen Pereira, Georgina Rastegorac, Baby William Martines, Ricardo Azores, Romas Levers, Yvonne Kore, Allen & Jackie Cullen, Flordeliza Villanueva, Charlie Camenzuli, Virgilio Cruz, Alexander Diana, Suzan K. Ferreira, Bernadette Garcia, Danilo Monilla, Henry Duffy, Filippa Borg, Nina Muscat, George Bell, Magi Gahli, Carmela Dimunno, Mildred Fitzgerald, Jaime Calero, Theresa Jordan, Jane McCann, Lauren and all who suffer from COVID-19.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Congratulations and happy **80th Birthday**



to **Jorge Sasot** (31 Jul) A very Happy Birthday to Mary Goh (29 Jul) our long time receptionist and also to our previous manager Lyn Olander (30 Jul). Our prayers and well wishes are with you on these special occasions.

Legion of Mary Zoom Meetings All parishioners are welcome to join praying the rosary with us on Zoom at 7.30 pm each Tuesday night. All you need to do is download the zoom app on your smartphone, tablet or computer, then enter the following, Meeting ID number, 97833734065 for a password to enter the meeting please contact Eddie Bishara on edmund.bishara@bigpond.com

Counselling Service for parishioners Sr Eileen Quade from the Mercy Sisters has generously offered 'over the phone' counselling services to any parishioner who may be experiencing feelings of loneliness, grief and anxiety during this time. Please leave a message with your contact details on Ph: 02 9636 2900 Mobile: 0439 454 670 and she will call you back.

Postponed. All Baptisms, Sacramental Programs, Altar Servers Training, the Parish trip to Mudgee and any other meetings on our premises are cancelled until further notice. All Baptisms will be re-booked once restrictions ease.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

ONLINE PLANNED GIVING

We are grateful for your stewardship during these difficult times

FIRST COLLECTION goes to the Clergy

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Acct Name Penrith St Nicholas Catholic Church
Reference [ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME]

COVID-19 SAFETY



- Due to stay-at-home orders from the NSW Government, all church buildings, adoration chapels and other buildings used for prayer and religious services are closed. Public Masses have ceased. Please join us online on Facebook @SNOMPENRITH. Mass times are Mon-Fri at 9.30am, Sat at 9am, Sat Vigil at 6pm and Sun 10.30am
- For those who do not have online access, **Mass for You at Home** airs on Channel 10 and WIN at 6am each Sunday, and also on Aurora (Foxtel Channel 173) at 10am.
- Parishioners are advised to contact the Parish via telephone or email for any pastoral needs.

PARISH ROSTER

The roster is suspended until the end of August.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

'The Well' offers spiritual nourishment during lockdown

Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement during lockdown? Why not check out The Well? The Diocese's 'on demand' streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with during this difficult time. Check it out on www.thewell.org.au

Social Justice COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive

Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome are dealing with a 400% increase in emergency assistance calls and are needing to feed over 1,000 people facing destitution each week. You can help by running a food and toiletry drive or donating yourself. Find more information at parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive.

Launch of Social Justice Statement (5 Aug) and Caritas News

The MET would like to invite our parish community to attend the **National Launch** of the new **Social Justice Statement "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor"** featuring Bishop Vincent Long:

Thursday 5 August 2021, 5:30-6:30pm AEST via Zoom. Registration at <https://bit.ly/SJSLaunch>

For more information please contact Sebastian Salaske-Lentern, Peace, Justice and Ecology Coordinator, E: sebastian.salaske-lentern@parracatholic.org

Euthanasia, Dying and the Dignity of the Human Person Talks

The Diocese of Parramatta is co-hosting a series of talks on euthanasia with the Diocese of Broken Bay ahead of the expected introduction of a draft bill in NSW Parliament to legalise euthanasia. The series of talks will be held via Zoom over three Monday nights starting 2 August at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. Information and registration can be found at parracatholic.org/euthanasiatalks/

HOMEGROUND—Weeknight Diocesan gatherings

Email MET@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG to register



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