

# Catholic Parish of Blackiriars



Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



Issue 35  
17th July 2022  
Year C

## VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

*Parish Priest*  
**Fr Mannes Tellis OP**  
(To contact Please Text)  
0414 396 532

**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**  
Jacquie 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)

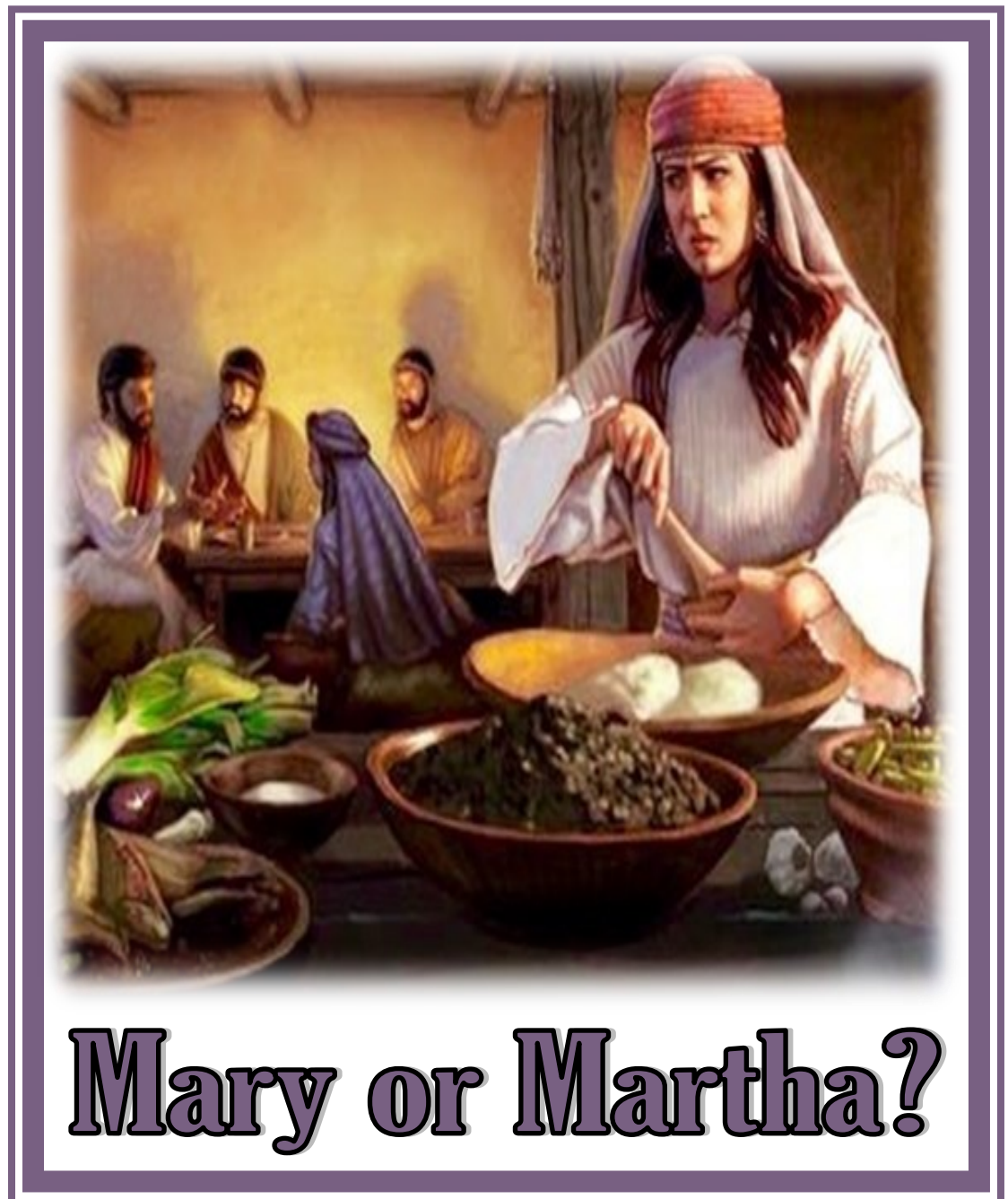
**Mass Times**  
Monday - NO Mass  
Tuesday & Thursday  
8.00am  
Wednesday & Friday  
5:30pm  
Saturday - 9:00am  
Vigil - 5:pm  
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,  
5:00pm

**Reconciliation**  
Saturday  
4pm—4.45pm

**Adoration - Holy Hour**  
Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

**Pray the Rosary**  
Before 10am Mass on Sundays

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Mary or Martha?

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

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

### Entrance Antiphon - Ps 53: 6, 8

See, I have God for my help.  
The Lord sustains my soul.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,  
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

## FIRST READING

### First reading - Genesis 18:1-10

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.' Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah.' 'Hurry,' he said 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree. 'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail, and your wife will then have a son.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 14(15):2-5

*The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?  
He who walks without fault;  
he who acts with justice  
and speaks the truth from his heart;  
he who does not slander with his tongue.

He who does no wrong to his brother,  
who casts no slur on his neighbour,  
who holds the godless in disdain,  
but honours those who fear the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;  
who takes no interest on a loan  
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.  
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

*The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

## SECOND READING

### Second reading - Colossians 1:24-28

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians**

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of

**Cont...**his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Gospel Acclamation - Cf. Luke 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Happy are they who have kept the word  
with a generous heart  
and yield a harvest through perseverance.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

### Gospel - Luke 10:38-42

**The Holy Gospel according to Luke**

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

### Communion Antiphon - Ps 110: 4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,  
has made a memorial of his wonders;  
he gives food to those who fear him.

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**Tuesday Mass 19th July will be at 5:30pm as Fr Mannes will be coming back from Sydney that day. There will be no Adoration at 12pm on Tuesday.**

The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia ended on Saturday but in a statement, approved by all members, the Council said the work had only just begun. According to the statement, the Council had been an 'expression of the synodality that Pope Francis has identified as a key dimension of the Church's life in the third millennium'. 'Synodality is the way of being a pilgrim Church, a Church that journeys together and listens together, so that we might more faithfully act together in responding to our God-given vocation and mission,' it said. This week let us pray for all in the Australian Catholic community and its leaders act decisively to implement the decisions of the Plenary Council.

## LISTENING TO JESUS



Quite often Jesus finds himself having to sort out domestic disputes, some times it's working out who will inherit what (Lk 12:13), and in our gospel for this weekend Jesus is asked to tell an ostensibly lazy sister to get to work!!!

Oddly Jesus defends the ostensibly lazy Mary, defending her from her

choleric and distracted sister Martha who is getting on with all the hospitality. From her pots and pans one can imagine an increasingly frustrated Martha banging away until it all gets to her and she has a quiet word in Jesus' ear. Now, you think Jesus being a practical man, used to hard and tiring work as a carpenter would have some sympathy with the onerous duty of putting on a Semitic feast. Wrong!!!

St Luke mentions twice the word "took" when it comes to Mary. "Mary **took** her place at the Lord's feet", and later Jesus exclaims " "Mary has chosen for herself the best part of all, which shall never be **taken** away from her". Mary takes the time to listen to Jesus' words. In fact, Mary is being a far more gracious host than the grouchy Martha. Mary affords her guest an open and ready ear from the Word himself. Much like the mother of Jesus, this Mary too listens to the word of God and keeps it.

There is a lot in this story to digest but the overarching concern is listening to Jesus. This listening envisages taking time out to be with Jesus and sit at his feet. The gesture of sitting at the feet of someone, in ancient cultures, meant obedience to that person too, and this is what Mary encapsulates for us, one who listens to Jesus and obeys him.

So do we listen to God in prayer? Do we listen to the voice of Jesus or do we act like Martha and let the cares, concerns and anxieties of life overwhelm us and allow Jesus' voice to be drowned out?

Listening to Jesus is also a very special vocation in the Church too and we call this vocation a vocation to the contemplative life. In his *Summa Theologiae* Thomas Aquinas devotes an entire question to the topic as to whether the contemplative life is nobler than the active life. Thomas argues initially that the active life must be greater because activity is proper to those who are nobler in society like those in authority, further to this he notes that those in active roles often command those who walk the contemplative path. Finally, Thomas observes that quite regularly within the Church contemplatives are called to high office such as bishop or Pope. However, in his response to the question as to which way of life is better Aquinas uses the words of Jesus from today's gospel "Mary has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken away from her". This is Thomas' initial response but then he proceeds to give eight reasons why the contemplative is nobler than the active dimension, I will only enumerate four however:

- The contemplative life is more suitable to human beings because we are primarily intellectual creatures who desire to know and love.
- Once again using the archetypes of Martha and Mary, Aquinas shows that the person engaged in

**Cont...** busyness and constant practicalities is troubled for Martha as Jesus describes her as "many cares and troubles".

- The contemplative is self-sufficient and doesn't need trivialities or distractions to give himself joy. The contemplative is like Mary who has chosen the "one thing necessary"
- Contemplation consists of a certain rest and quiet.

Today let us appreciate the contemplative dimension to which we are called to in the journey of Christian life, no matter how we may choose to live it. May we sit at the feet of Jesus and listen, really listen to what he says to our heart so that we may choose the better part and the one thing that is necessary like Mary, and overcome the anxiety and preoccupation of poor old Martha!!!

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

## DISTRACTIONS

In the **Gospel**, Luke 10:38-42, two sisters, Martha and Mary, give hospitality to Jesus. Martha appears to be the dominant personality. Certainly, her hospitality is more active and practical. Her sister Mary simply sits at Jesus' feet and listens. This sets up the kind of "triangular" pattern often to be seen in Luke's gospel: Jesus interacts with a character, usually someone in a marginal situation in some respect; a third character or party takes offence at this and grumbles or murmurs. Jesus defends the more marginal party, showing how her or his action is the more appropriate in terms of what *he* has to offer.

Understandably, down the ages and perhaps particularly in recent times, it is Martha who has evoked more sympathy. Her complaint that she has been left to do all the work by herself seems at one level very justified. But this is precisely where the provocation of the Gospel has its bite. As Luke's Gospel so often makes clear, frenetic service, even service of the Lord, can be a deceptive distraction from what the Lord really wants. Good people are always prone to measure their goodness by all they do for the Lord. They forget that nothing that they can ever do could match all they need to receive, and that the Lord's primary intent towards us is to bestow upon us life, love and salvation, rather than to make use of our service.

The scene has also been controversial in feminist interpretation. Is Jesus, in a liberating way, defending in Mary the right of women to be free of traditional "women's work" (kitchen duties, etc) in order to receive the kind of instruction from himself that will equip them for leadership in the community? Or is he, on the contrary, subtly putting women in their place by praising a woman (Mary) who takes a more passive role, while criticising the more active and energetic Martha?

Both these positions miss the mark. The fact that two characters in the episode are women, while significant in its way, may not be the main point. As so often, the Gospel's focus is upon the abundance of God's gift and the barriers that human beings put up against receiving it.

## FR BERNIE MASS

**Blackfriars Parish, Holy Rosary Church will be offering Mass in honour of Fr Bernie on Sunday 24th July at 10.00am. The Mass will be followed by morning tea in the Parish Centre. Please bring a plate to share.**

## HOSPITALITY

This Sunday's readings lead us to ponder the gift of hospitality; the giving and receiving we experience. May we learn to welcome our Lord who wishes to dwell with us.

In the **Gospel**, the story of Martha and Mary, we learn of the importance of presence to the other, of stillness, of attentive listening, and of hospitality. May we be aware this week of our attitude to others. Do we welcome them, do we listen ...?

## ALPHA

That's A Wrap: The Parents and Bubs Alpha finished on Friday 8 July. A special thank-you to Fr Mannes and Jacquie, Mel, Helena, Siobhan and Richard, Kate, Sabina, Helena and Roger, Mary-Lou, Nancy and Carmel for your prayers, encouragement, baking skills and support. The mums and bubs are now discerning our next steps with the hope of setting up a connect group which meets monthly in the parish centre. All are welcome to join us as we continue our faith formation. If you would like to participate in the next Holy Rosary Alpha please contact the Parish Office.



## PILGRIMAGE

The Catholic Parish of Pambula invites members of your community to join with the Archbishop to commemorate St Mary MacKillop at Eden on Saturday 13th August. Mass will be concelebrated with Archbishop Christopher and visiting priests at 12.00noon. Full details of the Pilgrimage are on the noticeboard in the foyer.

## PARISH MORNING TEA

GangGang Time to gather again on the third Thursday of the month 21st July from 10-30 am at GangGang, Frencham place, Downer. Everyone welcome.

## ST DOMINIC GARDEN

Based on a proposal initially discussed with Fr Kieran, Fr Mannes has approved a project to establish a garden in honour of St Dominic and incorporating a remembrance wall in the Church grounds over the next 16 months. The garden will be created in time for the Parish's 60th anniversary in October 2023. The approved concept plan and a project brief is on display in the church foyer. Fundraising is planned to offset costs and details will be provided closer to each event. For further details to the project, please contact Jacquie - Parish Office on 6248 5925 /email [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au). To make an online donation please use the Parish banking details below - Reference GARDEN

## DONATIONS TO PARISH & PRIESTS

**Parish details** to contribute to the Planned Giving.  
Bank details – Account Name: Blackfriars Parish Watson  
BSB: 062786 - A/C : 000013341 - Reference: Name

**Priests details** to contribute to the First Collection.  
Bank Details – Account Name: Dominican Fathers Watson  
BSB: 083 347 - A/C: 97 310 5044 - Reference: Name - Donation

## PRAYERS

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill: Greg O'Neill, Frank Zobec, Mary Martin, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Mimma Gia, Veronica & Paul Cornelly, Rosa Maria Santos, Philip Bailey, Beth Delos Santos, Ursula Ramsay, Peter Catlin, Sue King, Fr Ellis Clifford, Joe Schimizzi, June Pollard, Eddie Pook, Awny El-Ghitany, Mary Lou Pentony, Elizabeth Webster, Terry Stephens, Pamela Sandy, Maureen Blood, Patricia Zorzi, Anthony Parsonage, Neville Caulfield, Maggie McKeon, Alphonsa Bankovsky, Fr Rafael Cabezon

## RECENTLY DECEASED

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

Fr Bernie Maxwell OP, Gwen Gleeson, Bill Tanner, John Wyatt, Rod Cooper, Doris Jacobs

**BIBLE STUDY** Verbum: Bible study for Young Adults (18-35) Monday nights at 6pm (except public holidays) 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 Galatians.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** Sunday Mornings prior to 10.00am Mass the Rosary will be recited. Please 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](http://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 23 / 24 July

**Saturday 5.00pm** - Acolyte - D. Gauchi  
Reader - K. Markcrow

**Sunday 8.00am** - Acolyte - K. Linard  
Reader - N. Webb, Noah Webb

**Sunday 10.00am** - Acolyte - H. Beasley  
Reader - M. Fitzgerald, K. McCluskey

**Sunday 5.00pm** - Acolyte - P. Tran  
Reader - M. Proctor

## PARISH SECRETARY NARRABUNDAH

People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Secretary for Narrabundah parish, under the care of the Missionaries of God's Love. This is a part-time permanent position (12 hours per week, Tuesday to Friday 9-12noon). For more information please contact the Parish Office 6295 7879 or [narrabundah@cg.org.au](mailto:narrabundah@cg.org.au)

## COME HOLY SPIRIT SEMINAR

You are invited to the New Life in God's Spirit seminar at St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. From 7pm-9pm each Wednesday evening from 20 July to 7 September. Talks, worship, prayer ministry, fellowship! For more information call Susanna 0419 902 293 or Sue 0409 443 268

"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."