



St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
15 AUG 2021

Tel: (02) 4721 2509 | Website: www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au | P O Box 1868, Penrith 2751 | [facebook @SNOMPenrith](https://www.facebook.com/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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

On the surface, today's gospel passage has little to do with the feast of the Assumption. There is no scriptural account of the Assumption and so we draw on a different significant gospel passage that features Mary. However, the account of Mary rushing to her cousin and exuberantly proclaiming the Magnificat is an example of Mary's joyful 'Yes' to life and to God that tradition tells us was rewarded in her bodily assumption into heaven.

Immediately prior to this account, the angel Gabriel has announced to Mary that she is to give birth to the Christ-child. Her humble response to the angel and to God is, 'Let it be done to me according to your word' even though she knew the shame and rejection her pregnancy would cause in her village. Whilst her initial response is subdued and humble, it is a 'Yes' to God's will. Mary's next instinct is an emphatic 'Yes' to life. The angel tells Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, is also to bear a child. Elizabeth was an older woman and keenly felt the social and cultural shame of not being able to bear children. When Mary hears that Elizabeth is already pregnant she rushes to be with her. Where no life was thought possible, God has created life. Elizabeth would have been shamed and regarded as inadequate and of lesser standing because of her childlessness. In many ways, Elizabeth was deprived of her own life because she could not give birth. Mary's "Yes"



to God and "Yes" to life is confirmed and amplified by God's granting fullness of life to Elizabeth.

Historical Context - Feast of the Assumption

Since the 5th Century there has been an active tradition and belief around the assumption of Mary. The tradition states that Mary was physically 'taken up' into heaven at the end of her life. It is believed that her soul and her body remained united. This ancient belief was defined as an infallible teaching of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is one of only two infallible statements that have been defined as such and both related to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast is celebrated on August 15 and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Living the Gospel - Saying 'Yes'

In a world that is increasingly selfish and negative, there is a trend towards isolation from family, neighbours and community. In the face of social isolation, the call to a Christian life is a call to say 'Yes' to life itself and all it offers. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'Yes' to life-giving relationships and decisions and 'No' to life denying relationships and decisions. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'No' to those things that harm self and harm others. A 'Yes' to life is a 'Yes' to hope; to possibility; to love; to God; and to yourself.

✍ Greg Sunter © Liturgy Help 2021

RCIA | NEXT WEEKS GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel – The 21st SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

John 6:60-69

In this gospel we read the fourth and final part of John's presentation of *Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse* - The Living Bread come down from Heaven and it concludes very dramatically when Jesus speaks to his Jewish to his audience about the necessity of eating "*the flesh of the Son of Man*". It is not 'the Jews' who are finding Jesus' words too hard to accept, but his followers – those standing by.

The response for some is easy: *how could anyone accept such intolerable language?* They have heard words that they do not understand - and that repulse them. It simply is impossible to believe that Jesus is inviting them to eat his flesh and drink his blood. Jesus acknowledges their unbelief but doesn't try to convince them. There is only one approach in understanding; either you believe it, or you don't. Jesus continues, "*This is why I have told you no one can be my follower, unless he receives an invitation directly from my Father.*" Jesus' offer of 'eternal life' conflicts with too many of their accepted values and asks for too serious commitment *Discipleship requires total commitment, total loyalty.* If they accept Christ, they will have to abandon their lives and completely entrust them to his care. They would have to have total faith in him. Faith in Christ does bring challenges Power, possessions, and position often drive people away more than the requirements of faith. Each must take responsibility for his or her actions and their consequences, no matter which side they may stand. **This is the challenge of the Gospel** - and one well illustrated - today - in the end our response is personal - to walk away - or to

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED : Marie Mooney, Zenaida Tor-dilla Bonete, Chantal Bertrand, Jozefa Ebeid, Michael Joseph Lenihan, John Lee & all those who have died from COVID-19.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES : Joyce David, Joseph Grima, Kevin Samuels, Manuela Uy, Tibor Kiss, Elizabeth Aplacador, Apolinario Cabillan, Gine Navarro, Elizabeth Rabaya, Juanita Rabaya, Antonio Rabaya, Bonifacia Rabaya, Floro Debalucos, Asuncion Debalucos, Leona Villena, Francisco Cabillan, Jesus Debalucos, Gaudencio Sollano, Andres Debalucos, Ananias Debalucos, Renato Cabillan, Jaime Cabillan, Camela Cabillan, Sina Paulo and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

DECEASED : Tania Felice, John Nettar, Dennis Bryant, Ron Howe, Margaret Mary Sullivan, Barry Wilson, Anesia Catubigan, Anita Sequeira, Mary Menezes, William D'souza, Michael Menezes. & all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

SICK : Christopher Ware, Alexandra MacDonald, 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 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, Bernadette Garcia, Danilo Monilla, Henry Duffy, Filippa Borg, Nina Muscat, George Bell, Magi Gahli, Carmela Dimunno, Mairead Stynes, Mildred Fitzgerald, Jaime Calero, Theresa Jordan, Jane McCann, Lauren and all who suffer from COVID-19.

stay and walk further into the Mystery.

OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

The words of Jesus also challenge us and we too, disciples of Jesus, sometimes stop journeying with him.

Take a moment to reflect on your relationship with Christ.

✚ How has your trust in Jesus grown with your maturity in the Christian life?

✚ Where would you like to take that relationship?

✚ Where do you think Christ is leading you?

✚ What steps can you take to walk closer to Christ this week.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Creative Family Rosary

On the eve of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at 5.15 pm.



Steps for Creative Family Rosary:

1. Set a prayer space with Blessed Mary's statue/Photo with flower from your garden or tree branches in your home with a lighted candle.
2. Write the names of all your family members and special prayer intentions in a white paper and place it in the prayer space during the first hymn.
3. At the end of the Rosary, during the final Hymn, place the rosary that you used to pray on the prayer space.
4. Take a photo of your prayer space, and send them to all your family members and friends, with the words of : Mary, Help of Christians pray for us!
5. Read Matthew 10:32-33 verses as the final step of this "Creative Family Rosary! Please share this to your Face Book page.

Thanksgiving A very Happy Birthday to Jacqueline Dumas (10 Aug), Mica Caburian (15 Aug), Connie Limjap, Tina Hickson and, Henry Colol (16 Aug). Our prayers and well wishes are with you on these very 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. Zoom 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 for a call back.

Bishop's Fathers Day Appeal Due to the COVID lockdown, the Clergy Support Foundation is postponing the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal in-Parish collection to a later date, when Churches will once again be open. Parramatta Catholic Foundation is assisting us with a mail and online appeal around the beginning of September. Your thoughtful gift to the Appeal will mean so much to our retired priests who have put the care of others before themselves. For more information please visit parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal

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

BSB 067 950
Acct No 00004265
Acct Name Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
Reference 6029 [SURNAME DONATION]

SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish

BSB 067 950
Acct No 00000487
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, MEETINGS & EVENTS

The roster, any physical parish meetings on our premises and any Sacraments are 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

FireUp Ministries Femininity – 6 Week Online Course

Have you ever wondered what the Feminine Genius is and how you are being called to live it out? What does it mean to be a virtuous woman? For More information visit <https://fireup.kartra.com/page/wyV54>

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—Online Weeknight Diocesan gatherings While in lockdown, you're invited to 'HOME Ground'. Online every weeknight for the next four weeks, join us for chat, music, prayer, hot topics and most of all – fun and connection. See the free line-up at parracatholic.org/homeground The Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team look forward to seeing you on HOME Ground soon.
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