



St Nicholas of Myra

Catholic Parish

22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY
29 AUG 2021



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

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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

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY & GOSPEL REFLECTION

Social Justice Sunday

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on the 29th of August. [The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement](#), Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace.

Gospel Reflection

No matter how good the intention, sometimes misguided principles can lead to false action. This is what Jesus chastised the Pharisees about. The traditions that had been established through the Pharisees and the Lawyers were certainly based on the Law as stated in the Torah. However, the practices that had been established to try to help people honour the Torah had effectively replaced the Law. In order to maintain spiritual cleanliness, a tradition of physical cleanliness had emerged – particularly around interaction with Gentiles and around eating. However, the purpose of the tradition had become lost. The need for physical cleanliness had replaced the maintenance of spiritual cleanliness.

The Pharisees observe some of the disciples eating without properly washing their hands and challenge Jesus about it. They are upholding the tradition that has effectively become the Law. Jesus reminds them – somewhat forcefully – that these external practices are not the Law; rather the Law is observed internally. Jesus goes so far as to call the Pharisees hypocrites. It is a criticism of them that the gospel writers attribute to Jesus quite frequently. For Jesus, hypocrisy was one of the greatest failings. Because Jesus placed such a high price on integrity of word and action he could not abide those who proclaimed

to be just, pious or forgiving and yet acted in ways that were contrary to these claims. His chastisement of the Pharisees – calling them hypocrites – was a challenge to their observation of external practices and rituals instead of seeking to understand the Torah as a call to a change of heart. Jesus points out that no amount of ritual cleansing will make a person clean within. Similarly, evil and uncleanness come from within a person – one doesn't 'catch it' from contact with strangers.

Historical Context – Pharisees

Pharisees were mostly lay men (i.e. generally not Priests) who were characterised by a strict observance of the Torah as well as an oral tradition of teaching and interpretation. They believed that the Torah required interpretation – by engaging in this interpretation they participated in God's ongoing revelation. They also had a strong belief that all Jewish people were called to be a priestly people. This belief naturally put them at odds with the Priests of the Temple. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, the teachings of the Pharisees gained prominence and eventually developed into Rabbinic Judaism that continues today.

Gospel Focus – The things within

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person 'unclean' – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.

Greg Sunter
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RCIA | NEXT WEEKS GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel – The 23rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Mark 7:31-37

This week we continue our reading of the Gospel of Mark, and Jesus heals a man who is both deaf and mute - *a story that only Mark describes in detail.*

In this miracle we see a model of the way God acts on souls – *for us to believe, God must open our heart so we can listen to His word.*

This story is about a miracle of liberation. A man is set free to hear and proclaim the mercy of God. Jesus' mission is to be of service to all. Healing is the key to Jesus' ministry throughout all four Gospels. Each healing is a sign of God's love and compassion, no matter where or when.

An important truth is realised in this encounter. Jesus gives his people what they need when they need it.

The way Jesus heals the man reminds us of the Sacrament of Baptism - a sign of our full incorporation into the Body of Christ, his Church. *Through the gift of faith which precedes adult Baptism, our ears are opened to hear the Word of God and our tongues are loosened to speak about Christ to others.* We are to speak clearly about what we have heard - to allow our tongues to be loosened to tell others of the great things that God has done for us. The attention, care and compassion Jesus offers the deaf man is a profound example that we can aspire to in our daily lives. *Through growth, we begin to listen and understand - we can speak clearly, our ears are no longer blocked, our tongue is no longer held bound.*

Despite our shortcomings, Jesus will touch and call to us, he will use our shortcomings and lead us to greater faith.

OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

Take some time this week to identify your shortcomings.

- ❖ In what way do those shortcomings challenge you to grow?
- ❖ How do they affect your spiritual life?
- ❖ How do they challenge you to renew your efforts in prayer and service?

For more information about joining the Catholic Church:

Ina & Norman Heffernan 4732 1751 inanorm@optusnet.com.au

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED : Marko Cavka, Theresa Taylor, Salvacion Indaya & all those who have died from COVID-19.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES : Marie -Norris 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 : June Wilson, Matthew Thompson, Christopher Ware, Alexandria 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 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, Bernadette Garcia, Danilo Monilla, Henry Duffy, Filippa Borg, Nina Muscat, George Bell, Magi Gahli, Carmela Dimun-

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Weekends Bishop's Fathers Day Appeal

Next weekend, our Parish is proud to support the Clergy Support Foundation's Bishop's Father's Day Appeal. Your gifts will support our retired clergy or those who are in ill-health. Your donations will enable our Clergy Health and Wellbeing team to provide our ageing clergy with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement. Ongoing assistance includes independent retirement living, aged care, or nursing home accommodation for frail priests; meals, transport and medical care as required. Please give generously via the Clergy Support Foundation website parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal Thank you. **Click on the image below to watch the video.**

Caring for retired clergy



Donate at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal



Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal for Retired and Sick Clergy

Thanksgiving We wish a very Happy Birthday to Leo Tucker, Anne-Maree Pletkan and 16th to Shanelka Perera (27 Aug)! God bless you always!

Mandatory Safeguarding Training All Staff, volunteers and Ministers on our Parish Roster are required to attend mandatory Safeguarding training. Please click on this link to [find out more](#).

Legion of Mary Zoom To join, the rosary on Tuesdays at 7.30pm please contact Eddie Bishara on edmund.bishara@bigpond.com.

Counselling Service If you have feelings of loneliness, grief and anxiety during this time. Contact Sr Eileen Quade with your contact details on Ph: 02 9636 2900 Mobile: 0439 454 670 for over the phone counselling.

Thanksgiving Offertory Our Church doors may be temporarily closed but our hearts are open and St Nic's vital ministry, pastoral care and community outreach continues. Your support is needed to enable our mission to be grounded in faith, growing in love and living in hope! Please consider a weekly pledged gift to support our evangelical ministry visit parracatholic.org/thanksgiving-offertory or see page 4.

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
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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

All Staff, volunteers and Ministers on our Parish Roster are required to attend mandatory Safeguarding training. Please read a letter on this training for all [here](#). The roster, any physical parish meetings on our premises and any Sacraments are suspended until further notice.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

'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? Presented by Madeleine Carrington via Zoom. 7:30pm – 9:30pm Wednesday 15th Sept – Wednesday 20th Oct. For More information visit [here](#) or <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.



Major earthquake hits Haiti

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake.

Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and more than 30,000 families have been left homeless.

The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence.

There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.

To provide support, you can donate to **Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal**.

Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.



Thanksgiving Offertory

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart.
Psalm 9:1

Your gift supports our parish to share Christ's message of love and salvation with all

GIVE TO OUR PARISH

Support the local businesses that support our parish.

Advertise your local business here and at the same time support the work and mission of this parish.

For enquiries please contact Jacinta
on manag-
er@stnicholasofmyra.org.au.

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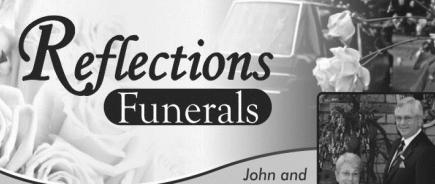
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