



St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
5 SEPTEMBER 2021
HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

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 & BISHOPS FATHERS DAY APPEAL

Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak. When Jesus healed the man in the gospel story the crowd were admiring of what he had done. They even exclaimed, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' These words are a direct echo of the Isaiah text – they were recognising Jesus as fulfilling the prophecies of the promised Messiah.

However, the passage also demonstrates to us that Jesus was trying to show the people that he was not exactly the Messiah that many of them were anticipating. This healing story takes place in the region of The Decapolis – south-east of the Galilee region and populated mostly by Gentiles. By travelling in this area and working miraculous healings, Jesus is making the point that his mission is to all people, not just 'the Chosen People' of Israel. He commands the crowd who witnessed the healing to tell no one about it but, filled with the idea that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for, they broadcast the news. Jesus wanted their silence because he knew that they did not fully understand the sort of Messiah that he was. Only when they understood that this Messiah must suffer and die would he have allowed them to speak of his deeds.

Gospel Focus – Ephphatha

The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different under-

standing of Messiah.

Living the Gospel – Open to compassion

When Isaiah described the signs by which the Messiah would be recognised, he identified those people who were isolated from society by their physical afflictions. He portrayed a Messiah who released them from those afflictions and allowed them to re-enter society. That is what Jesus did time and time again. In the healing of the deaf and dumb man, Jesus called on all those around him to also be opened – that their hearts may be opened to compassion. Jesus calls to us through today's gospel to also be open to compassion and open to the needs of those around us.

✉ Greg Sunter © LiturgyHelp 2021

BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL

This Father's Day, please spare a thought for our humble priests who have cared for our faith community's spiritual nourishment and wellbeing for all their lives. With your generosity, the Clergy Support Foundation helps our priests with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement. Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482.

[Click on the image below to watch the video.](#)



Donate at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal



CLERGY SUPPORT
FOUNDATION

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

RCIA | NEXT WEEKS GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel – The 24th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Mark 8:27-35.

This week is a major turning point in the Gospel story.

"Who do people say I am?" "Who do YOU say I am?" Jesus asked these questions to bring to their attention his social vision is that of serving others. **Jesus' true identity is revealed: he is the Messiah-King**, but more importantly, Jesus is not the Messiah they were taught to expect. He is not the conquering 'hero' the expected. Jesus paints the picture of what being Messiah will mean for him - **and for them**. He will suffer terribly, will be rejected by their leaders, and executed as a criminal, and on the third day he will rise to life. Jesus says that he will accept suffering and death to bring life, and that anyone who wants to be a follower, must go through the same process – *i.e.*, **dying to self**. Many of us try to live our lives following a double standard. We want to be morally good people, but our values often fall into line with those of society. We often focus on material plenty, professional success, and great careers for our children. We are, in essence, locking in what we perceive to be our success and security. **Jesus tells us to let go**; to stop hanging on to things, *to be free; to give and not to take; to share and not to accumulate*. We need to appreciate the goodness of others, not see them as rivals and competitors. Faith which is not backed up by compassion and real caring is DEAD! **We must give of ourselves, share what we have, not just offload our surplus**. Jesus is our only real security, and if we let go and live our lives for others, everyone will be taken care of. It is not a matter of everyone for oneself, but each for the other, 'one for all and all for one'.

OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

In the gospel reading Jesus asked the apostles, "Who do you say that I am?"

✠ What would you answer if Jesus were to ask you this same question today?

✠ What message is Jesus's teaching about following him?

✠ How would you share this message in the world today?

For more information about joining the Catholic Church:

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

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED : Jamie Calero, Marie Foy, Theresa Taylor, Arminda Motley, Marko Cavka, Phyllis Micallef, Joseph Tabone, Baby Ryder Andrews, Alexander MacDonald, Gail Beevor & all those who have died from COVID-19.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES : Randall Francis Limhap, Jim Fullerton Sr, James Obrien, Raymond Stynes, John Xiberras, John McLintock. 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 : 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 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 Dimunno, Mairead Stynes, Mildred Fitzgerald, Theresa Jordan, Jane McCann, Lauren



PRAYER FOR FATHERS

St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the Holy Family of Nazareth with the work of your hands.

Kindly protect all the fathers who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them.

You too knew trial, labor and weariness. But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother.

Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done.

-St. John XXIII

-Catholics striving for Holiness-

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving We wish a very Happy Birthday to Raphael Caburian (Sept. 4) Deacon Willy Limjap (Sept 7) Nerissa Calub (Sept 1) and a Happy Ordination Anniversary to Fr Joe (Sept 8) God bless these special occasions of joy.

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 information please contact Helen on penrithrivercruises@outlook.com

Legion of Mary Zoom To join in 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 and leave your contact details on Ph: 02 9636 2900 Mobile: 0439 454 670 for over the phone counselling.

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

Our condolences **The funeral of Phyllis Micallef** will be held on the 7th of September at 10.30am, our prayers and condolences are for Phyllis' departed soul and for the loved ones who grieve her. **The funeral of Marie Foy** will be on Friday the 10th of September at 10.30am and will be live streamed on our Parish Facebook page for parishioners and loved ones to view. Our prayers and condolences are for Marie's departed soul and the loved ones who grieve her.

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 GIVING

We are grateful for your stewardship during these difficult times

FIRST COLLECTION goes to the Clergy

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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]

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.




DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

“
Catholics and their families have a right to clear and accurate information about vaccines. The bishops remind everyone that we have a duty of care to the most vulnerable.
”

Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

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 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 are suspended until further notice.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Sign the petition to welcome 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan

In a sign of unity, major Australian church denominations and Christian organisations have come together to urge the Prime Minister to provide a special intake of an additional 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan and support the ongoing wellbeing of all Afghan refugees and their families. For more information and to sign the petition go to www.unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta

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>

'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>



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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