



# St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR C  
13TH FEBRUARY 2022



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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](mailto:joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr Ever Bernaldez E: [AP@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:AP@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
**Office Manager:** Jacinta Ortiz E: [enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
**Admin Assistant:** Mary Goh E: [reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
**Sacramental Coordinator:** Rodney Howard  
E: [sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
**Catechists:** Fred Keuneman E: [catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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

We are perhaps more familiar with the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew in which the kingdom of heaven is promised to those who are 'blessed' because of their afflictions. Rather than the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Luke presents the same event and teaching as the sermon on the plain as it occurs on 'a piece of level ground'. This version may appear a little more confronting than the Matthew version. Rather than the afflicted being 'blessed', they are to be 'happy'. It seems odd that anybody should be happy to be poor, hungry, mourning or reviled and we would certainly regard these as states of sadness and difficulty; not times for rejoicing at our good fortune! However, this gospel in particular frequently reminds us that God does not think, feel and behave as we might expect. God's actions are frequently contrary to the expectations of society. The Gospel of Luke makes it plain that the reign of God will upend the structures of society. The lowly will be raised and the mighty will be brought low. It is in this context that the poor, the hungry and the outcast are regarded as happy. Their happiness comes from the reassurance that although they are rejected and dismissed by society, they are indeed the most favoured of God. Whatever the world dishes up to such as these, they can rejoice in the knowledge that in the reign of God their fortunes will be reversed and they will be favoured. However, just as the fortunes of the poor and afflicted will be reversed for the better, those who are rich, well fed, happy and well regarded will also have their fortunes reversed. Alas to them! Their comfort and joy leaves no room for the generosity of God!

### Scriptural context – Message for all

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, the author is keen to demonstrate that the message of Jesus is for all people – not just the Jews, but for the Gentiles and Pagans as well. We can see this message revealed in the gathering of people who listened to Je-

sus' sermon on the plain. We're told there were people from all parts of Judea (all Jews) as well as people from the pagan lands of Tyre and Sidon. The first audiences of this gospel would immediately have recognised the significance of people from Tyre and Sidon standing alongside Jews from Judea.

### Have you thought? – Gospel of prosperity

The sermon on the plain challenges our ideas about happiness and success – particularly those of us who live in a relatively prosperous society. Those who are rich and well regarded are actually condemned by Jesus. This also flies in the face of the so-called Gospel of Prosperity that has gained some prominence amongst Pentecostal churches in the last 20-30 years. This teaching holds that God blesses the faithful with wealth and influence. It doesn't take a lot to see how this teaching is out of step with the gospel blessing of the poor and cursing of the rich.

### Gospel Focus – Treated as the prophets

As part of his sermon, Jesus announces, 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man... This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.' The prophets of the Old Testament were the chosen spokesmen of God. Their message was often unpopular and they were often threatened and berated for challenging the social order. To be treated in this way is in fact something of an affirmation that one's words and actions are reflecting the message of God. The Word of God is confronting and challenging!

✉ Greg Sunter

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## 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

**Retreat for Acolytes, Ministers at the Altar and Eucharistic Ministers:** There is a retreat day organised for March 26th at Schoenstatt in Mulgoa starting at 9.30am and ending with Mass at 3pm. Our Parish Priests want all ministers to attend the day. It will cost \$20 each and the Parish will pay another \$20 for you. There will be a hot sit down lunch and we will have two guest speakers. You must register on the sheet in the foyer so we can have an idea of the number of people who intend to come. ✉ Craig Walsh & John Sweeney.

**Legion of Mary:** Our new meetings times are at 11.00am each Wednesday in PMR1. All are welcome to join.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet has resumed:** Every 2nd & 4th Friday of the month after the 12.15pm Mass.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

**RECENTLY DECEASED :** Maria Bugeja, Molly Hurley, Gertrudes Abingan, Delia Farrar, Joyce Magro & all those who have died from COVID-19.

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES :** Carmela and Gerald Sultana, Tess, George Attard, Fr Leonard Da Costa, Nuelma Da Costa, Inacio Moniz, Roger Azores, Alfred Da Costa, Judith Field and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**DECEASED :** Tania Felice, John Nettare, Dennis Bryant, Margaret Mary Sullivan, Margaret Donnelly, Bibiana Bru, Ashley, Perfecto Felice, Nueles Daton, & all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**SICK :** Patricia Formosa, David Wakeling, Raymond Gale, Mel McSpadden and all who suffer from COVID-19.

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

### HAPPY MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY

Sandra & David Dawson (25 years)  
John & Carmen Vella (80 years)



## RCIA: NEXT WEEKS GOSPEL REFLECTION

**The Gospel** – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 6:27-38

As children we learned the 'Golden Rule': Treat others as you would like them to treat you. But as we grow older, we realise that the way things are in our world follow a very different principle. Do to others before they can do to you! We are told: Don't give way! Stick to your guns! Hit them where it hurts! Many people accept that the only way to get ahead is to get there first; and the only way to survive is to take a defensive stance. When someone stronger and more dominant hurts us, our first reaction is not to 'offer the other cheek', but to retaliate by putting that person down: *to cause hurt and offend them by what we say, or by our attitude toward them.* Where there was one act of aggression or hostility, now there are two - where does it end? Many people aspire to power, and believe that comes about by having money, being influential or holding a prominent position.

Today's readings, however, speak about a very different kind of power - the power of love. The difference being that this kind of power has a positive effect on both the giver and the receiver. In reality, it requires a great deal of inner strength and self-discipline not to hit back when we feel confronted or harassed. It also requires a tremendous awareness of the dignity and rights of other people, regardless of the way they behave. When we react negatively, we lower ourselves to the same level as our "opponent". While we may be tempted to live according to society's version of the rule, we are called to live the Gospel message.

So, for a great many people, what Jesus is saying in this teaching, will be a radical shift in thinking about they should react and respond in certain situations.

### OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS:

*We are called to be merciful, not vengeful. This takes real courage, and we are called to it.*

- ✚ What is the most challenging aspect of today's gospel for you?
- ✚ What do the themes in this Gospel have to do with your life right now?
- ✚ Have you ever been called to love when to 'love' was very difficult or challenging?
- ✚ How does today's Gospel challenge us in the face of the bigotry, hatred, racism, and abhorrent treatment of others in our society?

### For more information about joining the Catholic Church:

Ina & Norman Heffernan

4732 1751

inanorm@optusnet.com.au

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

### Reconciliation

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

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

and close on

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

### BE PART OF THE TEAM!

Would you like to volunteer as part of the Sacramental Team? We are looking for parishioners who are passionate about the Sacraments of Initiation and who are great at facilitating groups. You would require a WWCC and ideally complete a Safeguarding course online. If this sounds like you please contact Rodney now.



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

## Building Safe Parishes Together in 2022

### *An Update from the Office for Safeguarding* **An Invitation to Face – To – Face Training...**

We are excited to accept St Nicholas of Myra's invitation to present the Mandatory Safeguarding Training onsite in the Parish Hall. The dates for the 2022 face-to-face sessions are:

- Module 1 – Introduction to Safeguarding: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm (60 min)
- Module 2 – Understanding Child Abuse and Reportable Conduct: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.00pm (90 min)
- Module 3 – Safeguarding Adults at Risk: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm (90 min)

Volunteers across the Diocese are asked to participate in this training to ensure our parishes are inclusive and safe for children and adults at risk. We are very grateful for the commitment already demonstrated within the Parish by those who have completed the training via zoom and online during 2021.

Our participation is an expression of our personal commitment to living the values of the Gospel in this modern world. It is also an opportunity to show how we can combine our gifts and talents to ensure our parish is a faith-filled and welcoming community for all people.

**Please contact the Parish Office if you have not already to register for the Face-to-Face Training sessions.** Of course, you are most welcome to complete the training independently on our online training platform if you wish. You can start these modules at any time and complete them at your own pace.

If you do have any questions about the Safeguarding Training or you would like to be registered for the online modules please email me directly at [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org).

I am looking forward to working with you all in ensuring that, together, we are building a safe parish for all our faith community.

Maria Kervin

## PARISH ROSTER

### ROSTER 19/20TH FEBRUARY 2022

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

**[6.00 P.M.] Acolyte/MATA :** C Limjap, J Relunia

**Altar Servers:** L & A Perera

**Reader:** J Doman **Comm. Rep :** N Joseph

**Eucharist Ministers :** I Bentham, F Keuneman

**Music :** Volunteer needed **AV :** T & M Perera

**[7.00 A.M.] Acolyte/MATA** R Sajonia, D Wiggins

**Reader:** M Scocluna **Comm. Rep:** C Bonus

**Eucharist Ministers:** R Bru, L Davie

**Music :** **AV:** Volunteer needed

**[8.30 A.M.] Acolyte/MATA** M Cobden, C Walsh

**Altar Servers:** M Tickner

**Reader :** R Walsh **Comm. Rep:** S Von Bock

**Eucharist Ministers :** M Nyss, K Pemberton

**Music:** J Mizzi **AV:** Tuckers

**[10.00 A.M.] Acolyte/MATA** J Jordan, G Isaaks

**Altar Servers:** A Joseph

**Reader :** M Varua **Comm. Rep:** E Sicam

**Eucharist Ministers :** A Alimangohan, P Samuelu

**Music:** BNP Chapter **AV:** U Gomez

**[6.00 P.M.] Acolyte/MATA** L Moniz, C Nepomuceno

**Altar Servers:** E Moniz

**Reader:** D Whalen **Comm. Rep :** S Paterson

**Eucharist Ministers :** C D'Mello, D Streher

**Music :** A Catt **AV :** Atonio

## 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]

**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.**
- **Parishioners are advised that the Holy Eucharist can only be distributed in the hand.**
- **Eucharistic Ministers may not give formal blessings for those who cannot take communion, please go to a priest or deacon for a blessing during communion.**



## 2023/2024 St Nic's Primary Kindergarten Enrolments & Catholic Schools Week Twilight Tours

We would like to warmly invite you to our Catholic Schools Week Twilight Group Tours on Monday 7 March 2022 at 4:00 - 4:30 and the next time is a repeated session at 6:00 - 6:30 pm.

COVID practices will be put in place and we recommend the wearing of masks during this tour. This will allow the Principal and Assistant Principal to be protected and speak without a mask making it easier for you to hear our tour. However, depending on the numbers of mask wearers we may still opt to wear one as we also have families to keep safe and protect. Each person will be required to sign in and we are limited to a size of 30 people. You will be required to register via a QR code and show proof of vaccination. If you are unwell or have any symptoms we ask you to keep everyone safe by refraining from attending.

We accept enrolment applications at any time. However it is after our Twilight Tours, when we begin making appointments for the 2023 Kindergarten Enrolment Interviews. The School Enrolment Officer will contact you to make an interview time with one or both parents and the enrolling child attends. COVID check ins and practices are in place. Enrolment forms can be found [online](#) or collected from the school office. We also have left some A5 pamphlets in the Church's Foyer which have a QR code on the back for further information. I hope to see you there!

Kind regards Anita Knezevic (School Principal)

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