

Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 49
27th October 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
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

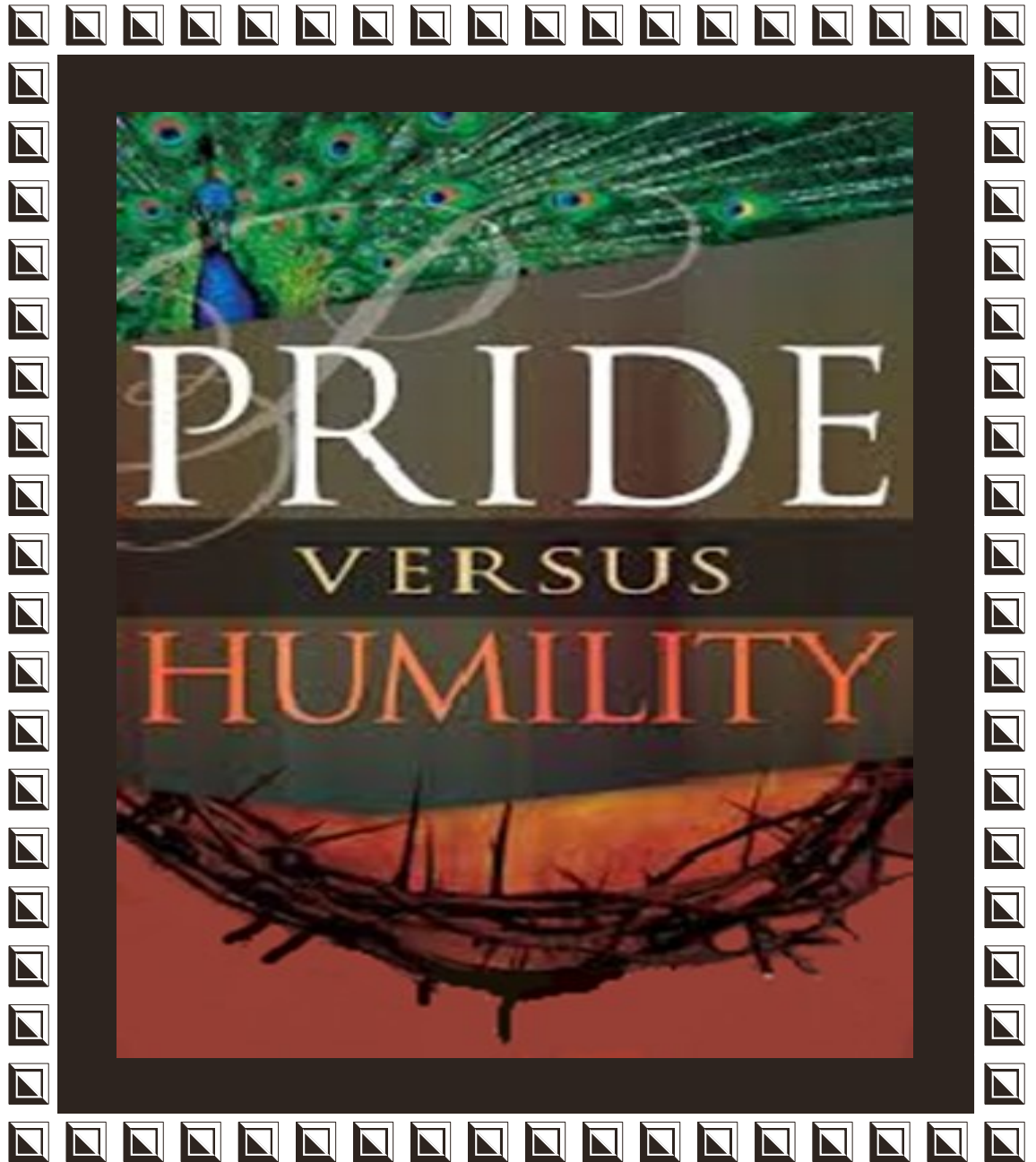
9am Mass Saturday & Public
Holidays
excluding Mondays

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
Thursday—12.30 pm

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time



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

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

ENTRANCE	Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.
READINGS	Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19 2 Timothy 4:6-8. 16-18 Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE HEART?

*When was the last time you bragged?
Or acted humble? Were either justified? Why?*
Let's face it. We all brag at times. And we all act humble at other times. Sometimes the brag or the humble voice is justified. Parents brag about children. Leaders exercise direction through quiet service. Both can be appropriate, depending upon the context. The context can make each inappropriate. Especially when the context is the heart. Is the heart self-centered or other-centered? After all, the prayer of the self-focused is unheard, because it is simply self-talk. But, even the selfish can have a glimmer of hope, when his prayer finds its root in humility. Jesus highlighted the hearts of the proud and the humble in a simple parable.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 32:2-3, 17-19, 23

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

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.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just 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.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

MELBOURNE CUP



On Tuesday 5th November, the Parish will hold a Melbourne Cup Lunch in the Parish Centre.

Lunch will start at 1pm. Cost \$10.00. Sweeps will be available. A 'Hat Parade' with prizes. Join us for good company and lots of fun! For catering purposes please RSVP by 5th November by either the form in the foyer or call the office 6248 5925. Envelopes are in the foyer for your payment, they can be put on the second collection plate. **To make this luncheon successful we require volunteers to help out. If you can help please contact the office.**

PRAYER

A reminder to us that prayer always begins with an attitude. It does not matter what we've done, how much we have, or who we are. What does matter is what is in our hearts. The constant message has been that God hears the cries of the poor. Whatever our circumstances, humility and a concern for justice matter most. This is either consoling or Challenging, depending on the state of our hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Fr Bernard Maxwell OP who celebrates 59 years ordained this week. (22nd October)
We thank him for his long and active ministry in our Parish.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS



Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal through your kind gifts and prayers, and for reaching out to children and communities in need in Ghana and throughout the world. Your generosity makes it possible for programs such as the Nazareth Home for God's Children to provide love and support for children rescued from life-threatening situations.

Thank you also to so many parishioners who have become monthly giving partners through our Ghana Mission Partners Program. For more information about the work of Catholic Mission or the Extraordinary Missionary Month in October, please contact our friendly team at the freecall number below, or at catholicmission.org.au/about-us/contact. **Freecall: 1800 257 296** catholicmission.org.au/Ghana

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL

In today's Gospel we are confronted with the self-righteous Pharisee. Self-righteousness is easy to recognize in others and almost impossible to see in ourselves. Let us pray to see ourselves as God sees us and, if we are self-righteous, ask God for the grace to place Jesus in the centre of our lives.
Paige Byrne Shortal

GOSPEL REFLECTION

How should we approach God in prayer? Jesus tells a wonderful parable today contrasting two ways of appearing before God. The Pharisee is proud and pleased with himself. He has "outdone" himself in abiding by religious laws. He looks down on others "less holy" than himself, and he believes that this alone will bring him salvation. But the tax collector really looks at himself. He admits that he is a sinner and begs God to have mercy on him. Because he humbles himself, the tax collector is raised high by God. The Pharisee, who does not really know God as he should, is limited in his prayer.

The word *humble* comes from the Latin word *humus*, which means "earth." A humble person has his or her feet on the ground! A humble person sees reality, including the real person of the self. Seeing oneself as "more" (as the Pharisee did) is not humble. Seeing oneself as "less" is not humble either! How do you see yourself? What is the danger of seeing yourself as "more" in comparison to others? What is the danger of seeing yourself as "less" than others? Being humble is seeing yourself as God sees you: someone who is strong in many ways, weak in other ways, but someone who is always loveable!
Proclaiming Faith

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY Henri Nouwen

'It is precisely when we see and experience poverty – whether far away, close by, or in our own hearts – that we need to become the Church, that it hold hands as brothers and sisters, confess our own brokenness and need, forgive each other, heal each other's wounds and gather around the table of Jesus for the breaking of the bread.'

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GENUINE PRAYER

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year.

Fr Neil Ferguson OP looks at the four characteristics of genuine prayer according to the teaching of St Thomas.

One of the greatly respected and beloved Fathers of the Desert was known as Abba Bessarion. He lived among the monks of Egypt in the great heyday of monasticism in the desert. One day he was seated in church with his fellow monks, composing themselves to take part in the Divine Liturgy. There was a sudden commotion. The priest of the church had heard (probably from another monk) that one of the brothers was a sinner, and the cleric took it upon himself to eject the man from church. Abba Bessarion got up and was heard to say (in a loud stage whisper- I like to think): "I too am a sinner.", and he also left the church. On another occasion, a young monk asked Bessarion how to live in community: "Keep silence and do not compare yourself to others."

Abba Bessarion comes to mind when reading today's parable. The pharisee behaves in the opposite way to Bessarion, he precisely does compare himself to others, and is very pleased with himself that he is not a sinner, and is pleased to inform God of all this in many words. The tax collector cannot even bring himself to look at others, nor up to heaven, and simply repeats the mumbled phrase: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." The key phrase is that the Pharisee addresses the prayer "to himself", not to God. His monologue is entirely self-referential. His pride is so colossal it spoils the genuinely good acts he enumerates. As the first reading points out, humility is the key to genuine prayer, the humble man's prayer "pierces the clouds."

Prayer, in order to be genuine, should have four characteristics, says St Thomas. It should be devout, full of faith, hope, and humility, also persevering. The Pharisees prayer is full of devotion to himself, and faith in his own works. Certainly he has faith in God, but his pride kills it stone dead. In the Gospel last week, we had an example of perseverance in the endlessly nagging widow. Next week, we have an example of hope in Zacchaeus, who climbs the tree to wait in joyful hope. This week, the tax collector embodies humility.

Humility, if it is genuine, is not a melodramatic, self-regarding abjection; it is an unflinching look at the reality of oneself in the light of God and others. It moderates, Thomas says, our hopes and our boldness, it restrains us from unreasonable heights. It is a spiritual exercise in realism. Such an exercise reveals both our strengths and weaknesses. For our strengths we give thanks to God, and for our weaknesses we ask for forgiveness, and the grace to overcome them. So between the two men the tax collector is the realist, and the Pharisee the fantasist. His fantasy is all the more dangerous because it is rooted in the truth. He does, on paper, live out the moral life. But his narcissism prevents him being aware of God's grace, and the weaknesses he undoubtedly has.

We are complex creatures. On the one hand, we are created in God's image and likeness, unique, loved, redeemed. On the other we belong to a fallen race, personally and corporately capable of the most eye-watering wickedness. As St. Paul puts it, in his usual trenchant way, we were: "by nature children of wrath, even as the rest." Not that the goodness of our nature is totally destroyed. Thankfully, there is no such thing as total depravity.

There is such a thing as repentance though, and we can happily suppose that the tax collector continued in his way of conversion, drawn on by God's love. His first big step was of course, with Abba Bessarion, admitting that he was a sinner.

So what of Paul's beautiful phrase about himself in the second reading? "I have fought the good fight. I have run the race to the end. I have kept the faith." Is he reverting to type? Is he becoming like the pharisee in the parable? Of course the answer is no. What he says is absolutely realistic and true, a gift of God's grace and the fruit of Paul's own response. He can say it in all humility.

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

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:	Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill, Una Bell, Fr E. Clifford, Mary Martin, Edith Jensen, June Pollard, Philip Bailey, Maureen Blood, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany, Joe Schimizzi, Elsie Laughton, Alexia Harris, Bernard Slammon Paul Neddrie, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Frank Zobec, Mimma Giampietro, Zelma McManus, Ryan Fawke, Catherine Feehan, Pamela Sandy, Margaret Sullivan, Fr Joe McGeehan, Charlotte Woolner
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Our deceased	Eileen English, Peter Ryan, Elizabeth Bohun, Luke Mahon, Dion Convine,
In Memory	James Watkin Roebuck, Marie Mons Roebuck

BAPTISM

Arthur Denis Lyons

Thomas James Dillon

who will be baptised this weekend.
May their lives be filled with God's peace,
and their hearts with God's love...
on this Baptism day and always.



IS GOD ONLY IN HEAVEN

Dodong went from the provinces to work in Manila. He got a job painting the white line in the middle of the road. On his first day he painted fifty meters, twenty on the second day and only ten on the third. The foreman was rather surprised. He called him in and said, "Dodong, how come you painted fifty meters on the first day, twenty on the second and only ten today?" "Sir," answered Dodong, "can't you see that the can of paint was getting to be farther and farther away!" Poor Dodong's progress was limited by his thinking that the can of paint could only be in one place to which he had to continue to go back. It improved immensely when he found that he could move it along or even bring it with him all the time. Our spiritual progress is also inhibited if we have a limited perception of where God is. For many, God is "up there" in heaven and religion is an effort to attract his attention so that he will visit us here on earth. Liturgy becomes an effort to capture the distant God and make him present to us. People whose God is in heaven only, are ever looking for miracles and signs of God's presence. Mention a dancing sun or a weeping Madonna and they will travel thousands of kilometers to see it. Non Christians have also been led to believe that our God is only in heaven. While attending the Dalai Lama Seminar in London, I was in a group discussion. A Buddhist lady psychiatrist said, "I pity you Christians. Your Deity is so far away. For us the Buddha nature is close, it is revered within ourselves and within each person." Later, I was a little self-conscious in our liturgy and I could see how she got that impression. There was indeed a lot of prayer to the "heavenly" or "almighty" Father. One could easily not notice that it always ended "through the Son in the Holy Spirit." The wonderful thing about Christianity is that we have very rich paradigms, or frameworks, that reveal to us different modes of God's presence. We have the doctrine of the Trinity, which we celebrate today. According to this teaching our God is not only a transcendent one in heaven but also a God who became incarnate, who took human flesh and became one of us. This God not only came into the world but continues to journey with us today in the world through his Holy Spirit. He is a God who indwells in every human heart. So our sense of the divine presence is threefold and more complete and rich, rather than less complete than the paradigms of other religions.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Learn from yesterday, Live for today, hope for tomorrow.
The important thing is not to stop questioning.
Albert Einstein

IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

It is important that you contact the office by email, phone or in writing if you would like to a Mass Intention, Memorial Mass, Baptism, or use of the Parish Centre a **minimum two weeks** notice for Wedding bookings **six months** notice is required.

If you DO NOT book through the Office we cannot guarantee your request.

If you would like a loved one in the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday 9am** of that week.

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS - This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more 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

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 at Siam Twist Hackett at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our friends & welcome newcomers.

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. 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

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.

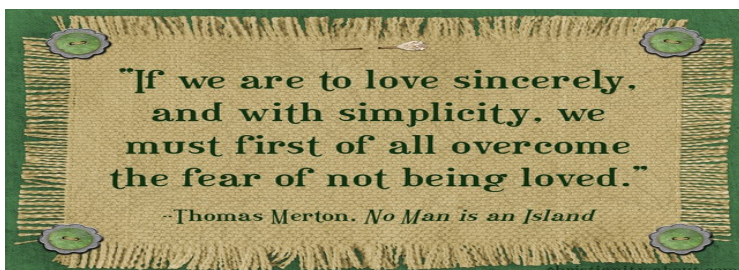
PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

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/>

CATHOLICS FOR RENEWAL Inc. Newsletter can be found at this link - www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

SAVE THE DATE: On Saturday 30th November, the Parish will hold the annual Christmas Dinner. More details closer to the date.



ROSTER 2 / 3 November

Saturday 5pm			
Acolyte / Server	T. Johnson		
Readers	M. Pentony	J. de Riva O'Phelan	
Presentation of Gifts	Higgins Family		
EMOE	K. Murphy		
Sunday 8am			
Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand		
Readers	B. Bandle	C. Bandle	
Presentation of Gifts	P. Zorzi		
EMOE	E. Smith		
Sunday 10am			
Acolyte / Server	Q. Vu		
Readers	A. Hopkins	C. Barbaro	
Presentation of Gifts	Vu Family		
EMOE	B. Affas	S. Tanzer	
Sunday 5pm			
Acolyte / Server	D. Gomez		
Readers	M. Tuckwell	T. Malone	
Presentation of Gifts	K. Turrisse		
EMOE	C. de Luca	T. de Luca	
COUNTERS	F. Higgins	N. Higgins	I. Buckley

EVENTS

The Epiphany Pilgrimage: Journey through the Blue Mountains this January. - The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk 110km through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland, celebrating the Christmas season with each parish along the way. To register for all or part of the pilgrimage walk or join in the parish festivities, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>.

1-3 November - Annual Pilgrims' Retreat for Men and Women Theme: "They have no more Wine!" (John 2:3)

At: Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa. Cost: \$170 includes registration fee, all meals, twin share accommodation, \$200 for single room accommodation, \$60 for day participants includes meals from Morning tea to dinner. For more information please contact: Sr Luisa Maria 0439 537 976 Bookings: info@schoenstatt.org.au or phone 02 4773 8338. Please RSVP by 20th October, 2019

10 November - 2pm - KALEIDOSCOPE CHOIR enjoy a Sunday afternoon's rich variety of secular and sacred music at Holy Cross Church Hackett. Afternoon tea provided. Tickets \$20, \$15 concession at the door. Or **24 November - 2pm - Queanbeyan Uniting Church.** Proceeds to Home in Queanbeyan.

23 November - Reflection day for Women - Preparing our Hearts for Advent. At: Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa, Family Hall \$25 Includes morning and afternoon tea - BYO lunch RSVP by 20th November to info@schoenstatt.org.au or phone 02 4773 8338

HELP: If you can spare an hour on Friday mornings to help set-up the church for the weekend liturgies please contact the office.

Due to bus timetable changes two parishioners who live in Ainslie need a lift home after the 10am Mass. If you can help please call the office.

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid. - Albert Einstein