



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

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TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

Sunday, 25 August 2024

CHOICES - TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?



We learn that the experience of the disciples who decamped from Jesus is the experience of many believers today. Every day, a lot of people keep losing faith and growing more and more ungodly because most probably they have come to discover that their initial understanding of Christianity and Christian faith is different from what they are experiencing at present. They have come to discover that the true Christian message does not fit into their logic and every effort to bend it to suit their desires seemed abortive. This is exactly because they failed to understand that the only logic of the gospel is to adapt ourselves to the teachings of Christ and not to adapt the teachings of Christ to suit our lifestyle. The “To whom shall we go” of Peter simply reminds us of our call to make a fundamental choice for Christ. He is not an option among many options. He is rather the end of every single choice we make. When He becomes the end of our choices then our choices will always shape our Christian life. Peter’s “Lord to whom shall we go...” helps us to understand that the fundamental choice of Christ is a total giving of oneself to him.

Suppose we were to reject the life of faith today as being too demanding. Maybe the belief is the Church’s teachings aren’t contemporary enough. The leadership seems flawed. The liturgy needs work. The community is, for all its profession of faith, just a bunch of sinners. If we bundled all of our grievances against the Church and got ready to walk, just where would we be going?

Yes, we are all human and not perfect. However, the decision to be in communion with Jesus, to grow closer in a relationship with Him will take us to a different level. This becomes the all important aspect of our lives. We will not give up on Jesus no matter who or what fails us.

From Peter’s faith and that of those who remained with Jesus, we are challenged today to say YES to Christ.



However, we must be conscious that the way of the world does not blend with our choice of Christ. Thus, our discipleship will place us in a position of contradiction and friction with the world. It is a decision that will surely put us into troubles and will sometimes pin us down especially when things are not going well with us. When it strikes this way, let us know that the decision we took to follow him was made not in view of this passing life and its empty promises, but for eternal life where he alone leads us to. When we take cognizance of this, then we will remain faithful to him come what may. Our faith will always speak to our favour with such a tender voice; “No matter what happens do not leave Him because He has the words of eternal life”. Jesus himself who knows how hard this teaching is and still expects our loyalty to it will always supply us with the grace we need to live it.

So too in our relationships with our spouses our choices to give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Loving each other and forgiving each other as Christ does, are these choices easy to make when the road gets rough.

Natural things like communication, honesty, date nights as well as spiritual things like couple prayer, Mass, adoration for the Blessed Sacrament as a couple, interceding for one’s spouse will release this grace, God’s divine life, that is there to help live the promises made as bride and groom on their wedding day. It is not easy, but it is worth the choice to mutually love each other and to permit the living God in. It is a great gift that you give to each other, to your children, to God and to the world.

Our choices play a very important part of the quality of life we live. Where does God fit in? Is He as essential as the air we breathe or just a last option in times of trouble?

As St Augustine rightly says “Our hearts are restless unless they rest in you.

God’s blessings

Excerpts duly acknowledged.



This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon: *Cont. on Page 3*

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all day long.

First reading: *Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18*

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33:2-3, 16-23

R: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. **R**

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R**

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. **R**

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R**

Second reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ.
Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the

Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation : *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life. *Alleluia!*

Gospel: John 6:60-69

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

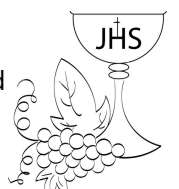
'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Communion Antiphon:

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise him up on the last day.



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Kindly keep praying for the completion of the intended project with God's grace and guidance.



Confirmation for Children

Confirmation is on **Friday 8th November 2024**, for children Year 6 and above.
Enrolment forms are at the main entrance to the Church.

Enrolment Days are:

Saturday 21st September – Vigil Mass
Sunday 22nd September – 10:00am Mass

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 27 - St Monica
Wednesday 28- St Augustine bishop, doctor
Thursday 29 -The Passion of St John the Baptist martyr

St Monica is the patron Saint of homemakers, married women, mothers, abuse victims, alcoholics, and widows, invoked against difficult marriages and difficult children.

St. Monica and her son, **St. Augustine**, have an inspiring story of faith and perseverance. Monica, a devoted Christian, spent years praying for Augustine, who was initially quite resistant to the Church. He even criticized Christian teachings and explored various philosophies. Despite this, Monica never gave up hope. Her persistent prayers and unwavering faith eventually helped lead Augustine to a powerful conversion. He went on to become one of the Church's most influential thinkers and a beloved saint. Their story is a beautiful reminder of the impact of steadfast faith and prayer.

TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2023/2024

Don't Forget!

Tax Receipts for the financial year 2023/2024 are available for collection (on the tables) at the back of the Church. We will be posting the envelopes that are remaining next week.

Please be aware that the Envelopes and weekly church donations are not tax deductible.

Donations to Catholic Foundation / DWF - Diocesan Works Fund **are tax deductible.**

If you have any concerns or find any discrepancies please contact the Parish Office.

Let us pray for ...

Sick

Aileen Pelias,
Tom Nayler, Louela Davis,
Judy, Catherine, Elizabeth, Monika,
Maree Buttenshaw, Robert Power

Recently Deceased

Solomon Abraham
Estelito Fenis

Anniversaries

Umberto Bruzzese

PARISH ROSTERS

31 Aug/1 September 2024

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Eric Flores	Sue & Len Farrugia		Susan Boulos Kathy Saad	David & Sue Boulos Frank Camilleri	Marthe Nalletamby Jing Tapiador	Pam McKay Annabel Manlutac Gail Dick
Sun 8.00am	Pamela McKay	Glenys Oxlee Helen Wong		Lina Flores Barbara Rosario			
Sun 10.00am	Juvy Austria	Julia Tapiador Linda Tsang		Evelyn Artiaga Sheila Tapiador			

07/08 September 2024

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Sue Farrar	Anne-Marie Hewkins		Kathy Saad Susan Boulos	David & Sue Boulos Dominic & Lynnette Rodrigues	Anton & Anne Fernando	Lily Hon O.Ham Maria Greenfield
Sun 8.00am	Christopher Younis	Ron Della Vedova Glenys Oxlee		Barbara Rosario Lina Flores			
Sun 10.00am	Eddie Appleby	Joseph Andrews Cynthia Oscar		Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade			

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal supporting our Retired Priests

This **Father's Day**, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal. Thank you.



Congratulations to

Amelie Marriott whose **Baptism** is this Sunday. We welcome her to our Parish family.

PARISH BULLETINS

If you would like a copy of any of our previous bulletins please feel free to contact Cheryl at the Parish Office. Also, our bulletins are uploaded weekly on Friday to our Parish website.

Communion to the Sick and House bound

Do you know of someone who is unable to come for Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion?

Our Ministers of Holy Communion are happy to visit fortnightly on a regular basis or a one off to provide this Sacrament.

Please contact Cheryl the Parish Secretary for more details.



POSITION VACANT - PARISH SECRETARY

Our Parish has a position vacant for a Parish Secretary.

We are looking for a trustworthy, reliable and faith driven individual who can put the needs of others first.

The normal working hours are from Tuesday to Friday - 21 hours, however the hours may vary sometimes, based on the emerging needs.

Knowledge of Microsoft Office, Canva and experience in a similar field would be desirable.

Any Catholic/Christian who is committed to faith can apply for this position.

The applications can be sent to ysvince85@gmail.com

The job description is available upon request. More details will be discussed in the interview.

Applications to be submitted by close of business

6th September 2024.

Mount Schoenstatt Shrine Time Holy Hour for Youth and Young Adults

The Mount Schoenstatt community invite young and young adults for Holy Hour every fourth Sunday of the month from **7pm to 8pm** at the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa, followed by a social gathering afterwards. There will be opportunities for praise and worship, prayer, reflection, confession and benediction. For more information, please contact Sr M Rita on **0493 026 628** or

srrita@schoenstatt.org.au



WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue - Wed - Thu - Fri - Sat 9:15 am

Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Every Wednesday 7:00pm

ROSARY at 3:00pm on the last Saturday of every month at Ermington Shopping Centre (near the Post Office).

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday (Vigil) 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8:30 am - 9:00 am

ADORATION (EXPOSITION)

Saturday 8:30 am

BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month 11:30 am

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Vincent Savarimuthu

Parish Priest

Cheryl Percan

Parish Secretary
Tue / Wed / Fri
10am to 3pm

Deacon Leon

Finance Secretary
Thur
10am to 2pm

Sacramental Coordinator

Childrens Liturgy Coordinator

Lectors Coordinator

Senior Server Coordinator

Finance Chairman

St Vincent De Paul President

Rydalmen Coordinator

Diane O'Shea

Allison Markarian

Glenys Oxlee

Anton Massillamany

Ron Della Vedova

Ron Della Vedova

Mark Bannister

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Mary's Primary School

1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere NSW 2116

Ph: (02) 8844 5700

Email: StMarysRydal@parra.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Richard Blissenden

St. Patrick's Marist College

171 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117

Ph: (02) 8841 7900

Email: stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Paul Ryan