

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



Issue 11
31st January 2021
Year B

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest

Fr Mannes Tellis OP

(To contact Please Text)
0414 396 532

Assistant Priest

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

Dominican in residence
Br Francis McKinnon OP

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Phillip Avenue &
Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address

PO Box 900, Dickson
Ph. 6248 5925

Office Hours -
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9am to 12.30pm

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Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass
Tuesday & Thursday
6:45am

Wednesday & Friday
5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am
Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,
5:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm-12.30pm
and 4pm-4.30pm

Adoration - Holy Hour

Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

Pray the Rosary

First Saturday each month 3.30pm

If you are in Urgent need of a Priest
out of office hours call - 6248 8253

JESUS
TRUE
LIGHT
of Hope

If you are feeling unwell please DO NOT come to church.
Please scan the QR Code & record your name, alternatively please write your name and contact number on the register provided.
PLEASE sanitise your hands on entering the foyer or parish centre.
Please DO NOT return your bulletin to the basket, if you are not taking it home put it in the bin.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm: 94:1-2. 6-9

If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are the meek,
for they shall possess the land.

[Labora - Brisbane Liturgy](#)

QR CODE - CHURCH CAPACITY

Please make sure you arrive before the start of Mass to register either by scanning our QR CODE with your mobile phone AND leaving your name on the register or writing your name and telephone number on the register.

Our capacity has increased but we are still required to record numbers.

REFLECTION

Last week in his inauguration speech US President Joe Biden spoke sincerely about unity, asking people in a country riven by division to look past what divides them and rather to look at what unites them. He said that while he understood the fears of many as they looked to an unsure future the answer was not to turn inward – 'to retreat into competing factions. Distrusting those who don't look like you, or worship the way you do . . . '.

Citing St Augustine, President Biden said 'a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love'. Last Tuesday we marked Australia Day. Rightly it is becoming a day where we question our founding stories and our commitment to each other, but it is also a day where we can look to the common object of our love.

THE POWER OF GOD

Fourth Sunday of the Year
Fr Peter Hunter OP helps us to understand
the nature of God's power.

It's hard to avoid having a somewhat juvenile idea of God. We very easily think of God as the top person in the universe, someone like us, only more powerful and spiritual and so on. If we think about God like that and ask, "Why does God have authority? Why does Jesus have authority over unclean spirits?" we might answer, "Because he's more powerful than they are." That makes the relationship between Jesus and the unclean spirits like a contest. Both possess power, but Jesus has more, so he wins.

But we don't have to think very hard to see that that view of God is highly problematic. Why should we worship the top person in the universe, just because he's more powerful than us? Some women theologians have asked why omnipotence, God's being all-powerful, got to be thought to be a good thing in the first place. Isn't it a very male thing to worship power? Doesn't God's being all-powerful just make him the biggest bully on the block?

All of this, it seems to me, is a deep mistake. If we have this kind of juvenile view of God, and juvenile view of power, the idea of an all-powerful God will come to seem oppressive and unattractive. It makes God into the ultimate despot. But God's power is not best seen as the kind of power that a despotic ruler has, or the kind that a very wealthy person has. Perhaps we come closer to the right meaning of the word 'power' when we look at the way we use it to talk about things of great beauty. "Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is a work of great power." "This statue of David by Michelangelo has great power." Works of art are said to have power because they move us deeply. They stir something within us and make us reach out to a broader and richer life.

God's power is most visibly displayed in his bringing us to life. I mean that first of all in the way he brings us to life by Creation, but even more beautifully in his calling us to that specially-rich kind of life that we call the life of grace, our own sharing in God's own life. God's giving us life is not like our making something, as when I bake a cake. God calls us forth from nothingness, attracting us into life by the power of his great goodness, calling us ultimately to life with him. Those things which move us display something, a tiny share, in the infinite attractiveness, the beauty and goodness of God, God's power to move us, not as the universe's greatest bully, but as the ultimate desire of every person and the goal, indeed, of every creature.

Do the demons just get Jesus wrong, then, when they ask whether he has come to destroy them? We might end up thinking that they have this false view of power as a sort of contest. They recognise that they have met their match, and so they are afraid.

Or the people of Israel in our first reading: do they simply misunderstand God, when in terror they each say, "Let me not hear the voice of the LORD my God ... lest I die"? Surely if the LORD's voice is a voice which calls them to life, they have nothing to fear?

There is, certainly, something wrong in their reaction. God's response to their plea is not to say that they will not hear his voice, but to promise them a prophet, a new and greater Moses, to whom they will listen. Their desire for life will be answered by a new call to a new life, the call that God will make in Jesus.

THE POWER OF GOD

Cont...But it's important to see that Jesus does come to destroy. He does not come to destroy people, or lives. He does not even come to destroy demons *per se*. He comes to destroy all that holds us back from life. There is a healthy fear of the LORD which comes from a recognition that answering God's call to life will involve the destruction of some things we hold dear, some things we have put in the place of God, and which hold us back from life.

These things are destroyed, not because God is a despot, smashing his rivals to dust, but because ultimately, nothing can stand in the way of the Love of God, calling us back to life, calling us to life with God himself, if that is what we desire.

<http://english.op.org/torch>

NOTHING IN RETURN

'We can sometimes fail to recognise love because it is all too easy to limit our understanding of love to what is comforting, mild, gentle and warm. But this is a narrow understanding of love, an understanding of love that has not grown into adulthood.

'Faced with the man possessed by an evil spirit, Jesus did what he had to do. Unfortunately, perhaps, that involved entering into conflict. Similarly, if we look at the lives of some of the saints known for their works of charity, we see that they were often men and women prepared to enter into the fray in defence of the poor and suffering. In this too there was no seeking after acclaim or asking for anything in return. 'When we have a narrow understanding of love, we can fall into the trap of thinking of Jesus as loving on some occasions, but tough and forceful, and hence less than truly loving, on other occasions. In the same way, we can overlook the presence of the most profound love in people who do not pander to sentiment, but who care only about what is good and true. Like all realities of great depth, coming to understand love requires time and patience.'

Excerpt from a commentary by Fr John O'Connor OP

THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

"Mark, the shortest of the Gospels, contains the most vivid and human portrayal of Jesus. He expresses deep emotions (which Matthew and Luke often omit): compassion, strong displeasure, surprise at disbelief, deep sighs, indignation and ignorance of when history will end. Jesus is a powerful and mysterious presence whose actions constantly elicit wonder and surprise and evoke questions such as "Who is this?" (4:41).

'The narrative style harmonizes with the picture of Jesus—rapid scene changes with Jesus on the move, surrounded by crowds, announcing and enacting God's reign, narrated in short, staccato sentences with constant use of the connective, "immediately."

Excerpt from a homily by Fr John Donahue

WORDS

Are our words too tame, limp, cautious and safe? What about our actions? Are they too timid as well?

A common phrase currently going the rounds amongst the more macho in our society tells people to "Man up". (It might just be a man thing!)

It's not the case that we need to "Man up", we just need to be humble. To be true to ourselves. To serve the needs of others. To be authentic to the core of our lives that declares that we are made in the image of God, we are his children.

Do our words reflect the glory of God?

SECOND READING COMMENTARY

Some may feel uncomfortable with today's passage from Paul's letter to the Corinthians. He plainly argues that marriage is a distraction from devotion to the Lord. Husbands and wives must put energy into pleasing each other rather than giving 'undivided attention to the Lord'. The unmarried, on the other hand, only have to 'worry about...being holy in body and spirit'.

Such teaching goes against the Church's contemporary understanding of marriage as the primary matrix for us to live out our discipleship of Jesus. Paul's advice must be interpreted in the light of his conviction that the end times were at hand. Life as he knew it was about to be swept up into the final consummation of all things, and mundane realities such as marriage would be transformed. We understand now that this remains a work in progress. [Break Open the Word](#)

LENTEN PROGRAM

Archbishop Christopher would like to invite all to join the unique Archdiocesan Lenten Renewal experience called "Walk in the Spirit".

To participate with a Parish Lenten Group the group meets six Thursdays during Lent. Starting on Thursday 18th February at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

The sessions will be live streamed and participants will be provided with a series of formation materials to support their Lenten journey.

If you wish to follow the program at home register and find out more at <http://walkinthepirit.org.au/>

If you are unable to join this program you can purchase booklets for the Wollongong program "Comfort" from the Parish Office for \$8.00 per book.

PARISH

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION - Parish School of Religion will recommence Sunday 7 February in the Parish Centre from 9am. All children between from Year 3 – 6 are welcome – especially families wanting their children to prepare for sacraments in 2021, where the child does not attend a Catholic school. Please contact Nicole Webb - 0414139170.

PRAY THE ROSARY - First Saturday each month 3.30pm

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the Parish Centre. Contact the Office for information.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on **Thursday** evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 - www.wccm.org

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre every **Wednesday**.

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

WEEKLY READER FORMATION

Weekly Reader Formation sessions have resumed on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. All parishioners are invited. – Meet at the door of the office at 7.30pm OR join us online using Zoom. Zoom details are -

<https://zoom.us/j/91493407836>

[pwd=eVBQR0hnZ05CLlYzWU93YmJLNm53UT09](https://zoom.us/j/91493407836?pwd=eVBQR0hnZ05CLlYzWU93YmJLNm53UT09)

The Meeting ID is 983 138 1937 and the passcode is 815443.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is NOON TUESDAY

Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Please check the notice board in the foyer for Covid 19 rules for the Church.

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

Alexia Harris, Maria Martiniello, Greg O'Neill, Moya McGrath, Carol Hallam, Mary Martin, Barbara Wilson, Marion Bolin, Ursula Ramsay, Edith Jensen, Frank Zobec, June Pollard, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mimma Gia, Awny El-Ghitany, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Sullivan, Mary Lou Pentony, Zelma McManus, Elizabeth Webster, Bob Hackett, Elsie Laughton, Paul Neddrie, Pamela Sandy, Beth Delos Santos, Terry Stephens, Maureen Blood, Chelsea Gillot, Joe Schimizzi, Anne Corver, Anna Linard, Bernard Druett,

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.

John Popplewell, Carlene Easley

IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings (6mths) and Baptisms. **It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office.**

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday** of that week.

For all other bookings, Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. a minimum two weeks notice is required.

If communion is required for a sick or elderly parishioner please contact the office with details.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross following the 5:30pm Mass each Friday starting Friday 19th February.

ADORATION

Would you like to spend some special time with our Lord? Visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration will be held each Tuesday from 12 noon until 1:00pm in the Church starting on Tuesday 2nd February.

ROSTER 6 / 7 February 2021		
Saturday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	Pat Farrelly	
Sunday 8am		
Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	E. Smith	J. Smith
Sunday 10am		
Acolyte / Server	R. Tanzer	
Readers	C. Rheinberger	A. McCarthy
Sunday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	D. Gomez	
Readers	M. Proctor	
Counters	I. Buckley	G. Gleeson