



## PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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### 28-29 August, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

#### WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND MASSES, LITURGY and RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Monday	9.30am Curtin
Tuesday	9.30am Curtin
Wednesday	9.30am Curtin – Liturgy of the Word and Communion
Thursday	5.30pm Curtin
Friday	9.30am Curtin (incl. Anointing of the Sick on First Friday)
Saturday	Reconciliation 5.00-5.30pm Curtin; Mass 6.00pm Curtin
Sunday	9.30am Curtin, 5.30pm Curtin

*All archdiocesan churches and parish offices are closed due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Messages can be left on 6281 3999 or [wodennorth@cg.org.au](mailto:wodennorth@cg.org.au)*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

#### MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

**Recently Deceased:** Don Everly, Charlie Watts, victims of the Haiti earthquake, John Ryan, David Jordan, Sr Marie Graham rsj, Sr Maria (Heather) Roberts sgs, Ron McLennan, Elaine O'Brien, Cathryn Paton, Mitchel Bush, John McNamee, Michael Baker, Fr Francisco Algas Jr, Kathleen Masters, Stephan Evans, Marie Hickey, Therese Tuite, John Cusack, Lois Billings, Walmucio Atunes Lima, Ted Fitzgerald, Kathy Toth, Fr Brian Maher, George 'Sandy' Munro, Rev. Fr Angelito Parulan and victims of COVID.

**Anniversaries of Death:** Millie Cameron, Marie Pugh, Kathleen Majer, Marjory Swan, Sr John Keenan, Pam Dewhurst, Tony O'Donnell, Maurice Cronin, Cecil McGaughan, Anne Perkins, Damien McMahon, Benjamin Jesus Ortile, Esperanza Gementera, Rosie Ortile, Peter Hackwill, Terry & June Freebody, T P Cheng, Antoine Chuc Nguyen, Millena Ceccarelli, Francis, Peter and Anna, Ron Beath, Fr Leandro Infante.

#### MAY THE SICK BE COMFORTED BY OUR PRAYERS

Mary Kencross, Gwenda (NB No surname was given), Veselko Kelava, Chaminda Peiris, Karuna Hettiarachchi, Pauline McLennan, Kathy Hailey, Carmen Woods, Catherine Lloyd, Rosa Winstanley, David Swan, John Verrell, Timothy Roberts, Chris Geraghty, Paul Brown, Jeannette Clarke, Jim Molan, Elsy Poulse, Margaret Jones, Marilyn Pugh, Fred Schinkel, Jeffrey Harris, Peta Doyle, Nick Palethorpe, Mark Williams, Andrea Miller, Kyra Berger, Ian McDonald, Maureen Daly, Mark Tirrikainen, those afflicted with COVID.

**LOCKDOWN:** During lockdown Holy Trinity Church will be closed and the regular weekday and Sunday Masses will not be celebrated. Further details are noted on the church doors. **OUR TWO PARISH SCHOOLS** will remain open for those unable to provide care for their children. Students at home and those presenting at school will be engaged with the remote learning model.

**LIVE STREAM MASS: St. Christopher's Cathedral:** Monday – Saturday 12.15pm, Sunday 11am, <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>.

#### TO ENGAGE OR TO WITHDRAW

**The lockdown continues. We are all adjusting to the 'new normal'. While much has and will change, certain things stay the same. For Christians, love of God and neighbour is the constant.** Our readings put the two sides of the one commandment in perspective. Jesus was a Jew. **He was nurtured according to the Torah, the body of teaching that**

showed how to live as the People of God, but he objected to the accretions that undermined the original revelation. Thus in today's Gospel he objects to the focus "on the external rituals to the neglect of the inner conversion of the heart central to all relationship with God" (Brendan Byrne). Contrary to the belief that one could be made unclean by something from outside, he insisted that "human holiness came from being in contact with God – something that begins in the heart. Jesus, who was supremely in touch with God, went about touching 'unclean' persons like lepers and associating with 'tax collectors and sinners.' He did not 'catch' uncleanness from them, . . . Rather, the 'flow' was the other way round: they 'caught' holiness and healing from him. . . Jesus understood true holiness to be essentially inclusive rather than exclusive. It had to do with God's reaching out rather than withdrawing to a sacred inner space" (Byrne).

We can find many reasons not to reach out, to withdraw to our safe space. Last week Archbishop Mark Coleridge, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and this week Fr Frank Brennan SJ, priest, human rights lawyer and now Rector of Newman College, Melbourne University called on the Federal Government to provide 20,000 humanitarian places for Afghans. Brennan and Bishop Vincent Long of Parramatta Diocese, himself a 'boat person' from Vietnam, have also called for the grant of permanent residence to the approximately 5,000 Afghans on temporary protection visas who cannot return to their homeland, while Victorian Bishops, where most Afghans in Australia live, released a statement of support for them. The issues are many and varied. The bottom line however is human need. Besides, Australian defence forces were in Afghanistan for 20 years; we owe them. **If you want affirmation of shared humanity and the blessings that flow when need meets capacity, go to the ABC's iView and watch last Monday's 'Australian Story' about the plight of ninety-nine Vietnamese asylum seekers and Australian seamen who rescued them. There you see those sharing in the cross of Jesus meeting the Jesus of outreach and compassion and all are transformed.** Our Gospel concludes with a list of actions that are self-referenced or lacking in appreciation of the dignity of the other. We could add some more contemporary examples and we could balance our lists with virtues reflective of holiness of heart. Summarising all of that our Second Reading concludes with a call to 'unspoilt religion', seen as tantamount to practical outreach and avoidance not of others but of the values of some which are focused on the self alone.

Finally, a sense of awareness, connectedness and outreach is foundational to the Social Justice Statement of the Australia Catholic Bishops, 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor', released 5 August. The Statement seeks to engage with Pope Francis's 2015 Encyclical 'Laudato Si'. I am indebted to 'Catholic Outlook' of the Parramatta Diocese for the attached commentary and links therein, especially to the Statement at [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au). In Laudato Si Pope Francis spoke of the "technocratic paradigm". More recently he has described it as "a mindset that despises the limit another's value imposes." He went on to say, "I made the case that an ecological conversion is necessary to save humanity not only from destroying nature but from destroying itself. I called for an "integral ecology", an ecology that is about much more than caring for nature; it's about caring for each other as fellow creatures of a loving God, and all that this implies" ('Let Us Dream' 34). **Yes, the challenges are many, yet the message is so very positive and above all inclusive. That is good news and therein lies our salvation.**

Fr John

**Women's Taskforce Free Online Seminar, Friday, 3 September 7.00 - 8.30pm:** Dr Margaret Beirne RSC, a Sister of Charity and Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College in Sydney will speak on **Mary Magdalene, Fake News and the Gospel**. This free interactive Zoom Seminar is open to all. Registration at [bit.ly/ZoomWorkshopMaryM](http://bit.ly/ZoomWorkshopMaryM) is essential as numbers are limited. More info at [bit.ly/FakeNewsSeminar](http://bit.ly/FakeNewsSeminar)

#### **MISSION: ONE HEART, MANY VOICES VIRTUAL CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY 1 – FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2021**

We are seeking to sponsor an interested parishioner to attend this virtual conference organised by Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Mission. Participants will experience a diverse range of international and local speakers (see attached poster). Through an open mind, heart and will, embracing curiosity, compassion and courage, participants will explore opportunities for mission. If you are interested in representing our parish, please contact Fr John (0418 208 129).

**PARISH MEDITATION GROUP** meets weekly. Contact Vikki: [mulvaney@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mulvaney@netspeed.com.au) or 0437 876 487.

**Prayer Circle Support:** Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

**Readings for next Sunday:** 4-5 September, Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B); Isaiah 35:14-7; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37.