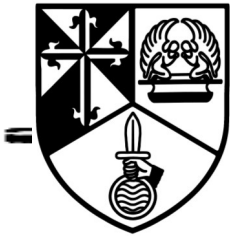


# Catholic Parish of Blackiriars



Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



Issue 20  
3rd April 2022  
Year C

## VERITAS



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  
Telephone: Ph. 6248 5925

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

**Office Staff**

Jacque Cortese  
Jim Smith

Email:

[watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

Website:

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

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson](https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson)

**Mass Times**

Monday - NO Mass

**Tuesday & Thursday**  
**8.00am**

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

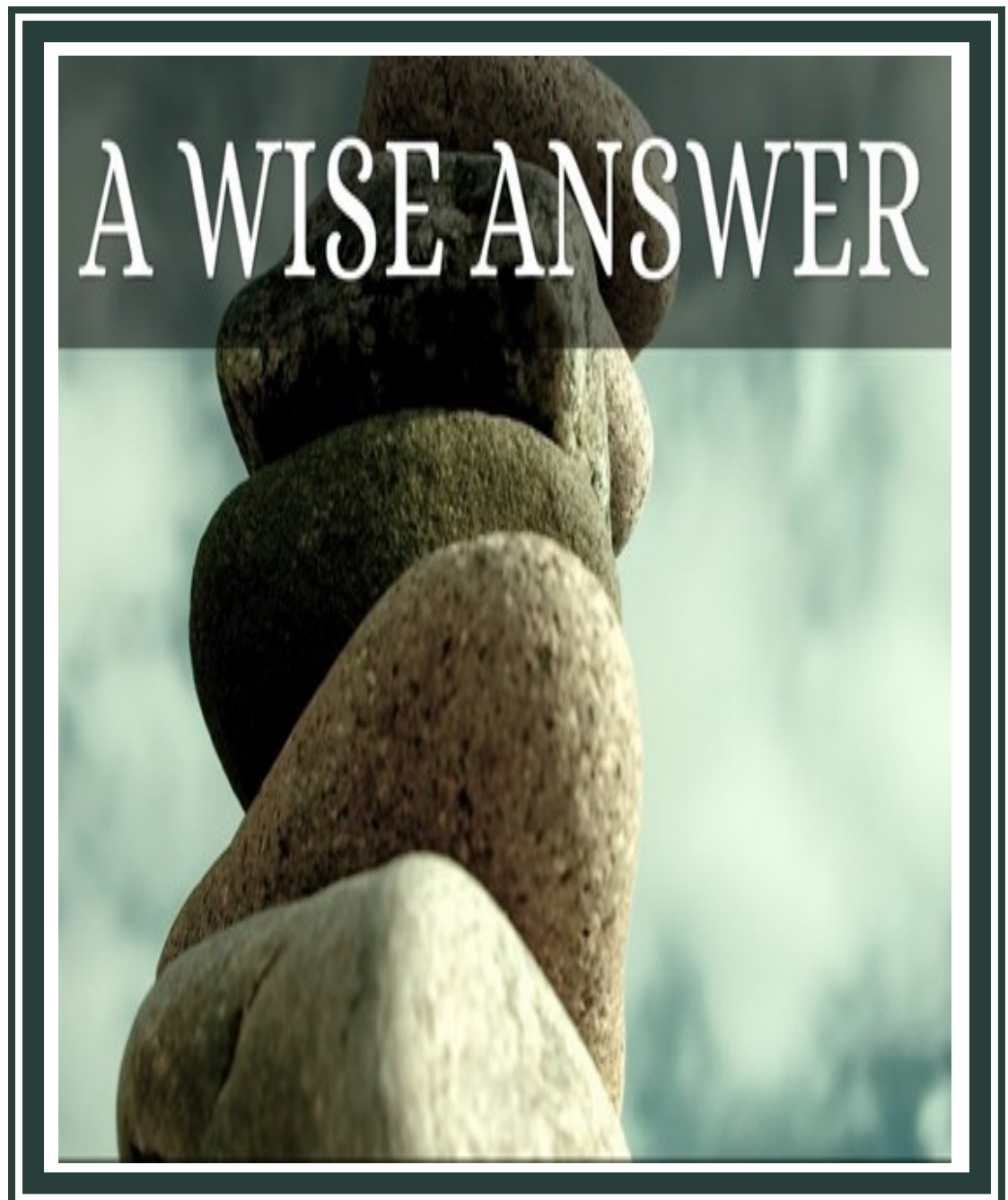
**Adoration - Holy Hour**

Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

**Pray the Rosary**

Before 10am Mass on Sundays

# Fifth Sunday of Lent



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

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)

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

### Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

## FIRST READING

### First reading - Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:  
No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.  
See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?  
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink.  
The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 125(126)

*The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.*

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves.

*The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.*

## SECOND READING

### Second reading - Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from St Paul to the Philippians

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the

**Cont...**perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Gospel Acclamation - Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

### Gospel - John 8:1-11

Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.  
The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and do not sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

### Communion Antiphon - Cf. John 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
Will not die for ever, says the Lord.

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## 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

Gospel stories are 'sparks from the fire of the larger story of God's love for us in Jesus'. . . . 'They also highlight love from strangers who are thought to be incurably unloving: Samaritans, Roman officers' (and from this

Cont...week's Gospel, adulterers). They reflect on God's love for his people.

The common thread of the readings, would consist in that each in some way reveals that the primary intent of God with respect to human being is to set them free – to call them out of the various captivities in which they find themselves.

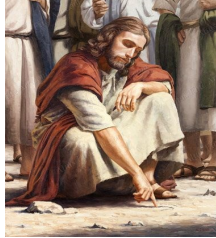
This week let us pray that our world is set free of its bondages of war and conflict, disease and famine, climate change and its disastrous effects on people, as well as freedom from our personal captivities such as homelessness, despair, poverty, ill-health and all that 'holds us back from a conversion of the heart and deeper knowledge of God'.

## GO AWAY AND SIN NO MORE



One of the great mysteries of today's Gospel is what did Jesus write in the dust? The Fathers of the Church have proposed numerous theories. Some have suggested that Our Lord was writing the Law, others have suggested that he was writing the sins of the mob. It

has even been suggested that he was doodling to show his contempt for the actions of the scribes and Pharisees. Some have suggested that Jesus' writing is a foreshadowing of The Book of Life, the allegorical book in which God records the names and lives of the righteous. Judgement certainly is one of the main themes running through this passage.

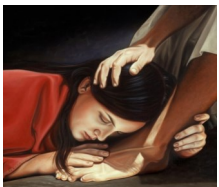


Today's Gospel has often been misused by groups and individuals both outside and within the church to justify actions and lifestyles opposed to the teaching of the Church. However I always find that citing this passage and using the phrase "what would Jesus do?" is a bit of a cop out. To say that Jesus did not judge the woman is not true. He does judge the woman. He acknowledges her sin but he does not endorse her actions. In fact he tells her not to sin again!

Nevertheless there is a stark comparison between Jesus' judgement and the judgement of the Pharisees. The Pharisees are not only quick to condemn this woman but they are also perversely using her and the Law as a means to an end, an opportunity to trick and trap Our Lord.

On the other hand Jesus simply does not condemn the woman. He challenges her. He challenges her to a life without sin. He challenges her to strive to live in holiness. Unlike the Pharisees Jesus confronts a bad life, not with the exclusionary condemnation which is always tempting for those who consider seem pure and holy, but instead, Jesus confronts the woman with the challenge of a good life in Him.

Jesus gave the woman a choice: she could return to her sins, or she could embark on a life in the holiness of those liberated through God's grace. Jesus challenged her to have a new life in union with Him. This is the challenge that Christ puts before each and everyone of us every moment of the day.



God love you all. You're all in my prayers. Fr Mannes OP

## FROM HIS SILENCE

Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Fr Timothy Calvert OP

shows us how Jesus sees the woman caught in adultery from the silence of His mercy.

When the disciples were caught in the middle of a sudden storm they cried to the sleeping Jesus to save them, and he awoke and sent the tempest to sleep, calming the waves and the wind. Who is this, they questioned themselves, that even the force of nature obeys him?

It is one thing to calm nature. It is another thing altogether to calm the sense of moral outrage that can seize a mob. Jesus in the Gospel is suddenly confronted with the outrage of the scribes and the Pharisees who bring a woman caught in the act of adultery before him. She is exposed and has nowhere to hide from her sin and shame

It is very hard not to be swept up into moral outrage when the storm breaks. Jesus is being put on the spot. If he tries to resist he is failing to keep the Law. If he goes along with them they have taken control of his ministry, and from now on he is a footnote in their story of who fulfils the role of the true Israel.

Storms of indignation and moral fury have usually very little to do with morality of course, but they do give some welcome distraction from own frailty, all that is sham and show in us. We may not have lives which outwardly fail as those of the transgressors we read about in our newspapers, but which of us could bear to have every dark thought, and temptation, each selfish motive and evil inclination opened up to public scrutiny. If you O Lord should mark our guilt, O Lord who would survive?

Jesus is not swept up in their phony outrage. They are using this woman as a test case to control him. He does not play their game, as he will evade every attempt throughout history to use him for political and ideological purposes. He is Lord, and he stands apart from our scheming. Neither does Jesus fight their fire with fire. It would be easy to become angry faced with such brazen manipulation, to shout and scream.

Jesus however fights fire with silence. He sits, and writes in the ground. We have no idea what he writes, but it makes a break between the gale of fury and the stormy response they hope to provoke. Jesus is silent, and does not reflect the violence that demands easy answers.

Sometimes there is no easy answer. To resort to a quick fire solution is to miss both the complexity of the situation, but also to miss my own culpability. I may not be guilty of this notorious sin I read about with such indignation: but my being a sinner distorts my view and lessens my ability to see clearly. Happy the person who knows they are a sinner!

From the silence of his heart Jesus speaks to the crowd. "Let him who is without sin be the first to cast the stone." Starting with the eldest they turn away – first those who have had longer to break the precepts of the Law, but in the end including every member of the crowd leaving Jesus and the woman together.

He does not evade the reality of her sin. She is not told she is a victim. Jesus does not use passive verbs about her situation, the usual failing of those who stand against the indignation of the crowd – she did not find

**Cont...**herself in adultery, neither did she develop a problem with sin. Standing before Jesus she is a moral agent, who can go and sin no more. Jesus gives her her life back, as he gives each one of us freedom to respond to his grace in the midst of the situations and struggles we live through.

So Jesus passes through the crowd. He does not fall into outrage, the escape clause of every sinner who wants to put sin to death in other people, but remain themselves out of sight. Jesus has no sin, so he can look at sin as it really is, he can be close to sinners. But neither does he fight fire with fire – he does not evade the reality of sin or deny the real force and power of evil.

From his silence, Jesus passes through the false choice the crowd presents him with. Lent is an invitation for us to grow in this silence in the heart of Jesus. To not rush to condemnation, to not reach for easy answers or to excuse ourselves from responsibility. The Lord is looking at each one of us as we are, undistorted by the outrage of the crowd, and he invites each one of us to go on our way, and to sin no more.

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Please return your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes next weekend.

## HOLY WEEK SINGING

Singing is especially important for the liturgies of Holy Week which recall and celebrate Holy Week. It is the core of our Faith, certainly the BIGGEST week in the Liturgical Year, and involves about 50 pieces of music. To enrich your Holy Week experience by singing with the choir, please join us for practice on Monday nights in the church at 7.30 pm. New voices always welcome. Enquiries: 61617100

**CHRISM MASS** – Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 11 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is this Mass that the **Holy Oils** used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.

**THE MILITARY ORDINARIATE OF AUSTRALIA** - Invites members of your parish community to The National ANZAC Day Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral at 8:00am on Monday 25 April. Guests are asked to be seated by 7:45am. The Ensign Party will enter the Cathedral before 8:00am.

**PARENTS & BUBS ALPHA:** Do you want to grow further in your faith? Do you want to meet other local parents? Then why not give Alpha a try. Please join us in the Parish Centre, 10am Friday mornings from 6 May for coffee and croissants as we explore the person and message of Jesus Christ. Babies and toddlers welcome. For more information contact Emily on emilykathrynhall@gmail.com.

**PART TIME PARISH SECRETARY** - People are invited to apply for the position Parish Secretary for Campbell Parish. This is a part-time permanent position (10 hours per week). Please phone Fr Emil 0414 523 036 for a copy of the duty statement. Applications addressing the Selection Criteria to Fr Emil to be received by 19 April.

**HOLY ROUNDABOUT YOUTH GROUP PARTY** - 3.30pm Sunday at Holy Cross Church followed by 5pm BBQ. 11-17 year olds. All welcome. Parents welcome for BBQ.

The new Liturgy Roster is available in the Sacristy.

## PRAYERS

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill: Greg O'Neill, Ruth Burke, Frank Zobec, Mary Martin, Edith Jensen, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Veronica & Paul Cornelly, Mimma Gia, Rosa Maria Santos, Ursula Ramsay, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Bob Hackett, Joe Schimizzi, Awny El-Ghitany, Mary Lou Pentony, Elizabeth Webster, Peter Catlin, Terry Stephens, Pamela Sandy, Maureen Blood, Beth Delos Santos, Bernard Druett, Denis Lawrence, Patricia Zorzi, June Pollard, Gwen Gleeson, Sue King, Anthony Parsonage, Neville Caulfield, Maggie McKeon, Fr Kieran sends good wishes to parishioners

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.  
Sr Val Grison OP, Paul Smith, Ken Evans, Billy Gibson, Joan Waldren, Joyce Cheyne, Eugene Lipinski

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Felipe Miragaya, Margaret Baker, Margery Ehnhuus

## BAPTISM

*Penelope Allende Pink*

will be baptised this weekend.

May her life be filled with God's peace,  
and her heart with God's love...  
on this Baptism day and always.



**BIBLE STUDY** Verbum: Bible study for Young Adults (18-35) Monday nights at 6pm in the Parish Centre a group of young adults from around North Canberra come to study the scriptures and pray. Currently the group is looking at St Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

**HOLY ROUNDABOUT YOUTH GROUP** Sundays 3.30 - 5.00pm weekly Sunday afternoon youth group for 11-17 years at Holy Cross Church Hackett.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** Sunday Mornings prior to 10.00am Mass the Rosary will be recited. You are welcome to join in.

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** meets 2.00pm 1st, 2nd & 4th Thursdays in the Parish Centre. Contact the Office for information.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on Wednesdays.

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

**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

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** - Formation sessions are on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday.

All parishioners are invited. – Meet in the church Office

## ROSTER 8 / 9 April 2022

<b>Saturday 5.00pm</b>	- Acolyte - D. Gauci Reader - K. Markcrow / P. Farrelly
<b>Sunday 8.00am</b>	- Acolyte - K. Linard Reader - M. Falk / E. Smith
<b>Sunday 10.00am</b>	- Acolyte - R. Tanzer Reader - C. Rheinberger / J. Cooke
<b>Sunday 5.00pm</b>	- Acolyte - S. Sedgwick Reader - T. Malone, K. Watson