

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



Issue 56
22 November 2020
Year A

VERITAS



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

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

Assistant Priest
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

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

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

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www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson

Mass Times
Monday - NO Mass
Tuesday & Thursday
6:45am
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
First Saturday each month 3.30pm

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



**If you are feeling unwell please DO NOT come to church.
Please record your name & contact number on the Register
provided in the foyer.**

**PLEASE sanitise your hands on entering the foyer or parish centre.
Please DO NOT return your bulletin to the basket, if you are not taking
it home put it in the bin.**

Compassion and tolerance are not a sign of weakness,
but a sign of strength.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm: 22:1-3. 5-6

R: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R:**

SECOND READING

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in the proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

CHURCH CAPACITY

Please make sure you arrive before the start of Mass to register. The 10am Mass is now reaching capacity (100 parishioners). Once the 100 has been reached, the door will be locked and no one else will be admitted to fulfill Government requirements.

ROSTER UPDATE

Unfortunately there was an error in the New Roster last week. Update rosters are available in the Sacristy with copies of Break Open the Word for readers.

THIS WEEK

The Feast of Christ the King marks the end of the liturgical year. In the readings we hear the call of the Shepherd King. However, we too have our part to play in promoting the health and welfare of all humankind. As what the Gospel 'wishes to communicate with great seriousness is that the final outcome of one's existence is irreversibly determined by the attitude one takes towards fellow human beings here and now'. Nothing could be more apt in a time of a global pandemic.

SEIZE THE DAY

Solemnity of Christ the King.

John Kenrick O.P.

*prays for the coming of a Kingdom no eye has seen,
and no human heart has imagined.*

In Advent, as we prepare for the annual celebration of a past event - Christ's birth - we are also preparing for a future event - Christ's return in glory. As the days grow shorter we reflect that earthly time is slipping away, but the day of the Lord advances. As the days darken we light the first Advent candle as a beacon of hope in the one who rose again, triumphant over sin and death, who will return to reveal the kingdom of his eternal love.

It is his unconditional love for each one of us that gives us the confidence to make every day of our lives a day to turn away from sin and back to the Lord, to allow the Holy Spirit to liberate us from that deadly indifference to God's will for us. And so in this season we reflect on those passages of scripture that renew our hope, our trust in the power of God to change us.

Our faith in God is often challenged by the sheer magnitude of human evil in the world which leaves us feeling quite helpless in the face of human greed and violence. The prophets of the Old Testament were made of sterner stuff and never lost sight of the advance of God's reign. Isaiah's words today ring out with a defiant message of hope. The Assyrian war machine was about to descend on Israel and Isaiah knew it. He also knew that the sins of those in power were inviting retribution. But he gives us a vision of a new world, the end of war and a time when all nations will acknowledge the True God and live 'in the light of the Lord'.

If the advent of God's reign is certain, there are no grounds for complacency. St Paul reminds us that the night of human history is almost over, 'the time' has come for us to make a final decisive break with all that is dark within us. If we truly long for God's reign our conversion to Christ cannot be half-hearted. We are too easily discouraged from tackling our sins.

The season of Advent provides us with a concrete timetable for change and renewal. Like those stark health warnings on packets of cigarettes, the gospel today gives us a much needed jolt. The Lord will come like a thief in the night, when we least expect it. From one perspective, that has been the story of humanity all along. The fall of man in the garden of Eden reads like a bad dream. And people have been sleepwalking into sin ever since. But God has all along been shaking us awake. He came in the words of his prophets and he came most dramatically of all, in person, not occupying centre stage, but taking the role of a minor character. That first advent certainly changed everything; it brought God as close to us as our neighbour. From that moment on it has always seemed that we only have to reach out to touch God. From God's perspective, no doubt, it has always been an eternal advent - the divine Word has never stopped proceeding from the Father and accomplishing his task. So we talk about the second coming in Advent but really it is our own receptivity to God's coming which is the heart of the matter.

In every generation the Father finds his children 'asleep'. Some have given up on God, some have never even known him. And even those who do claim to believe in God are very easily distracted by the cares of this world. Advent is another opportunity for change; but we will fail to grasp it if we start thinking that Advent comes round every year. This may be our last Advent. It certainly will be for millions. God is giving us another chance to respond to his amazing love for us before death steals up on us and we slip away, scarcely noticed, into divine judgment.

A contrite heart and a renewed hope is the visitation from on high that we need now. So that, in the words of today's psalm, we can truly rejoice when we hear it said 'Let us go to God's house'.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes."

It was a kingship marked by incredible humility, compassion, submission to God's will and authentic love. As we contemplate Jesus' kingship, let us pray for those in leadership, that they will follow this example.

THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

'In a hostile world Jesus bears witness to God's kingdom. St John does not use the language of kingdom but rather focuses on the way Jesus embodies the truth. 'I am the truth', he claims. If we want to see what happens when God's rule is present in a human being look at Jesus. Behold the man. And what do we see? A man mocked as a king, crowned with thorns, arrayed in a purple cloak and then finally lifted up on to the throne of the cross.

'The pretensions of worldly kingship are mocked but as the crucified Christ reigns from the cross he reveals the self giving love of God and it possesses a power which can draw all men and women into his kingdom.

'As we come to worship Christ the King, how can we exercise the kingship he has given to us through baptism? We do not achieve this by escaping into a private world. Rather, by bearing witness to the truth in our political worlds we can acknowledge his universal rule in our lives and then pray that his kingdom may become fully present on earth as it is in heaven.'

Excerpt Fr David Sanders OP www.Torch.op.org

NOT OF THIS WORLD

It is difficult for us Christians to live simultaneously in two kingdoms, that of this world and that of Christ. We are prone to amalgamate them, to make one look so much like the other that we can't tell the difference. Often it seems that the Church, and our lives within it, have been made to fit the image of an temporal earthly kingdom rather than making earthly kingdoms fit the image of Christ's eternal heavenly Kingdom. It is difficult for Christians to live in society because the structures of that society are not the same as those in the Kingdom of God.

The distinguishing feature of Christ's rule is that of justice, but not the kind of justice we're used to. We tend to think that justice is giving people what they deserve. But justice in Christ's kingdom is the opposite. There the ultimate in justice is forgiveness. If we all got what we deserved what a sorry place God's Kingdom would be. Most of us would be cast into that outer darkness Jesus talks about in today's Gospel. Throughout his life Jesus emphasised forgiveness and it is this that tempers justice.

Excerpt Fr Anthony Axe OP www.Torch.op.org

THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS LIKE OUR BREATH

'When we speak about the Holy Spirit, we speak about the breath of God, breathing in us. The Greek for spirit is *pneuma*, which means breath. We are seldom aware of our breathing. It is so essential for life that we only think about it when something is wrong with it.

'The Spirit of God is like our breath. God's spirit is more intimate to us than we are to ourselves. We might not often be aware of it, but without it we cannot live a "spiritual life". It is the Holy Spirit of God who prays in us, who offers us the gifts of love, forgiveness, kindness, goodness, gentleness, peace and joy. It is the Holy Spirit who offers us the life that death cannot destroy. Let us always pray: "Come, Holy Spirit, come".'

- From *Bread for the Journey* by Fr Henri Nouwen

ADVENT PROGRAM

The first session of the Advent Program will commence on Tuesday 24th November at 11:00am and 7:00pm in the Parish Centre for those parishioners who indicated they would like to attend.

CONFIRMATION

CONGRATULATIONS to students who will complete the Sacrament of Confirmation next Thursday.

We pray God's Blessings on their families, their teachers and all who have helped them prepare for this special day.

We pray too for the children that they may come to receive Jesus with faith and love today and always.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPER DONATIONS

With the support of the Holy Rosary Primary School, the Parish Vinnies Conference will again be organising Christmas Hampers this year for local families in need.



A box is in the back of the church for your hamper donations.

We are looking for donations of: Biscuits (tins for seniors are very popular), shortbreads, chocolate and savoury biscuits. Puddings this includes plum puddings, jellies, fruit or pudding mixes. Jams, Pickles, Tomato Sauce, Vegemite, Pasta and Rice, Packets of Cereal. Cake mixes eg. cupcakes, muffins, pancakes etc. Lollies. Tea & Coffee. Gift vouchers for teenagers would be appreciated. Small gifts for older persons.

We cannot accept nuts or nut products for health and safety reasons. We will also need to sanitise goods before we pass them on. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Parish Centre: From 7 to 20 December the Parish Centre will be reserved for our local St Vincent de Paul Chapter to prepare Christmas hampers. Groups that normally use the Centre will not have access during that time.

SINGING CHRISTMAS

How marvellous that we are singing again at Mass, and can look forward to singing Christmas music! This year, there will be only four practices in preparation for Advent and Christmas, and as usual, they will be in the church on Monday evenings at 7.30 pm, starting Monday 23rd November. Covid restrictions will be observed. It would be great to have some new singers come along. *Singing Christmas* makes it so much more alive and meaningful. No auditions, no age barriers. If you want to sing, come and join us! For more about the music, phone Maureen 61617100

WEEKLY READER FORMATION

Weekly Reader Formation sessions have resumed on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. All parishioners are invited. – Meet at the door of the office at 7.30pm OR join us online using Zoom. Zoom details are - <https://zoom.us/j/91493407836?pwd=eVBQRohnZ05CL1YzWU93YmJLNm53UT09> The Meeting ID is 914 9340 7836 and the Passcode is 389526.

LITURGY ROSTER

If you have not received your Liturgy Roster via email there is a copy of the roster in the box in the Sacristy. Readers, you can pick up your of Break Open the Word.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The Parish will be having a sausage sizzle after the 10am Mass on Sunday 6th December. To keep Covid safety and numbers in the church, parishioners are asked to attend their usual Mass. For catering purposes please indicate on the form in the foyer if you will be attending on . Please do not bring a plate to share.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Please check the notice board in the foyer for Covid 19 rules for the Church.

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

Alexia Harris, Maria Martiniello, Greg O'Neill, Moya McGrath, Barbara Parsonage, Mary Martin, Barbara Wilson, Anne Corver, Ursula Ramsay, Edith Jensen, Frank Zobec, June Pollard, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mimma Gia, Awny El-Ghitany, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Sullivan, Zelma McManus, Elizabeth Webster, Joe Schimizzi, Bob Hackett, Elsie Laughton, Paul Neddrie, Pamela Sandy, Beth Delos Santos, Maureen Blood, Anna Linard, Bernard Druett, Mary Lou Pentony

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

Colin Campbell, Patrick Crowley, David Shepherd

PARISH

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION - Parish School of Religion is in recess. Families wishing for children to receive Sacramental preparation should contact Nicole Webb on 0414139170. A friendly reminder to observe COVID precautions by keeping children who are unwell or who have been exposed to unwell family members, at home.

MASS INTENTION - please email or phone the Parish Office.

PRAY THE ROSARY - First Saturday each month 3.30pm

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the Parish Centre. Contact the Office for 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

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.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is NOON TUESDAY
Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

If 2020 was a Math problem - if you're going down a river at 2 mph and your canoe loses a wheel, how much pancake mix would you need to re-shingle your roof?

A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything. Irish Proverb

ROSTER 28 / 29 November		
Saturday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	J. de Riva O'Phelan	
Sunday 8am		
Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	T. Klekner	M. Falk
Sunday 10am		
Acolyte / Server	Q. Vu	
Readers	C. Barbaro	P. McDonald
Sunday 5pm		
Acolyte / Server	P. Tran	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone