



St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C
30TH JANUARY 2022



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 Ever Bernaldez E: AP@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
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



GOSPEL REFLECTION

This week's gospel completes the event in Nazareth that began last week with Jesus' declaration of mission. The initial response of the crowd is one of astonishment and approval. However, the people have largely missed the point of Jesus' teaching. When he declared that he had come to proclaim liberty to captives and to set the downtrodden free, Jesus probably didn't expect his audience to just say, 'Oh, that's nice!' The message he preached, and the message that flows throughout the Gospel of Luke, calls for a fundamental conversion of heart; a change to a life motivated by compassion for the lowly. When the people so obviously missed his point, Jesus virtually dismisses them by saying that 'no prophet is ever accepted in his own country'.

To make his point even further, Jesus then cites instances where two of the great prophets of Jewish tradition responded to the needs of pagans from Sidon and Syria rather than the needs of Israel. The two people helped are also very significant. Widows held a special place in Jewish tradition: God entrusted all widows to the care of the whole town. Whenever widows are named as being in need, it is a comment on the society as a whole neglecting its duty of care. Lepers were regarded as absolutely unclean and outcast by virtue of their condition (something that perhaps has never really changed). For Jesus to remind the people of these events is a great reprimand to them. He is, in effect, saying to them, 'if you can't accept my message I will take it to the pagans; the gentiles; and the socially unacceptable.' Is it any wonder that they tried to lynch him on the spot?

Scriptural context - Salvation for all

Luke is written for a predominantly non-Jewish (gentile) Christian community. Although it had been resolved that one did not have to become a Jew to become a Christian there was still a lingering doubt about pref-

erence being given to the Jews. The gospel writer goes to great lengths to reassure his audience community that the message of Jesus was for all people - gentile and Jew alike. This week's gospel is one of many passages that feature gentile people receiving God's acceptance and favour. It's a clear message that the salvation promised by Jesus is available to all who seek it.

Gospel Focus - They were astonished

Jesus preaches the briefest of homilies, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen,' yet he wins the approval of all and the people were astonished by his gracious words! The reaction appears a bit overdone. However, the people knew the significance of the first part of the text Jesus quoted, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me.' They recognised that this language referred to the Messiah. When Jesus said that the text was being fulfilled as they listened he was laying claim to this status. Of course they were impressed!

Have you thought? - A summary

The Nazareth event, described in last week's and this week's gospels, provides a 'snapshot' or a summary of the whole of Luke's gospel. In an apparently simple episode, the gospel writer has captured the elements of the remainder of the gospel and laid them out as a foretaste of all that is to come. Jesus is clearly positioned as the one who fulfils the Messianic expectation of scripture. His message of release and acceptance of the poor, afflicted and oppressed is put right up front and the hope of salvation is offered to all people - Jews as well as gentiles.



Greg Sunter

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Image Credit: Liturgia 2022

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday

Monday	9.30am	
Tuesday	6.45am	9.30am
Wednesday	9.30am	
	7.00pm	(followed by Our Lady of Perpetual help Novena)
Thursday	9.30am	
Friday	6.45am	12.10pm

Saturday

Mass	9.00am
Reconciliation	9.30am-10.30am & 5pm-5.45pm
Adoration	After Saturday Morning Mass
Filipino Mass	11.00am (1st Sat of the month)
Vigil Mass	6.00pm

Sunday

Mass	7.00am, 8.30am
	10.00am* (no Children's Liturgy)
	6.00pm

Mass marked with an Asterix * is live streamed through our Facebook @SNOMPenrith

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Normal Mass Schedule: Our normal Mass schedule for Monday—Friday resumes on Tuesday 1st February.

Parish Ministers Retreat Day (Save the date): All Parish Ministers (Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Ministers at the Altar, Readers, Choirs, AV Operators & Altar Servers) are asked to save the date for a Parish Retreat Day on Saturday March 26 at Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre at 230 Fairlight Road in Mulgoa. More details are to come.

Fr Joe's Holidays: Fr. Joe has arrived safely in India and after completing quarantine is able to visit with his mum and family. He extends his regards to the parish. Fr Joe will be back February 26th. Please keep him in your prayers. In his absence we welcome supply priests Fr Bong, Fr Dado & Fr Meng as well as our Assistant Priest Fr Ever.

Legion of Mary: Welcome back to the Legion of Mary for 2022. Our new meetings times will commence on Wednesday 3 February at 11.00am and each Wednesday thereafter in PMR1. All are welcome to join.

Volunteer Parish Ministers needed on Weekends: If you are at Mass at least 15 minutes before Mass starts, and you notice help is needed, please volunteer your Ministry by approaching the Priest or Acolyte/Minister at the Altar.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED : David Hildebrant, Maria Bugeja, Elaine Smith & all those who have died from COVID-19.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES : Carmela and Gerald Sultana, Loretta Xerri, Victoria Xerri, Brian Bourke, Alfonso Guballa, Joy Bourke, Conrad Marks, George Attard, P T Thomas, Gerald Barnes, Kuriakose, Leonard Galon, Robert Doyle and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

DECEASED : Tania Felice, John Nettare, Dennis Bryant, Margaret Mary Sullivan, Imegorio Waban, Godfrey Gomez, Enrique Joves Sr., Gloria Joves, Nicanor Joves Sr., Natividad Borja, Rosalina Borjo, Margaret Donnelly, Bibiana Bru, Isidora Escobido & all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

SICK : Patricia Formosa, David Wakeling and all who suffer from COVID-19.

Names submitted to the Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time.

NEXT WEEKS GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel — 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 5:1-11.

RCIA meetings recommended this past Monday, and we look forward to sharing with you our excitement in the final preparations to be received into the Catholic Church this coming Easter. We have a very busy time ahead and ask for your continuing prayerful support during our preparation.

The Gospel this week is certainly appropriate for RCIA candidates and team members, and indeed all of us, as it challenges us to 'leave the boat and the fishing', to make room for God in our lives every day. We may not be called to give up our livelihoods, but we are called to be disciples, and to leave our attachment to certain things behind. All we need is the courage to say **YES: then what we do will not be our own doing, but God's.** God comes to each one of us and calls us, not because we are "good enough," but because of who God is: **God is love, and we are loved unconditionally.**

We are each called by the Lord at baptism and confirmation to be his "Apostle". None of us can say we don't fit the 'job description' when we see Jesus using the apostles with their obvious weaknesses; those whom we might judge to be unlikely candidates. In addition to feeling loved by God, and personally worthy to be called, the other qualities we need, are the availability to do God's will and the readiness to follow the prompting of God. Having understood the essential message of Christ, we are charged with being faithful messengers; namely, **passing on his message to others through words, deeds, and action.** To be an effective 'apostle' we first and foremost must have a personal experience of Christ: **to be in 'relationship' with Him in all the avenues of our life. It means responding to His challenging us to love; to be compassionate, practise justice, live in peace, be able to forgive and resolve difficulties, to be caring, gentle and accepting.** It is to search for and find, and to respond to Him in all things by putting aside our pride and self-centeredness and to truly focus on the person of Jesus.

OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS:

The Greek word for "faith" is 'pistis'. The basic meaning of pistis is "trust". To have faith in Jesus is to put one's total trust in him. Jesus calls us **as we are**, to be his disciples. Do you have the courage necessary to follow God's invitation whenever, or wherever it may take you.?

✚ Have you ever said, "yes" to God knowing that what He asked was going to be difficult?

How did you respond?

What did you learn about yourself?

✚ In what ways have you been surprised by what God has accomplished in your life? How does that make you feel?

For more information about joining the Catholic Church: Ina & Norma-Heffernan 4732 1751 inanorm@optusnet.com.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Reconciliation

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will open on our [website](https://stnicholasofmyra.org.au/sacraments/#reconciliation), <https://stnicholasofmyra.org.au/sacraments/#reconciliation> on

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

and close on

Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 4.00pm

The website contains the requirements and commitments for parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Trivia / Movie afternoon and Reconciliation

To be eligible for First Reconciliation,

Children must be in Year 3 or above and must be baptised

*All enquiries to Rodney Howard at
St Nicholas Parish
Ph:4721 2509*

LITURGICAL FORMATION COURSE

Last chance to enrol! We invite all parishioners to consider serving the Church in Ministry, by attending the Liturgical Formation Course. There are application forms in the Church Foyer for you to take home or you can download one from <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

BLACKTOWN (Mondays 7.00pm) Bede Heather Centre (formerly known as the Institute for Mission) 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown 2148	SESSIONS	PENRITH (Thursdays 7.00pm) St Nicholas of Myra PMRI, Entry Via Higgins St, Penrith 2750
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 14th February	Compulsory Introductory Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 17th February
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 21st February & 28th February	Ministers of the Word	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 24th February & 3rd March
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 14th & 21st March	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 17th & 24th March
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 28th March	Communion to the Sick & Dying	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 31st March
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 2nd & 9th May	Ministers at the Altar	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 5th & 12th May

PARISH ROSTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All Acolytes & Ministers at the Altar DO NOT serve in any other Liturgical Ministry other than when there may be a shortage. We are trained in every other Ministry so that we can fill those roles in emergencies or shortages.
- If you are rostered for a Mass time that does not suit you, just send your request to change to the Parish Office so it can be passed onto Craig & Rose.
- The new Parish Roster for February is now available in the Sacristy.
- The new Music & AV Roster for February is now available in the Sacristy.

PARISH ROSTER

ROSTER 5TH/6TH FEBRUARY 2022

Please Note: If you are unable to attend Mass as rostered below, please find a replacement.

[6.00 P.M.] Acolyte/MATA : J Buttigieg, R Esteban
Altar Servers: L & A Perera
Reader: I Bentham **Comm. Rep :** N Joseph
Eucharist Ministers : A Calub, N Calub
Music : AMDG Youth **AV :** Antonio

[7.00 A.M.] Acolyte/MATA A Ruzgas, J French
Reader: E Marshall **Comm. Rep:** Y Baccan
Eucharist Ministers: R Bru, L Davie
Music : CD **AV:** Volunteer Needed

[8.30 A.M.] Acolyte/MATA J Jordan, G Isaaks
Altar Servers: G Borg
Reader : M Prenderville **Comm. Rep:** E Isaaks
Eucharist Ministers : P Wheller, B Brainwood
Music: J Mizzi **AV:** U Gomez

[10.00 A.M.] Acolyte/MATA J Tabone, M Cobden
Altar Servers: S Dias
Reader : S Falleiro **Comm. Rep:** L Alimangohan
Eucharist Ministers : A Kosman, M Knox
Music: CD **AV:** M Johnson

[6.00 P.M.] Acolyte/MATA S Aish, C Clark
Altar Servers: A Aish
Reader: C D'Mello **Comm. Rep :** K Smith
Eucharist Ministers : D Streher, K Wrightson
Music : BNP Youth **AV :** Donnie

PLANNED GIVING

We are grateful for your stewardship during these difficult times

FIRST COLLECTION *goes to the Clergy*

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SECOND COLLECTION *goes to the support of the Parish*

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Acct Name Penrith St Nicholas Catholic Church
Reference [ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME]

Planned Giving Envelopes are available in the Foyer of the Church for pick up.

COVID-19 SAFETY



- Our Church doors are open for all regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks are mandatory
- Please check in with the QR Code and show proof of check in to the door volunteer.
- Please do not attend Mass if you have any signs of cold or flu symptoms. Our 10am Mass is live streamed on our Facebook page. Mass for You at Home airs on Channel 10 at 6am each Sunday, and also on Aurora (Foxtel Channel 173) at 10am. It can also be accessed on this [website](#) from 7am on Sunday.
- There will be no physical exchange of peace and singing by the congregation is discouraged.
- We are able to accommodate approximately 300 parishioners in the Church. From Mon 27 Dec please observe 1 person per 2sqm.
- We are listed as a COVID Safe business and an updated COVID-19 Safety plan can be found at the entrance of the doors.
- Please occupy the middle of the pew first, to avoid contact with others. Those seated on the ends of the pew please exit first to avoid contact with others.
- Members of a Choir (maximum of 10) must be double vaccinated. They must send proof of vaccination to their Choir Leader and also have it on their person (digital or hard copy), ready for inspection at Mass, if asked.
- Please process up the aisle for communion whilst maintaining a distance from the person in front of you. There are markings on the floor to assist you with social distancing.

St Nicholas of Myra Primary School Enrolments
for Kindy 2022 and 2023.

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