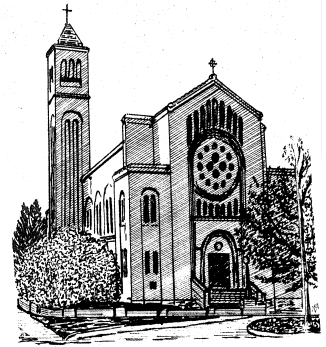


St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

22nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year B -
29 Aug 2021

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch
Assistant Priest: Fr Norvin Dias



Check in here!



the code **941461** mar

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (bh) Emergency Phone for Priests: 0491 072 304
cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral
Online Payments Link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp>
Parish Secretary: Michelle O'Connor—Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.15pm, 12.45pm-4.30pm
Accounts Officer: Karina Widjaja—Friday, 8am-4pm

St Christopher's &
St Peter Chanel's
are currently closed
due to the ACT lock-
down.

Sunday Mass

St Christopher's

Cnr Canberra Ave & Furneaux
Street, Forrest (Manuka) ACT

Sat. Vigil: 5.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am,
11.00am (livestreamed),
5.30pm

St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,
Yarralumla ACT

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil

Sunday: 9.30am
2.00-3.00pm Adoration
& Confessions

Weekday Mass

St Christopher's

Monday to Friday: 7.30am &
12.15pm

Saturday: 9.00am & 12.15pm

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Thursday: 10.00am (9.30am
Adoration): Anointing Mass first
Thursday of the month.

Reconciliation

St Christopher's

Wednesday: 11.30am-12.00noon

Thursday: 6.00 - 6.30pm

Saturday: 11.00am - 12noon

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 6.00 - 6.30pm

Saturday: 5.15 - 5.45pm

Adoration

St Christopher's

Tuesday to Friday: 5.00-6.00pm

Rosary at the Cathedral

Mon-Fri 8am, Sat 11:40am, Sun
4:45pm

Baptisms

Sundays: 12.30pm

Weddings

St Christopher's: Saturday

1.30pm & 3.00pm

St Peter Chanel's: By arrangement

Dear parishioners and friends,

As lockdown continues, it remains a challenging a period for many. It is painful to be 'cut off' from regular contact with family, friends, and community. It is hard to see so many businesses closed. But perhaps most trying is our inability to be physically present at Mass and with each other in this holiest of moments.

This is time however not just to 'sustain' community, but to build it. Our living faith is now giving us the opportunity to be strengthened. Our second reading reminds us, *we must not just listen to the word, we must act upon it*. I am delighted by the witness given in these weeks, and in the way we have reached out. Many are writing letters, which have been emailed to our residents in aged care. As well as copious invitations to help others with grocery orders and other essential errands. Life can not be put on hold, and nor should love. Indeed, now we see the fruits of the undefeatable love and faith we profess. Today we see the reality that God never loves from a distance. Thank you to all who have reached out. The Church makes present the love of Christ in the world - especially in the darkness. We become the gentle reach of God's hand, affirming, strengthening and uplifting. The Lord has not left. His power has not been curbed. Nor is his compassion now put at a distance. Rather, Christ invites us to turn to him in a way we perhaps have not before. To pray in vulnerability as never before.

Let's use these days too, to embrace moments of silence and prayer, for "prayer does not go into a vacuum; nor is it merely something like a kind of psychotherapy...nor a kind of pious fiction to exercise and calm our souls. Prayer is directed at reality" (Ben XVI). Pope Francis echoes, "we have a Lord who is capable of crying with us, capable of walking with us in the most difficult moments of life". Indeed, "having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone."

Of course, we continue to pray for the Afghani people, especially children who continue to suffer so senselessly. We pray for those in Haiti, Myanmar, and around the world. There is so much to occupy our attention and prayers.

Friends, our Sunday readings contemplate the law. Yet not just any law. God's Law. Written on the human heart. Humanity has always struggled with laws; even today. And yet how necessary they are. When we recognise something of value, we envelop it with laws, to protect and ensure its flourishing. Nature reserves, road rules, or, on another level all together - the most precious gift of all, our children. Society uses rules, laws to govern and protect a story which most remain oblivious to. The story which gives you and I dignity and value; recognising the beauty of the world, and those who dwell in it.

While a poor example: consider sport. Would any person who loves rugby, say, "go onto the field, and just do what you want." "Play however you see fit, make it up as you go!" Of course not. This would be absurd, chaos even. Would we accept that logic in any other area of life we take seriously? No way. If you love the game, you accept and respect the laws which preserve the game's integrity and make it what it is. The laws make sense of, give direction and purpose, as well as an end; void of chaos and eventual sadness.

I am reminded of an article by a theologian Robert W. Jenson, which speaks of the dangers of a world which has *lost its story*. In the face of secularism Jenson asks: *what happened to humanity's story?* Or more to the point, how can one have the characteristics of a story, namely *order, direction and meaning*—which every person seeks—without a narrator or knowledge of a promise? He concludes, a world without story is a world without direction. An intriguing thought. Recently, such a problem has been illustrated perfectly, that when we lose our story, even something like euthanasia begins to look like a good idea!

One might see God's 'laws' as those which protect that story, that promise of *who we are, and for Whom we are made*. Moses makes these laws known, to be followed for life to flourish. As if to say, 'know your story'. God protects the integrity of those created in his image, protecting the moral and spiritual life that they grow in his likeness, that "my Joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:11). Yet we too see in the Gospel, what happens when we construct laws in our own service and image. When we cling not to God's story, as our narrator, but to our own story. The fact is, we are not the narrator of our own story. If our times have taught us anything... it is this.

Always in his affection, FT

Father Trenton van Reesch

Administrator, St Christopher's Cathedral Parish



PARISH NEWS

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music

Jaki Kane

RCIA

Please contact parish office for next program.

School of Religion

See ad under Parish News.

Youth Minister

Anh Tran

Email: anh.tran@cg.org.au

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 30 Aug Weekday, Ordinary Time

Tue 31 Aug Weekday, Ordinary Time

Wed 1 Sep Weekday, Ordinary Time

Thu 2 Sep Weekday, Ordinary Time

Fri 3 Sep St Gregory the Great

Sat 4 Sep Weekday, Ordinary Time

Sun 5 Sep 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

ALL PARISH GROUPS ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

Legion of Mary

Monday at 5.30pm
Haydon Hall

St Vincent de Paul

Adventurers Youth Group
(primary school age)
every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month, 8.45am - 9.25am @ SPC

Good Shepherd Prayer Group

Wednesday at 7pm SPC
Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

Christian Meditation

Saturday at 5pm SPC

Other Communities

Spanish Community

First Sunday of the month at
11.30am SPC

African Community

Second Sunday of the month at
11.45am SPC

Filipino Community

First Sunday bi-monthly at
5.00pm SPC

LOCKDOWN— Masses will still be offered on the regular schedule for your intentions, yet without a congregation present. Mass will be livestreamed daily at 12:15pm and on Sunday at 11:00am.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT - Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor: This year's Statement reflects on creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life. The Australian Bishop's invite us on a seven-year journey to sustainability and care of creation, guided by seven *Laudato Si'* goals. Please find this important Statement available on our website. And visit our own Archdiocesan *Caring for Creation* response group at care4creation.org

ARCHBISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER— Human beings need humanity not Euthanasia – find a copy of this important letter online, on our parish website.

RCIA 2021-22 - Want to learn more about Jesus and his Church, exploring faith and life's meaning? Come and journey with a like-minded community. RCIA (the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*) is an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith in a supportive, welcoming environment. The program is open to all and is particularly designed for those interested in exploring the idea of becoming Catholic or receiving the Sacraments for the first time. Thursday evenings, 6pm, starting 16 September. To register or for more info email cathedral@cg.org.au

ROSARY VIA ZOOM - Archbishop Christopher invites you to join him and hundred of others to prayer the Rosary via Zoom while we are in lockdown. All you need are Rosary beads & your intentions. **Every Wednesday & Friday at 4 pm.** Simply click the link (found on the CatholicVoice Website) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022458332?pwd=MDZ4ODFhNjlvdnFkd21aVDQzWnAydz09> Or enter in the details below after opening Zoom; **Meeting ID:** 850 2245 8332 **Passcode:** 543675

NEEDING SUPPORT/HELP - need help ordering groceries online? As a parish family we want to help... let us know, we'll be there. **OTHER SUPPORT NUMBERS** - If you or someone you know needs extra support in these weeks. Lifeline: 13 11 14, Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636 1800, 1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732, Confidential Helpline: 1800 737 732, Kids' Helpline: 1800 551 80, Confidential Helpline: 1800 737 732, Mensline: 1300 78 99 78, CatholicCare: 6162 6100. Of course, never hesitate to contact us at the Parish Office.

PRAYER FOR VOCATION - "The harvest indeed is great but the laborers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest." Strengthen us as we follow the vocation to which You have called us, Lord. We pray for those called to serve as priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons: Those whom You have called, Those You are calling now, Those You will call in the future. May they be open and responsive to the call of serving Your people. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. **Are you and Young Woman or Young Man who feels called to a religious or priestly vocation? Come and chat:** trenton.vanreesch@cg.org.au

THE CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION supports and cares for 28 retired priests. Your donation helps provide accommodation, financial assistance and health care. Gifts over \$2 are tax-deductible. Thank you for taking care of our priests in their retirement. For cash and cheque donations, please send to GPO BOX 3089 Canberra ACT 2601. Online donators visit: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/>



An Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

2021 CATHEDRAL PARISH—SCHOOL OF RELIGION PROGRAM

First Eucharist classes have been postponed to 5 Oct for 31 Oct Mass. More information and Enrolment forms can be found on www.cg.org.au/cathedral or contact the Parish Office on 6239 9846.

Our parish acknowledges and celebrates the original custodians of this sacred land, the Ngunnawal people.

OTHER NEWS

Mass will be live streamed from the St Christopher's Cathedral. Mon-Sat at 12.15pm & Sunday at 11:00am. <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

New Ways of Giving and Receiving—The Archdiocese offers simpler and safer ways of making your financial offering, during this time of pandemic and into the future. **Direct debit** and **QKR** options are available, as well as **TapnGo** machines (when we return to Masses 'in person'). Thank you sincerely for your generosity. Please continue to make your offering during this time, if you are able, and perhaps consider donating to 1st and 2nd collection via direct debit.

The First collection: contributes to clergy of the Archdiocese. *If you make an offer to this first collection through direct debit, please include that you are a parishioner of the Cathedral Parish.*

BSB: 062-786 Account Name: CATHEDRAL
Bank Account: 000029248 Reference: FORREST & SURNAME

The Second collection: contributes to mission and maintenance of the parish. If you would like to give and are not currently registered for Planned Giving, please deposit into the following bank account:

BSB: 062786 Account Name: St Christopher's Cathedral
Bank Account: 000015080 Reference: Planned Giving Number and Surname (only for current Planned Givers); or Donation (by parishioner's not registered Planned Givers).

Or... Download the QKR! App. "QKR at Saint Christopher's Cathedral Parish"—A New, Easier way to donate!

You can now use our **purpose-built secure parish app** to contribute to the 1st & 2nd Collection. Please include your Planned Giving number for 2nd Collection contributions. Contact the Office if you have forgotten your Planned Giving number.

For more information or to set up monthly payments via direct debit, please contact the Parish Office. For step by step Qkr! instructions, visit <https://cg catholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/>

Women's Taskforce Free Online Seminar—Fri 3 Sept, 7-8.30pm— Join Dr Margaret Beirne RSC, Sister of Charity and Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, Sydney: Mary Magdalene, Fake News and the Gospel. Free, open to all. Registrations essential as numbers are limited. Register at bit.ly/ZoomWorkshopMaryM or phone Beth Doherty, 0432 608 310. More info at bit.ly/FakeNewsSeminar

CatholicCare – During this time you and your family may feel you need a little extra support. Reach out – Here for every human being. For more information visit <https://catholiccare.cg.org.au/> or contact 02 61626100 Email: info@catholiccare.cg.org.au

Vocations Holy Hour and Dinner: Will resume after lockdown on each first Thursday of the month. Holy Hour and dinner at Archbishop's House for those interested in exploring a vocation to the priesthood. If you are wanting to meet other like-minded men, please contact Fr Paul Nulley (Vocations Director) at: paul.nulley@cg.org.au

Vocations Discernment Weekend: Friday 24 Sept. – Sunday 26 Sept. An extended discernment opportunity involving a retreat at Galong. For more information please contact paul.nulley@cg.org.au

Canberra Catholic Bookshop— Extensive range of Sacramental & Religious Gifts, Books, Music & Church Supplies. Closed during lockdown but can be contacted during office hours Mon-Fri. Ph: 6239 9888, Ground floor, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, 55 Franklin Street, Forrest.

The Inaugural Tim Fisher Oration— postponed to August 2022. Former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, John Anderson AO will remain the guest speaker of next year's event. Any enquires contact jeanie.alberto@cg.org.au

PLENARY COUNCIL - October 2021 - 'This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.' Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23 Unless we train ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey? (Pope Francis, Meeting with the Bishops of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 28 July 2013) plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/

Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Emergency Aid for Haiti. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International) has expressed its solidarity in prayer with Haiti and immediately approved an emergency aid package of half a million Euros (\$800,000 AUD) for the Haitian people. In response to this, ACN Australia has set up an emergency appeal to provide help for our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are going through a very hard time. To donate visit www.aidtochurch.org/haiti

We pray for...

Those who are ill: Fr Laurie Blake, Teddy Kartadinata, Florencio Fariña, Alejandra Martinez, Colliss Parrett, Arianna Vignale, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Anthony, David Kibbey, Paul Mychailuk, Kalum, Ira Tirtobudi, Nicholas Dyne, Hubo Ballivian, Fr Peter Gannon.

Anniversaries of death: Bruna Stevenson, Maria Memmolo, Clare O'Connor, Rosa Morabito, Pat Boyle, Alejandro & Orlando Cerda, Alex Skleplic, Petty Gonsalvez, Paul Ryan, Francesco & Francesca Barbaro, Joan Kaucz, Anka Gnjec, Tulla & Sam Brown, Gwen & Mick Gallagher, Michael O'Brien, Odette Gaspardis, Michael McKeown, Flo Daley, Fr Vincent Dowdy, Amelia Kneipp, William Saw, Anna Kieswimmer, Margaret Mary Kelly, Kath Durie, Annie James, Eileen Biggs, Annie Davis, Sr Gertrude Ryan, Michael Heath, Michael O'Connor, Cardinal EB Clancy, Fr Giuseppe Canova, Fr Adrian Cork, James Rice, Kit Dale, Rita Dodson, Noel Honan, Marjorie Kenny, Patricia Robertson, Charlie Morella, Norman Stevenson, Clive Waldren, Clarita Flores, Laurus Westende

Recently Deceased: Ulderico Barzi, Sr Maria (Heather) Roberts (Sister of Fr Hilton Roberts), Lorenzo Pastrello, Linda di Cullo, Josef Wiedemann, Sr Marie Jeanne Graham rsj, Fr Elizebije Petar, Eduardo Pelaez Tan, Tee Eng Nio, Ferry Tedjajadi, Aurelio Biurra,



Cathedral QR code

Entrance Antiphon: *Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the 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.*

First Reading

Dt 4:1-2. 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Second Reading

Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Reading

Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'