

# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 13  
17th February 2019  
Year C

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



## VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Kieran Adams OP

**Assistant Priests**  
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP  
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

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

Postal Address  
PO Box 900, Dickson  
Ph. 6248 5925

Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)  
[www.cg.org.au/watson](http://www.cg.org.au/watson)

**Office Staff**  
Jacquie Cortese  
Jim Smith

**Office Hours**  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
9.00am—12.30pm

**Parish Council**  
Andrew Blakey

**Mass times**  
Wed 5.30pm  
Tues & Thurs 6.45am  
Fri 5.30pm

**Saturday 5pm (Vigil)**  
**Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm**

9am Mass Saturday & Public  
Holidays  
excluding Mondays

**Pray the Rosary**  
Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass  
Saturday after 9am Mass  
and First Saturday each month  
3.30pm

**Reconciliation**  
Saturday 12pm—12.30pm  
and 4pm—4.30pm

**ACU Chapel Signadou**  
Wednesday at Midday

If you are in Urgent need of  
a Priest Call - 6248 8253

## Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time



A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	Be my protector, O God, A mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	They ate and were filled; the Lord gave them what they wanted: they were not deprived of their desire.
READINGS	Jeremiah 17:5-8    Corinthians 15:12. 16-20 Luke 6: 17. 20-26

## THANK YOU

Thank you to our flower ladies and the ladies from the Canberra Flower Club for the wonderful flowers adorning the church for Heather Pook's funeral. They are a lovely reminder of her.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 1:1-4

**Happy are they who hope in the Lord.**

Happy indeed is the man  
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;  
nor lingers in the way of sinners  
not sits in the company of scorners,  
but whose delight is the law of the Lord  
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted  
beside the flowing waters,  
that yields its fruit in due season  
and whose leaves shall never fade;  
and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!  
For they like winnowed chaff  
shall be driven away by the wind.  
For the Lord guards the way of the just  
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

**Happy are they who hope in the Lord.**

## IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

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.

## URGENT

We are in urgent need of Acolytes/Servers for the 5pm Sunday evening Mass. Please remember that volunteers are essential in the running of the weekend liturgies.

Life is not about being rich, being popular, being highly educated or being perfect. Life is about being real, being humble and being kind.

## HOMILY

As I prepare to sell my home of 30 years, I am often frustrated by the amount of possessions I have accumulated over the years. It is not only the things I have collected over the past three decades, but also the things I brought with me when I moved into this house. When going through boxes, I find things that were once important and now have no meaning, or at least I have forgotten the meaning. I must wonder why it was so special and why I felt the need to save it. Once I have determined that I no longer want or need the object, I struggle with what to do next. Were there times when those possessions came between me and God? Carl Jung said, "What is a normal goal to a young person becomes a neurotic hindrance in old age." How do I get back on track and focus on what is important?

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus came to restore the people of God and remind them of their moral obligation to care for the marginalized. Even though threat of religious persecution was real, the disciples came to listen. They were most likely protective of the few possessions they had, and their very existence was dependent on various methods of survival, but they came anyway. Jesus wanted them to know that even in their life full of insufficient or inadequate resources they were the ones blessed because they were there to listen in the face of fear and doubt. He wanted them to know their reward would be in heaven despite their struggle on earth. That message must have seemed troublesome to a group who were most likely homeless and hungry. Those gathered on that plain had little to distract them from listening. Their hope was in the Lord.

We are taught that sin is when we make choices that separate us from God. Hoarding wealth and ignoring the needs of those less fortunate also separates us from God. In the Gospel, Jesus makes it quite clear that it may keep us from out of the kingdom. He calls out the rich and preaches that they have received their kingdom on earth. In their world, they have no need for God's mercy because their needs are already being met by the "good life."

But the psalmist reminds us that we can prosper if we chose to live a just life. The rich are not locked out but must let their roots spread to others in kindness and generosity. They can make a choice to hoard their wealth as the poor struggle to survive, or they can bear fruit and share with others.

So what shall I do with the overabundance of possessions that hinder my relationship with God? What shall I do with the things that keep me frozen in time? Those gathered on the stretch of level ground were free of encumbrances and were able to be open to the preaching of Jesus. The kingdom of God is within our reach but until we can see God in the eyes of the poor and act on it, we linger on the periphery. In a culture where identity is often attached to some product, possession or political preference, it is difficult to breathe habits that separate us from God.

As for the material possessions I accumulated in life, I must share them, donate them, give them away freely so that others may use them.

Jesus's Sermon on the Mount is challenging for all. The poor must have hope that there is a kingdom of God and someday they will "leap for joy" in God's presence while the rich must turn loose of those things in which they have come to find comfort. The comfort we seek is found in the kingdom of God not in wealth or possessions.

**Gloria Couvion - Celebration Publication**

Care for the environment is not an add-on but should be a part of who we are and of how we act. That is because social justice is about a rounded world – rounded because in it all relationships are equally important and equally respected.



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

Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill  
Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine, Mary Martin  
Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi,  
Maureen Blood, Ken Rolls, Anne Corver,  
Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany, Joe Schimizzi,  
Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Alexia Harris,  
Sharon O'Rourke, Beth Delos Santos,  
Rosa Maria Santos, Paul Neddrie, Helen Miller,  
Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster,  
Mimma Giampietro, Zelma McManus,  
Catherine Feehan, Jacques Michel, Pamela Sandy

Our deceased

Heather Pook, Rosa Ciuffetelli,  
Terry Manual, Vera Mustapic

In Memory

Kevin Nolan

## BAPTISM

**Sebastian Ernest Medza**

who will be baptised this weekend.  
May his life filled with God's peace,  
and his heart with God's love...  
on this Baptism day and always.



## SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Blackfriars School of Religion (Blackfriars SoR) is held at the Holy Rosary Watson Church each Sunday morning from 9.00am – 9.45am during school terms.

**Change of Date :** Classes will begin on **Sunday 3 March 2019**  
Children from Kindergarten to Year 6 who attend non Catholic schools are invited to attend.

Teenagers who wish to celebrate the Sacraments are also welcome. The Celebration of Sacraments:

Year 3 – First Reconciliation

Year 4 – First Eucharist

Year 6 – Confirmation

For more information or if you are interested in assisting children to grow their love of God, please contact the Parish Office.

## SPEAKING COURSE

If you are interested in attending the Speaking Awesome Words Lector Ministry Training course please call 6248 5925 or email [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au) Numbers are required to book a session for Holy Rosary Church.

## CONNECTIONS

The greatness of Jesus' preaching is that no one escapes. He has something for everyone. In his famous Sermon on the Mount, he preaches the Beatitudes. The first four address the plight of the poor, the hungry, the unhappy and the persecuted. To them, he assures the kingdom of heaven as their reward. But some listeners had money in their pockets, food in their bellies, happiness in their hearts, and even the bonus of respect and admiration from their community. To these, Jesus said "Woe to you." How easy for us to be complacent and satisfied when things are going well. Jesus reminds us that we are here to love one another, especially our enemies.

*Dick Folger - Celebration Publication*

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Parish Conference of St Vincent de Paul will again be running the St Vinnies Appeal stand at this year's Canberra Show on the weekend of 22-24 February. Vinnies is seeking volunteers to man the stand in 2 hour shifts from Friday through to Sunday. Vinnies could really do with your help. For further information, please contact Tony Malone. He can be reached via email at [tonymalone@grapevine.com.au](mailto:tonymalone@grapevine.com.au) or via phone on 0431 542 531

## AS BLESSED AS THE POOR

*Sixth Sunday of the Year.*

*Fr Piers Linley OP finds a challenge to the wealthy in St Luke's Gospel.*

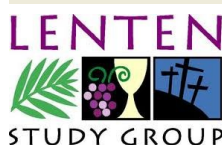
First we have set aside the more familiar 'beatitudes' found in Matthew's gospel. 'Blessed are the poor in spirit'. Matthew gives us a spiritualised set of attitudes. To discover the more material, gritty slant of Luke we need to work out what sort of congregation he has in mind. By the time the Gospels were written, the new congregations that had sprung up were city dwellers. Luke was clearly an educated man. This implies that his family were of some standing because education was expensive. Whereabouts did Luke write? In a city outside the Holy Land certainly. Antioch is one suggestion - possible but not provable. What were his church members like? The lives of peasants in Galilee where Jesus centred much of his ministry were precarious. They were peasants dependent on what bare subsistence they could wring from a plot of land, not of the best - the local rich controlled the best arable land. The average peasant was crushed by the rent he had to pay on his plot and by excessive taxes of various kinds. He was at the mercy of locusts, famine and every misfortune possible. He died young - forty if he was lucky. His wife was exposed to the hazards of childbirth. Widows and orphans were common.

But urban life was no soft option - there was a vast gap in wealth between a very small minority and the average city dweller whose existence was fully as precarious as a peasant's. Writing to the Corinthians, Paul says 'Consider, brothers, how you were called; not many of you are wise by human standards, not many influential, not many from noble families' (1 Cor 1.26). The implication is that a few disciples were well off and distinguished. Suppose that Luke's city congregation had a few well-placed members (including Luke!) but were mainly poor. Most of Luke's congregation were dependent on finding such work as was available on a day to day basis - their situation was akin to the labourers in the vineyard. If unlucky on a particular day, there might be no food on the table. Those too crippled, worn out or handicapped even to seek such work would be forced to beg. These would be not just poor but destitute. There were many who were homeless. Their health no better than a peasant's, their lifespan equally short. What of the few members of the congregation who were better-off? Their support of the life of the congregation would be very necessary - and also difficult far beyond any financial aspects. By joining the despised and disreputable Christians they would be stigmatised and shunned by their well-off friends and lose whatever power they had formerly enjoyed. There would be no more exchanges of banquets and the like social events. Luke himself would surely have experience of such deprivations. Luke's Beatitudes are addressed to two sections of his church. Many were destitute, hungry, mourning and despised by the local population. At the economic level they are certainly not blessed. Yet Luke calls them blessed!

But of the rich (potentially ex-rich?!), Luke's Gospel is very demanding. They could foresee a future of being in very changed circumstances. What they lost by their discipleship would be doubly hard to bear. Being a disciple and living up to Jesus's exacting demands could beggar them. Was this too much for some of them to face? The Gospel directs the four woes at them. Rich, well-fed, laughing you rich may well be now but what would you be if you heeded the call to discipleship? You might take the beatitudes to yourselves then and also be paradoxically be as blessed as the poor!

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

## LENTEN STUDIES



STUDY GROUP

As in former years, we are invited to journey together in faith and if possible to set some time aside to reflect on God's Word as nourishment on our pilgrimage. Lent begins on the 6th March with Ash Wednesday. If you would like to be a part of a Parish Lenten Group, a group who will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre (starting the 5th March), please sign up in the foyer if you would like to attend.

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS** - This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Catechists are still needed to help with the classes. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more information. New Year starts on 3rd March 2019.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**CARDS** Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

**COFFEE GROUP** Our monthly coffee group will meet the **third Thursday** of each month Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, newcomers most welcome.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

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

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Please contact the Office.

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For information - Letty 0418 518 033

**CARE OF THE SICK** If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, if someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please let the office know.

**COELIACS** Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

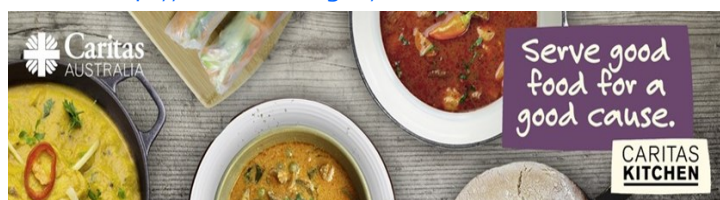
**PARISH BULLETIN** - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON**

**TUESDAY** Please contact Jacque in the office  
Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

**CATHOLIC VOICE WEBISTE** - The Archdiocese has launched a brand new **CATHOLIC VOICE WEBSITE** for current news in the archdiocese this link is <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/>

## CARITAS KITCHEN

**JOIN US** to raise awareness & funds for Project Compassion  
With Special guest speaker: Mugambi Paul Mwenda  
Paul is a passionate advocate for both disability and human rights. Thursday 7 March 2019 at 6:30pm  
St. Christopher's Pastoral Centre 55 Franklin Street, Forrest  
REGISTER via email to: Lulu Mitshabu— [lulum@caritas.org.au](mailto:lulum@caritas.org.au) or  
phone 0437295327 or DONATE online  
<https://lent.caritas.org.au/canberracaritaskitchen>



"Be content with what you have.  
Rejoice in the way things are.  
When you realise there is nothing lacking,  
the whole world belongs to you."

# EVENTS

**18 February – Catechist Training Days** (10.00am to 1.00pm)

18 February – Haydon Hall (6.30pm – 8.30pm with dinner) Contact [matt.ransom@cg.org.au](mailto:matt.ransom@cg.org.au)

## 2 March - National Day of Prayer & Fasting

Join together with Christian leaders and Churches of all denominations in your region to pray and celebrate the National Day of Prayer & Fasting from 10 AM – 4 PM Saturday 2 March . 2 Chronicles 7:14  
Pray for a National Awakening for Australia and pray for millions to find Jesus Christ. Take part in the 40 Day Prayer Relay. Initiate a Bible Reading marathon and take part in a live prayer webcast on the day. Register now: [www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au)

**12 – 14 April - Taizé Retreat:** "Finding life and joy in today's world: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, Sydney. Facilitated by Fr John Armstrong and Annemarie Nicol. All welcome Cost: \$300.00 Private facilities, fully catered Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. Bookings: Mount Carmel Retreat Centre (02 8795 3400) More information: Annemarie (0421 492 554). The retreat is organised by an ecumenical group and everyone is welcome. The group meets regularly for prayer using songs from Taizé every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting church at 5.30pm.

## 7–18 June - TEN DAY RENEWAL IN THE YEAR OF LUKE

Join Dr Elizabeth Dowling RSM, an Australian biblical scholar, as she leads participants in an exploration of mercy, compassion and release in the Gospel of Luke at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong. Bookings: 02 6380 5222 or [info@stclement.com.au](mailto:info@stclement.com.au)

**CALVARY HOSPITAL** - If you are looking something worthwhile to do in your spare time, joining Calvary Hospital Auxiliary may be for you. We urgently need the input of new members - men and women, tertiary students, part- or full-time workers, newly retired persons, all denominations - to assist in the Auxiliary's fund raising activities. We hold events such as the Book Fair on 20&21 March, Easter raffle, plant stalls, cake stalls and more. All funds raised go towards the purchase of equipment for our Calvary Public Hospital patients and staff. To explain the Auxiliary's work we are holding a membership drive on Thursday 21 February, 10-4pm, in the foyer, Calvary Public Hospital, Hayden Drive, Bruce. Please come along for further information, or ring Daphne Ashley on 0407835846.

## MERICI COLLEGE ENROLLING NOW CAMPAIGN

A wonderful opportunity for prospective families to see the College in action, meet our students and attend the Principal's address, Yr 7 and Yr 11 Information Evenings, Careers Expo and lots more.  
Please visit [www.merici.college](http://www.merici.college) for all dates and information.

**Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seats by using T-switch on your hearing aid.**

## ROSTERS 23 / 24 February 2019

### Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	K. Markcrow	D. Hinds
Presentation of Gifts	Tran Family	
EMOE	A. Moore	

### Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	T. Klekner	Volunteer
Presentation of Gifts	Lestone Family	
EMOE	M. Falk	

### Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	L. Kim	
Readers	J. Cooke	A. McCarthy
Presentation of Gifts	Family	
EMOE	H. Zobec	R. Marson

### Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	Volunteer	
Readers	T. Malone	V. Van der Sanden
Presentation of Gifts	T. Malone	
EMOE	J. Curnow	K. Sneddon
Counters	W. Wade	J. Smith