



St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

23rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year B -
5 Sept 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

A Blessed Father's Day!

Whether biological, spiritual, or adoptive, fatherhood is the vocation of every man. Perhaps today, the greatest sadness lies in the fact that many do not realise nor embrace this truth. In these days and months, we have witnessed again, how the calm, comforting, guiding and protective vocation of the father is as essential as ever.

Beginning the *Year of Saint Joseph* (Dec 8th, 2020-2021), Pope Francis spoke of Jesus' earthly father as a "beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows." All these attributes point to the identity of the father as one who lives not for himself, but to give life and love to another.

In *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*, 2016), the Pope wrote: "God sets the father in the family so that by the gifts of his masculinity he can be close to his wife and share everything, joy and sorrow, hope and hardship... Close to his children as they grow – when they play and when they work, when they are carefree and when they are distressed, when they are talkative and when they are silent, when they are daring and when they are afraid, when they stray and when they get back on the right path..."

Of course, we only often momentarily achieve this ideal, to greater or lesser degrees. Yet this is the pattern every man should strive for. After all, it is for such a life that he was created. It is the perfection we find in God our Father, which we seek to emulate. God the Father is ever-present in the good and the difficult, the high and the low, the affluent times, as well as the anxious, covid times. A true father shares in everything with his children, and never leaves their side.

I am unsure what practitioners would make of Jesus' healing methods in today's Gospel. Putting his fingers into the man's ears, he spits, touches the man's tongue, and... 'immediately the man's ears were open'. WH&S aside, Jesus' actions reveal something intensely personal about God. It is not the *fact* that Jesus heals, but the *way* he chooses to heal. He could have simply spoken, as with Simon Peter's mother-in-law, or as he did in the beginning. Yet now he reaches out and *touches*. His presence is physical and intensely personal; even taking the man away from the crowd. We often seek Jesus' healing, but not his heart. We seek a remedy, but not a relationship. And when we do, no wonder we remain unsatisfied! Mass becomes an obligation! Our Faith? A set of rules! Yet God seeks an *intimate relationship*; one which shares in the burden. In these difficult days, know that God is not 'watching' from a distance, but reaching out, not afraid to touch the places where we are wounded, in the midst of this pandemic. If anything now is the time to focus upon these truths of our faith.

Fatherhood is intimate, physical and vulnerable. It does not shy away from the difficult. Not when one's beloved is entrenched in it. Every father is called to witness and allow others, indeed the world, to experience this truth. Yet first, we must experience it ourselves. I write this, conscious of the fact that some have not experienced this. Many long to see it in their own fathers, husbands and even themselves. But in this moment, we remember that God our Father wishes to be this for us in each and every moment, of each and every day. Here, just as Jesus held and touched the deaf man, gazing to His Father, so too does he hold and reach out to touch us. For what is true of Jesus' actions in today Gospel, is true of the Heavenly Father and each man who strives to imitate that love.

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love... I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father." (John 15:9,15)

Fatherhood is a participation in the Love of God, and our society, it seems, is only as healthy as the fathers who make it up. We pray today for all fathers – living and deceased, fathers to-be, and father figures. May all men have the courage to imitate such a life. Let us pray for them and the critical vocation which is theirs.

We give thanks for all retired priests this day too. Please consider supporting them in the *Annual Father Day Appeal*, which we launch today. Envelopes will be available when we return to our churches but in these weeks online options are available on the *CatholicVoice* website.

With great affection and prayers. Happy Father's Day.

Father Trenton van Reesch

Administrator, St Christopher's Cathedral Parish

JOIN US IN
PRAYING THE

Rosary

Every Wednesday and
Friday at 4pm via Zoom
(During lockdown)

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 6 Sept Weekday, Ordinary Time
Tue 7 Sept Weekday, Ordinary Time
Wed 8 Sep The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thu 9 Sep Weekday, Ordinary Time
Fri 10 Sep St Gregory the Great
Sat 11 Sep Weekday, Ordinary Time
Sun 12 Sep 24th 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.

ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY APPEAL – Approximately 30 priests of our Archdiocese are cared for by the Clergy Retirement Foundation. This Appeal raises much needed funds to provide security in retirement years, including accommodation, and health care. Please be generous as you have in the past, and if possible make a donation, all gifts remain tax deductible. To donate: 1) Visit www.cgatholic.org.au/donate. 2) Call (02) 6239 9801 3) or for cash and cheque donations, please send to GPO BOX 3089 Canberra ACT 2601. Thank you for supporting our faithful Fathers in their retirement.



PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER – Human beings need humanity not Euthanasia – Please find a copy of this very important letter, online, on our parish website.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) 2021-22 - Come to prayer and discover more about our Catholic faith in a supportive, welcoming environment. Open to all, and 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. (first meeting via Zoom). To register or for more info email cathedral@cg.org.au

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT - *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. The Australian Bishop's invite us on a realistic and achievable journey to sustainability and care of creation, guided by *Laudato Si'* goals. This year's Statement is available on our website, and, Archdiocesan Caring for Creation response group: care4creation.org

ROSARY VIA ZOOM - Join Archbishop Christopher to pray the Rosary. All you need are Rosary beads and your Intentions. **Wednesday & Friday at 4 pm**. Click the link 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 HELP? - Need help ordering groceries online or just a chat? As a parish family we want to help... let us know, we'll be there! Please contact the parish office.

OTHER SUPPORT - Isolation from COVID-19 has only exacerbated the already huge issue of mental health. Among other issues, loneliness is a paralysing experience for so many. But there is help. If you or someone you know needs extra support. **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.**

A Prayer for Fathers

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.
Bless all fathers, as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in their call, to protect those who look to them.
May they echo your life-giving Fatherhood, as we look to you for love and life, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen

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://cgatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/>

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

Virtual Gathering on Supporting Couples—18 Sept 10am. Participate in a no cost 'virtual' gathering on the theme of 'Supporting Couples'. There will be stimulating talks from a range of speakers. For more details go to www.teamsocemia.com.au or contact Tim Power on 0437 013 328. You can register at <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=43655>

The Parenting Children Course 21 Sept, 7.30-8.30pm. (via zoom) For parents of young children, seeking connection and support during lockdown while learning new skills. It's fun, hopeful and designed to inspire confidence in your abilities as a parent. Register at bit.ly/101_Parents or contact Emma.Baker@bbcatholic.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—Despite the Covid lockdown we are taking phone calls, and processing email and web orders. We can take payments over the phone and customers can collect curb-side. Please email catholic.bookshop@cg.org.au or go online www.catholicbookshop.org.au

(NEW!) THE MARRIAGE COURSE – Whether married 4 months or 40 years, in a good place or struggling, *The Marriage Course* offers practical support and ideas to strengthen your marriage. Hosted by the Archdiocese, explore 7 topics together in the comfort of home (via ZOOM). For those at any stage of marriage. Begins Tuesday 19th October. Cost is \$70. Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qba2wYpXgUs> To register visit: www.cgatholic.org.au/marriagefamily/the-marriage-course/ or contact Steph Ransom steph.ransom@cg.org.au

PLENARY COUNCIL - October 2021 - 'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' Mark 7:31-37. The Church hears the cries of the poor and the groans of the earth. It seeks to stand in solidarity with the poor and the marginalised, and to exercise good stewardship of the fragile ecosystems that support life on earth. (Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, "A New Earth: Social Justice Statement 2002". plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheffame/)

Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Education of Catechists – ACN supports the formation and training of catechists so that where there are no priests or sisters, catechists are trained and sent forth to nurture the Christian community. With the help of our benefactors, ACN supported the formation of 18,389 catechists and lay leaders in 2020. Can you help provide support and formation to catechists to help spread the Faith? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/catechists.

Haiti Emergency Aid—ACN International has expressed its solidarity in prayer with Haiti and immediately approved an emergency aid package of \$800,000 AUD for the Haitian people. In response, ACN Australia has set up an emergency appeal to provide help for our brothers and sisters in 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: Antonio Torres Hidalgo, John Francis Thompson, Baby 'Angel' Thompson, Tom Brennan, Ralph Biggs, Michael Kelly, Teresa Calabria, Millie & Dick Millwood, Iris Mangan, William Flanagan, Beryl Phillis, Judith Appleton, John Roberts, Guerino Belmonte, Alfonso Cadona, Jim Phelan, Dorothy O'Donnell Vail, Jack Kane, Maria Walker, Colleen Brazil, Margaret Byrnes, Betty O'Brien, Norman Stevenson

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 Elizabije Petar, Eduardo Pelaez Tan, Tee Eng Nio, Ferry Tedjadi, Aurelio Biurra,



Cathedral QR code

Entrance Antiphon: *You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

Responsorial Psalm: *Praise the Lord, my soul!*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

First Reading

Is 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Second Reading

Jas 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Reading

Mk 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'