



St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish

27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
3 OCTOBER 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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the Western world today, somewhere between one-third and one-half of marriages end in divorce. It's a statistic that we hear wheeled out as a sign of the collapse of family values in our society. However, the reverse statistic is also true: somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of marriages are lasting ones. In the last 30-40 years, divorce has transformed from being a shameful scandal to an accepted, even commonplace, fact of life. It would be uncommon not to know someone affected by divorce. Despite those who argue that divorce is too 'easy', it is an emotional and difficult decision for couples to reach and has rippling impacts on children, extended families and friends.

When the Pharisees in the gospel asked Jesus about the law regarding divorce, they really weren't interested in divorce; they wanted to check Jesus' orthodoxy – how he stood in relation to traditional teaching. Rather than respond to them directly, Jesus asks them first of all to name the teaching to which they refer. He then explains that Moses only ever wrote the instruction because the people were so unwilling to listen to God's way.

For the second time in the last few weeks, the gospel shows Jesus welcoming children and praising their attitude as the way to the kingdom of God. Children of the time had no status and were regarded as literally the property of their father. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and gave them his blessing, this was the action of a father 'claiming' the child as their own. To welcome the kingdom like a little child is to enter into living the kingdom of God without any claim to position or status; to recognise our complete dependence on others; to let go of our ideas of who is important and who is not; to allow ourselves to be 'claimed' by Jesus.

Scriptural context – Discipleship

This section of Mark's Gospel explores what it means to be a disciple. While this particular passage may seem to be a bit out of place,

Jesus seems to be stressing to the disciples that there are some bottom lines – some non-negotiables – when it comes to being a disciple. Unlike the Pharisees who are preoccupied with the letter of the Law, Jesus encourages his disciples to get beyond that and understand the spirit of the Law – God's dream for humankind. The shift in the passage to the focus on children seems a little disconnected but the whole passage is about living in the kingdom with the right attitude.

Gospel Focus – Like a little child

Most of us at some time or another have been told to 'grow up'; 'stop acting like a child'; or to 'act your age'. It implies that, as we grow older, we have to behave in a more 'responsible' or 'mature' way than when we were children. Jesus turns this on its head and tells us that unless we 'welcome the kingdom like a little child' we will never enter it. The gospels are full of stories about people who call on God's mercy because they recognise that without God they are nothing. When they subsequently receive God's mercy or healing they welcome it all the more – like a little child.

Historical Context – Writ of dismissal

In Jewish tradition, a man could divorce his wife but a woman could not divorce her husband – she could only seek a court ruling to force her husband to divorce her. The grounds for divorce under biblical law were *ervat devar* – meaning 'some fault or indecency'. One legal tradition held that *ervat devar* applied exclusively to adultery while another applied it to anything that was 'offensive' to the husband. To divorce his wife, a man simply had to renounce his wife and ask a court to authorise a writ, or bill, of dismissal – his wife had no chance to challenge his decision.

✍ Greg Sunter
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RCIA | NEXT WEEKS GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel – The 28th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Mark 10:17-30.

Jesus invites a young man to unload his 'baggage' and come join him. This is the only time in all the Gospels that someone who was called by Jesus went away sad. The meeting between the young man and Jesus showed such promise and yet ended in great misery.

The young man was dejected because he realised, he had a lot of material possessions (**baggage**) to which he was very attached and was not yet ready to give up. *At the time of Jesus, material prosperity was seen as a blessing. Yet in reality earthly possessions can prove a great obstacle to growth of life in Christ.*

Many of us today can relate to the young man because we too, often think in terms of the number and value of our possessions. For us the unsettling thing is that we can identify characteristics in ourselves which prompt the question, "**are we too going away sad or happy when we encounter Jesus in the many ways in which we meet him?**" The issue here is not so much having material possessions **but our attachment to them**. Jesus knows that we are capable of achieving greater holiness so presents us with a challenge; one we can be unwilling to accept: **go, sell, give, come, follow: *this does not apply only to money.*** The thing we are lacking may well be something else. It may be some virtue or being overly proud, selfish, or lustful and consequently be lacking in humility or self-sacrifice, integrity, or generosity of spirit.

Jesus' comments on wealth, don't condemn being wealthy in regard to material goods, **but rather the way wealth can distort how we accept the Kingdom of God.**

The readings invite us to reflect on the unique value in knowing and belonging to Jesus Christ. Jesus' invitation and challenge is clear. Each one of us is asked to **give priority to God in our lives**, and to dispense with all the things we love more than God: everything which prevents us from saying yes to the open invitation: **come follow me.**

OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

✠What does this invitation of Jesus to mean for me?

✠What are the attachments I am unwilling to let go?

✠If Jesus asked me to **go, sell, give, come, follow**.

what would be the most difficult to give up?

For more information about joining the Catholic Church:

Ina & Norman Heffernan

4732 1751

inanorm@optusnet.com.au

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED : Angelina Venaruzzo, Raymond John Kerr & all those who have died from COVID-19.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES : Enrique Esmayor, Jill Spillane, Francis Spillane, Gloria Joves, Tuding Corneja, Lolita de Vera, Cenrado Jojes and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

DECEASED : Tania Felice, John Nettare, 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 : Salvatore Murru, Fay Smith, June Wilson, Matthew Thompson, Christopher Ware, Natasha Sullivan, Majid Lilleh, Easter Kalotay, Lyn O'Hare, Chris Ropati, Daryl Young, Jose Catubigan, 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, Theresa Jordan, Jane McCann, Lauren, Cirillo (Loy) Kabilang, Erlinda Kabilang, and all who suffer from COVID-19.

THANKSGIVING: Happy 60th Birthday to Teresita Esmayor (Oct -1)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALICE O'HARE

100 and going strong!



Congratulations to Alice who celebrates her 100th year of youth on Monday 4th October 2021. This is a very special day and a wonderful milestone in her life and for our parish. Alice is a tremendous example to us all, with her humility and countless volunteering in these ways...

- Catechists
- Altar society
- Baking
- Transporting parishioners to Mass
- Piety stall
- Young at Heart

... over the years here at St Nicholas building our community of faith and inclusion through selfless service

Thank God for you Alice, and the blessing you are to our St Nicholas Community.

Prayers, Peace and Joy

- Parishioners and Priests.

JOIN OUR WEDNESDAY BIBLE TRIVIA

LAST WEEKS WINNER:

1st place: Florise Thatcher

Congratulations!



All parishioners are invited to participate in our weekly Bible Trivia. Parishioners who have not received an email invitation already please contact Fr Joe on joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au for zoom details.

This week we invite you to join our rosary at 7pm in honour of Our Blessed Mother on the eve of the feast of the Holy Rosary, followed by Bible Trivia at 7.30pm

When: Every Wednesday from 7.30pm—8.30pm

Next Trivia date: Wednesday 6th October

How: To be played using Zoom

Prizes: Each week's winners will

be published in the bulletin and will receive a small prize after Stay at Home orders ease. *We hope you can attend!*

TOPIC FOR THIS WED:
The trivia questions will be based on the **Gospel of John.**

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.

Year of St Joseph Prayer

✠ Hail guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage and defend us from very evil. Comfort us by interceding these prayers to your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

✠ Amen.

ONLINE GIVING

We are grateful for your stewardship during these difficult times

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SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish

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Consider a Thanksgiving Offering 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 by visiting parracatholic.org/thanksgiving-offertory or by clicking on the image on page 4 of this Bulletin.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legion of Mary Zoom—Feast of the Holy Rosary Please join in our rosary in honour of Our Blessed Mother on the eve of her special feast Wednesday 6th October at 7pm, please email edmund.bishara@bigpond.com to register.

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

Divine Mercy Zoom The Divine Mercy group invites all to join a public Divine Mercy Devotion with Fr Chaminda that will occur every Friday at 3-3.30pm. For more info please contact Helen on penrithrivercruises@outlook.com

Daylight savings will start at 2:00am on October 3. At that point, all digital clocks will jump forward an hour to 3:00am. Don't forget to wind all other clocks forward an hour, before bed.



PARISH ROSTER, MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Baptism Preparation will soon commence via Zoom. Please contact Rodney Howard on sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au for Baptism enquiries.
- All Staff, volunteers and Ministers on our Parish Roster are required to complete 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 of initiation are suspended until further notice.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Vinnies Support Centres are still available to those in need St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call the Support Centres in Blacktown on (02) 8861 9777, Harris Park on (02) 8861 9757 and Penrith on (02) 8861 9770. To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>

<https://parracatholic.org/#LATESTNEWSEVENTS>

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.
- Please call through any Mass intentions or email to manager@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



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

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FREE 7 DAY CHALLENGE! Join us as we team up with Christopher West - President of the Theology of the Body Institute, Jason Evert - Founder of Chastity Project, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers - One of the most dynamic evangelists in the Catholic Church today, and Sarah Swafford - Founder of Emotional Virtue Ministries, for a series of talks that will help you experience the love you always dreamed of! **Click on the image to find out more!**



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Friday 22nd - Thursday 28th October



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