

# Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Issue 8  
12th January 2020  
Year A

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

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**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

# Baptism of the Lord



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

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

<b>ENTRANCE</b>	After the Lord had been baptised, the heavens opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!
<b>COMMUNION</b>	Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.
<b>READINGS</b>	Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:	Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Greg O'Neill, Una Bell, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mary Martin, Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Maureen Blood, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany, Joe Schimizzi, Elsie Loughton, Alexia Harris, June Pollard, Paul Neddrie, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Martiniello, Pamela Sandy, Elizabeth Webster, Frank Zobec, Mimma Giampietro, Zelma McManus, Catherine Feehan, Margaret Sullivan, Fr Joe McGeehan, Charlotte Woolner, Ivy-Pearl Simpson Ann & Bernard Slammon,
Our deceased	Lyn Horvat, Dominico Pham Khai Hoam
In Memory	Maureen Keating, Paul Butz Domenico & Caterina Barbaro

## I LOVE A SUNBURNT COUNTRY

*I love a Sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains  
but I've gotta tell ya mate, I like it better when it rains.*

*The countryside is dying and there's just no end in site  
and just to rub salt in the wounds, the bush has caught alight.*

*The landscape is on fire from Brisbane to the Gong  
And everybody's asking "Where the hell did we go wrong?"*

*But we can get through this one if we help each other out.  
Take care of your neighbour, that's what Aussies are about.*

*The rain is going to fall again, the good times will return.  
But living in Australia means at times-it's going to burn.*

*So if you need a helping hand, just give a mate a call.  
We're all here to help you out and catch you when you fall.*

*The RFS, the SES, the fireys, and the police,  
all put their lives upon the line to help beat this beast.*

*So hats off to these heroes and thanks for all you do.  
And I hope when this is over we can make it up to you!*

by Troy Gerdes - a farmer from Armidale, Facebook on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY ~ FR BERNIE



14th  
January

May your birthday  
be full of blessings  
and God's graces.  
May you find happiness  
In everything you do.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 28:1-4, 9-10

**The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
Give the Lord the glory of his name.  
adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendor.

The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever.

**The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

## PROCLAIMING FAITH

### Reading 1 Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

In this reading the author tells us about a special servant of the Lord. He brings justice to God's people in ways that are peaceful and life-giving. He frees those who are imprisoned or wandering in the darkness. With a firm grasp, he takes God's people by the hand and guides them in keeping their covenant with God.

For Christians, this description of the servant of the Lord is an inspiring portrait of Jesus. He is the One who brings us peace, life, and freedom.

### Reading 2 Acts 10:34-38

Because God is just, God does not play favourites. All persons and nations are acceptable to the Lord. As Peter shares this welcome news with the household of the Roman soldier Cornelius, he can hardly wait to tell the entire Jesus story. He stresses how the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus at his baptism. After that, Jesus went forth to fulfil his ministry as the servant of the Lord.

We are often wary of people who did not grow up as we did, who are somehow different from us in some way. Perhaps Peter was surprised that this former pagan, this Gentile, this Roman had also been accepted by God. It may not have been the way Peter had expected God to work, because God first chose the Jews to carry his message to the world.

### Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

Why did Jesus insist that John baptize him in the Jordan River? Jesus had no sin to be washed away, no need to repent. But Jesus had a great need to cooperate with God's plan of salvation. And that plan required that he identify totally with the people he had come to save.

Note that Jesus does not contradict John when he says, "I should be baptized by you!"

In a very real way, John was right. However, Jesus only says, "Give in for now." Jesus had a bigger plan in mind, and he was asking John to cooperate by laying aside his own way of thinking "for now."

By our Baptism, we were given a share in Christ's life and ministry.

He shares his identity with us. How will you live as another Christ, so that God will say of you, "This is my beloved, on whom my favour rests"?





## PARISH RENEWAL

Over the past year, a group of parishioners, inspired by Plenary Council conversations, have been praying and reflecting on Parish Renewal in Blackfriars Parish. As part of this process Fr. James Mallon's book "Divine Renovation" was the focus of two parish reading groups over the last couple of months. Now, following on from this, there is a desire to explore running an Alpha course in the parish next year. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith based on a series of short films. Each film looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. It is run in cafés, churches, universities and homes around the globe. The three key elements are: food, a talk and good conversation. It is currently being run in several dioceses in Australia, including ours. If you are interested in participating in Alpha in the parish next year, you are warmly invited to get in touch with Roger Paul (0421612572; rpaul2572@gmail.com) or Siobhan Tanzer (0432 292 498) for more information.

## BAPTISED FOR MISSION

### *Baptism of the Lord.*

*Fr Isidore Clarke OP recalls that we, like Christ, are baptised into the mission of spreading God's light to the nations.* Already John the Baptist had begun to prepare the way for Christ's coming. He preached a baptism of repentance, which generated a great atmosphere of excitement and expectation. What John hadn't expected was that Jesus himself should ask to be baptised. After all, baptism was meant to prepare other people, who were sinners, for Christ's coming; and he was no sinner. But Jesus insisted on being baptised. He wanted to identify with the whole of sinful humanity, to carry and remove the burden of our guilt. Then, immediately after his baptism, something remarkable happened. The Spirit of God rested upon Jesus, in the form of a dove – the symbol of the peace God brought to the chaotic, destructive waters of the flood. Jesus came to bring peace to our chaotic, troubled lives. He wanted to enable us to make a fresh start. And the Father's voice from heaven proclaimed: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. These words echo those of the first reading, in which Isaiah tells us that God has appointed his servant to be a 'light of the nations.' His mission would be to 'open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.' Jesus would fulfil the role of the Suffering Servant of the Lord, who would be exalted in sacrificing his life for the salvation of the nations. At Christ's baptism the Father commissioned Jesus to act and speak in his name and with his divine authority. In the power of the Spirit he would proclaim the Good News of salvation. Christ's baptism prepared him for this mission. Today's feast celebrates not just Christ's baptism, but ours. Through our baptism we have been born from above – from God – and have become the children of God. Just as Jesus shared our human life through his birth at Bethlehem, so we share his divine life through our birth at baptism. We become God's beloved sons or daughters, with whom he is well pleased. Christ's baptism and ours prepare us for mission. We are not simply called to a private, cosy relationship between each of us and God; rather our baptism commissions us to share the faith we have received. Like Jesus, we are meant to be luminous – lights revealing the glory of God and the power of his salvation. Like Jesus we are called to dispel the darkness of ignorance and error. If we live up to our vocation God will, indeed, be able to say, 'This is my beloved son or daughter, with whom I am well pleased.'

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

### Quote

'What good is it that Christ was born in a stable in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago if he is not also born in me?'

Meister Eckhart, 13<sup>th</sup> Century mystical theologian

## A NEW BEGINNING

### *Baptism of the Lord.*

*Fr Richard Ounsworth OP explores the relationship between Christ's identity and his mission.*

Today's feast marks both an ending and a beginning. It is the final celebration of the Christmas period, a fact that is emphasised by the Divine Office for today being the same as that for the Epiphany; and yet it is also the first Sunday of 'Ordinary Time'.

It is appropriate that this transition from Christmas to Ordinary Time be marked by the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. That event, which we hear about in today's Gospel, was the beginning of Christ's active ministry in the world, and it culminates in the testimony of the Father to the identity of the Son. It is this identity that we celebrate during Christmas: the miraculous truth that Jesus Christ is the true Son of God, the image of the invisible God, Word-made-flesh and Splendour of the Father. He is the beloved Son with whom the Father is well pleased. In other words, the person of Jesus Christ is constituted by the perfect love of the Father for the Son.

And because we have God's own testimony to the divine identity of Jesus, our Christmas faith is based on that testimony, on the authentic self-revelation of God, and not on human opinion. But because Jesus's whole being is founded upon the love of God, his divine identity that we celebrate at Christmas necessarily leads to his ministry. For Jesus was not born simply in order to exist, to give us the doctrine of the incarnation: he was born to serve. As he himself says, the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. It is vital for us to affirm that Jesus Christ is God-with-us, and so we have done over the last two weeks. But we must also affirm that he is God-for-us. How could he not be? Jesus serving life and saving death is, we may say, the playing out of his divine identity on the stage of human history. The ministry of Christ, in which he gives his life for us, is what a human life looks like when that life is lived by one whose existence is perfect love, just as his death shows us how perfect love reaches its end, and in dying proves itself stronger than death.

Just as Christ's death was a self-surrender carried out in perfect solidarity with the despised and rejected of this world, so his life among us begins with an act of perfect solidarity with the despised and rejected, when Christ allows himself to be baptised in the Jordan. For this baptism is a symbolic passing through the waters that guard the entrance to the Promised Land. In his solidarity with the outcasts of this world, Christ who by right of his divinity has a heavenly home makes himself an exile like us, so as to lead us back from exile, out of the wilderness, to our new home with the Father.

And our journey home too begins with baptism, when we are adopted as sons and daughters of God. This means that what the Father says to Christ in today's Gospel he also says to us: you are my beloved child. Today we hear from God the words that must transform our lives, because these words of love become the centre of our being now that we are a new creation in Christ. Just like Jesus, our identity now *is* God's love for us; and this love is no longer that of a superior for an inferior as we might love our pets. Rather, it is the perfect, heart-breaking love of a parent for a child.

Therefore, as Christ's identity drives him into his mission of loving ministry in solidarity with us, so our new identity in solidarity with him must drive us into mission. Today the call is renewed for us to live lives of perfect service as Christ did, and we are strengthened for that service by the knowledge that, whatever joy and delight we have ever experienced in loving anyone, God's delight in us is infinitely greater. <http://english.op.org/torch>

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**ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL** - Thank you to all who contributed to this appeal - \$2,700 was raised.

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I would rather walk with a friend in the dark,  
than alone in the light.

## 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. In recess until next year.

**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](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 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** Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

**POSITION VACANT**— Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, North Belconnen, is seeking a **Parish Sacramental Program Coordinator**, five hours per week, to commence duties for the school year of 2020. For skills and experience required, please visit [www.cg.org.au/belconnennorth](http://www.cg.org.au/belconnennorth). Applications must be submitted online via email by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

## TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees unsure of the validity of this marriage within the Catholic Church. The Church reaches out in support of those whose marriage has broken down, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. If you are divorced or in the process of finalising your divorce and would like information about the annulment process, please contact the Tribunal on 6239 9813 or by email [tribunal@cg.org.au](mailto:tribunal@cg.org.au). All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

**TRANSPORT** - Due to bus timetable changes a couple who live in the Ainslie area are unable to attend the 10am Mass. If you can help with transport please contact the office.

## ROSTER

18 / 19 January

Saturday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	R. Paul	
Readers	A. Blakey	M. Cox
Presentation of Gifts	Blakey Family	
EMOE	T. O'Neill	
Sunday 8am		
Acolyte / Server	J. Smith	
Readers	T. Klekner	C. Widdowson
Presentation of Gifts	E. Falk	
EMOE	M. Falk	
Sunday 10am		
Acolyte / Server	J. Wade	
Readers	M. Fitzgerald	K. McCluskey
Presentation of Gifts	Musolino Family	
EMOE	H. Zobec	R. Marson
Sunday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	D. Gomez	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone
Presentation of Gifts	Turrisse Family	
EMOE	M. Proctor	C. Mackay
COUNTERS	R. Walpole	J. Smith

## EVENTS

### 3 FEBRUARY - CALVARY HOSPITAL

Calvary Hospital Auxiliary will hold its first meeting for 2020 on Monday 3 February at Calvary Public Hospital, Bruce. Guest speaker will be award winning, internationally best selling Australian author Ms Karen Viggers. Ms Viggers will speak about her latest book, *The Orchardist's Daughter*, her work as a veterinarian and her work and travels in outback Australia. Meeting at 12.30, guest speaker approx 1pm. New members and visitors most welcome.

### HOME TO RENT

Young family moving to Canberra is looking for a house to rent in the inner north. Requirements - 4 bedrooms, 2 living spaces and 2 bathrooms (frail elderly father coming as well), or 3 bedrooms and granny flat. Please contact Rahab Wilson 0406 686 454 or Gabrielle Jarvis 0429 413 562.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

There are still some Columban Calendars available. Last day to purchase calendars 19th January. Contact the office if you wish to buy.

**To donate to Vinnies bushfires appeal go to**

<https://www.vinnies.org.au/>

### PRAY FOR AUSTRALIA - With Bruce Downes (online)

Australia is currently being devastated by Fire! Join me and Pray each night at 8pmAEDT on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube! Facebook.com/TheCatholicGuyBruceDownes Instagram.com/TheCatholicGuy Youtube.com/TheCatholicGuytv Or pray with me wherever you are! May we experience God's power and love amidst the tragedy!

After entering a church in Venice a friend of mine observed the following notice: "When you enter this church it may be possible that you 'Hear The Call of God'. However, it is most unlikely that he will not call you on your mobile. *Thank you for turning off your phone.* If you would like to talk with God, find a quiet corner and pray earnestly. Should you want to see God, send him a text message whilst driving." Drive 'N' Text U B Next!

