



# St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



**17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B**  
**25 JULY 2021 (GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY DAY)**

Tel: (02) 4721 2509 | Website: [www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au](http://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](mailto:joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
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**Catechists:** Fred Keuneman E: [catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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

## GOSPEL REFLECTION @Greg Sunter

In the readings for Ordinary Time, we take a break from the sequence of readings from the Gospel of Mark for a few weeks and this week's reading begins a diversion into chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. The whole of John 6 is an extended discourse that explores the image of Jesus as the Bread of Life. The chapter and the discourse begin with this week's miraculous feeding of the multitude. As this event occurs in each of the four gospels there is a compelling argument that there is some basis in fact or, at the very least, that the metaphoric image of Jesus feeding a crowd was an enduring one in Christian communities.

Jesus is described as testing the disciples, asking them where they might be able to purchase bread for the crowd. Phillip is overwhelmed at the thought of spending a fortune on enough bread for more than 5,000 people. A small boy nearby had a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. Jesus took the bread and fish, gave thanks and then had the disciples begin to distribute the food.

When everyone had eaten their fill, the disciples collected twelve hampers of leftovers. Some commentators suggest that the twelve baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel – indicating that the message of Jesus will be enough to feed and sustain the whole of Israel. Having witnessed this miracle the people have a sudden insight into who they think Jesus might be – the promised

Messiah come to free them from their Roman oppressors. Wary of the crowd's mistaken understanding of what the Messiah is to be, Jesus literally heads for the hills to avoid being made a political figure-head for the people.



### Living the Gospel – Plenty for all

The feeding of the multitude is a profoundly political statement. Quite simply, there is sufficient food in our world to ensure that no one should ever be hungry. Sadly, the distribution of that food is such that there are some in our world whose bellies are expanding from an excess of food while others' are distended from the lack of it. We can easily feed the entire world. It is the responsibility of those of us in the developed world with more than we need to bring about a more equitable distribution with those who don't even have enough to live.

### Different View – A miracle of sharing

Some scripture scholars suggest that the real miracle of the feeding of the multitude was not so much a multiplication of meagre resources by Jesus but rather a personal response by individuals within the crowd. It is suggested that upon seeing the willingness of Jesus (and the small boy whose food it was) to share the small amount of food available, everyone dug into their pockets and pulled out the small amount of food they also had and shared it with one another. The miracle was a breaking through from selfishness and isolation to a spirit of sharing and community.

### Gospel Focus – Messiah

At the time of Jesus there was a heightened expectation that the Messiah – the anointed one of God – would come and once again set the people of Israel free. However, there was great conjecture about what sort of person the Messiah would be. Some thought he would be a warrior king; others a wise priestly leader; others thought a shepherd-king in the image of David. Confounding all these expectations, Jesus' model of Messianic leadership was that of the servant leader; a leader who was one with the people, offering hope and meaning in the midst of their everyday suffering and struggling.

## RCIA GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel – **The 18th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME John 6:24-35.**

For many of us our focus is so concentrated on satisfying our physical needs that we completely overlook the necessity to nourish our soul.

In this gospel, John leads us to recognise that Jesus, more than anyone else, can provide the food that our bodies need, and more importantly came to feed us the kind of food that will give us eternal life: the bread of heaven and that **HE** is in fact the bread of heaven - **the one when we believe in him, can nourish us for eternity, the one who is, in fact, the Bread of Life.**

The gospel on the Bread of Life brings together three parts: **the definition of bread given by Jesus, the requirements in doing the works of God, the revelation of Jesus as the Bread of Life.** Jesus is calling us to a deeper understanding because it is only in faith that we can comprehend how he gives himself as food for eternal life. Faith - the letting go of fearful uncertainty - is necessary to receive the gift of life. Faith is first and foremost openness to hearing, receiving, and responding to the Word of God. When the Word that is heard is taken on board then Gospel values are incorporated and made part of us. Ultimately, Faith means letting Jesus transform us in a permanent way: *to let his attitudes and values influence us in our way of life.* When we give ourselves to the Lord, the Lord enriches us with many blessings

### **OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:**

**Jesus IS the Bread of Life.** *To feed from him, we must trust him, only then will we be truly satisfied. We have a responsibility to others: to nourish them, form them, support them, and comfort them. The fully alive person gives the greatest glory to God and today's gospel tells us that Jesus is the one who can help us become that kind of person.*

✠How does Jesus nourish you, how is He your 'Bread of Life'? What attracts you to Jesus?

✠Has this changed over time - if so how and when did you realise this had happened?

✠In what ways is God active in your life now?

✠Quiet your mind and heart to the presence of God. What is He telling you. How is He beckoning you closer right now?

## 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 :** Anthony Redmond, Anne Tucker, Joseph Chandy, Joseph James, Orlando Palacio, Johanna Gutwen, Enrique Anda, Rita Cloras, Henry Nyss & all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

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

**SICK :** Natasha Sullivan, 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 Donnelly, 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, Filipa 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.

## Jul 25 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

I thank You, Lord,  
for the comfort of Your presence:  
even in times of loneliness,  
You are my hope and my confidence,  
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!  
I thank You for having given me a family  
and for having blessed me with a long life.  
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams  
that have already come true in my life and for those that are  
still ahead of me.  
I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You  
call me.  
Increase, O Lord, my faith,  
make me a channel of your peace,  
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to  
never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,  
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth. S

end Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,  
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,  
the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness  
and help me to live life to  
the full  
in each moment that You  
give me,  
in the certainty that you  
are with me every day,  
even until the end of the  
age.  
Amen.



## OUR CONDOLENCES



Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brian John Colbert. Brian's Funeral Mass will be held on **Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> July at 11am.**

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Parish Picnic to Mudgee* Due to the 'Stay at Home' orders in NSW this trip is postponed. An update will be communicated in due time.

*Baptisms, Altar Server Training and Other Meetings* Due to the 'Stay at Home' orders all Baptisms, Baptism preparation sessions, Welcome Masses, Altar server training and all other meetings on our Church grounds are postponed until further notice.

*Adult Confirmation* If you or someone you know, who has received the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist and is over 16 and wants to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information.

## 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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## 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 30 JUL / 1 AUG

*The roster is suspended until further notice.*

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:sebastian.salaske-lentern@parracatholic.org)

### National Catholic Men's Gathering: 31 July

The National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2021 will be launched online on Saturday 31 July. Join a diocesan group with your Bishop, or with your Men's Ministry/Parish group or individually. Three sessions will be provided online, along with reflection questions for group discussion or individual reflection. The gathering aims to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world. Register for free at [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)

### HOMEGROUND—Weeknight Diocesan gatherings

Email [MET@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG](mailto:MET@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG) to register



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