

15 January, 2nd Sunday, Year A

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Aria Park

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St Therese Barellan 6977 2104

In our Prayers: Jack Wood, Alicia Bonny, Frances Vince, Jim Bonny, Barry Carroll, Neville Caldwell, Ray Fairman, Kashaya Kuemmel,

For our Deceased: Will Mills, Family, friends, parishioners and community members, and those who have died tragically in recent times.

Gerard Gaynor, Margaret Quade, Joan Howe, Frank Gaynor, (*anniversaries*)

January 21-22

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Ariah Park 6.00 p.m. Mass

Mass Temora 10.00 a.m.

Liturgy Ardlethan 9.00 a.m. Barellan 10.00 a.m.
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Reflection

'The Lamb of God.' Jesus is the Servant of God who brings salvation to the ends of the earth. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He reveals the compassion of God who stoops down to hear the cries of those in distress.

Year A

Once every three years – in Year A – the story of Jesus' baptism is told twice. Matthew's version used on the feast itself (*last Monday*) is followed today by John's. He describes the episode indirectly via the testimony of John the Baptist. While not stating explicitly that Jesus was baptised, the context and the reference to heavenly affirmation make it unmistakable. Remembering Jesus' baptism thus serves a triple purpose. It rounds out the Christmas season, introduces Ordinary Time's account of Jesus' public ministry, and gives us an early hint of its culmination in his suffering and death as God's servant and Chosen One. It's an event that warrants and rewards timely reflection.

St Matthew's Gospel

We will spend most of the Sundays of the coming year in the company of Saint Matthew. His Gospel like the others has its own characteristics. He is writing for a Jewish audience, and so is always at pains to stress one thing: that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. He does this by reference to Jesus' teaching and miracles, and very often by quoting the prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament to show that Jesus was their fulfilment.

Anniversary

Last Tuesday, **10 January**, Fr Sijo celebrated the anniversary of his Ordination. Our prayer for you; *Fr Sijo may you experience ever more deeply the love and fidelity of our God as you celebrate your anniversary.*

Thank you for your ministry with us.

Birthday of Mary MacKillop

"We celebrate the birth of Australia's first canonised saint and co-founder of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Mary MacKillop, today, 15 January (born, 1842).

Mary MacKillop's whole life, almost from the time of her conception to her death, was overshadowed by the Cross. Father Geoghegan, priest at St. Francis' Catholic Church, Melbourne, gave her mother Flora a relic of the Cross said to have been found by Helen, mother of the Emperor Constantine, to wear until her child was born. She would have explained to her daughter the significance of the Cross she had worn day by day during her pregnancy.

Mary MacKillop's baptismal name was Maria Helen, given to her on 28 January 1842. She was named after her paternal grandmother, Helen MacKillop. The name Helen would have pleased Flora who would have had in mind Helen of the Cross. Even in her name the Cross was implicated. The name she took for herself when she entered religious life was Mary of the Cross."

Sr Margaret Paton rsj <https://www.sosj.org.au/mmk-cross-from-beginning-23/>

Baptism

Last Monday the church celebrated the feast of the Baptism of Jesus. On this feast it is an ideal opportunity for us to renew our own Baptismal promises as we reflect on our call to be members of the Body of Christ—to be baptised into Christ.

- ◆ *What are we renewing?*
- ◆ *Who is at the heart of our Baptism?*
- ◆ *How can we be true to our Baptismal calling?*
- ◆ *To what is God inviting me?*



Prayer

As we move into 2023, allow Jesus to speak to you:

"If you look for me ..

I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of me amid the activities;

You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment from your list of things to do

And listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came,

And you'll find me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name."

Adapted from: <https://truthbook.com/stories/christmas/if-you-look-for-me-at-christmas>

Roster January 22

Leader: Linda

Reader: Andrina

Minister: John