



# St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

33rd Sunday in Ord.  
Time, Year A  
19 November 2023

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



YEAR OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
August 2023– 2024

## PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (ph)

cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral

Online Payments Link: www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp

**Parish Secretary:** Anita Piper — 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Thursday. Office Closed Friday-Sunday

**Accounts Officer:** Karina Widjaja—8am-4pm Friday

## Sunday Mass

### St Christopher's

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

**Sat. Vigil:** 5.00pm

**Sunday:** 8.00am,

11.00am

5.00pm

### St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,  
Yarralumla ACT

**Saturday:** 6.00pm Vigil

**Sunday:** 9.30am

## Weekday Mass

### St Christopher's

**Monday to Friday:** 7.30am &  
12.15pm

**Saturday (& Public Holidays):**  
9.00am & 12.15pm

### St Peter Chanel's

**Tuesday:** 5.30pm

## 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

**Monday to Friday:** 5.00-6.00pm

## Rosary at the Cathedral

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

## Baptisms

2nd & 4th Sundays: 12.30pm

## Weddings

**St Christopher's:** Saturday  
1.30pm & 3.00pm

**St Peter Chanel's:** By arrangement

## SOLOMON. IF ONLY YOU LISTENED TO YOUR MOTHER!

I would like to focus on our first reading, we should look at it in some depth. This is a really popular choice for weddings and funerals. It speaks to what is truly great and good in women; we are shown the image of a hard working wife. She toils and labours for her family, she is trusted and trustworthy, her husband never fears what she might be up to.

This passage is seen by some as controversial. Sadly, anything in our society that mentions women has become controversial. Context really helps us here. The chapter of the Book of Proverbs (31) which our reading is taken from, is titled *The Sayings of Lemuel king of Maasa, taught him by his mother*.

This passage is not a man telling a woman how to act or how to behave, but rather a mother telling her son what sort of a woman he should marry. This isn't a male ideal of a woman, but a female ideal of a daughter-in-law. This is also the Word of God.

There are several omissions which might raise an eyebrow: sex is never mentioned here, neither is purity or virginity. Children and fertility are also absent in this description of a perfect wife. Beauty, charm and elegance, are seen as trivial things which quickly pass away.

The point which the author's mother stresses is that virtue, the character of a woman, is what is truly of value. This perfect wife is a hard worker, she takes initiative, she is never idle or wasteful but also concerned with doing good. She brings help, not harm to her husband and is seen to be a good and responsible citizen, and active and loved member of the community. The Bible tells us that she deserves her wages and her well-earned respect.

I see in this passage an echo of the garden of Eden, Adam looked through all the animals and gave them their names, but couldn't find a worthy helper. When Adam first lays eyes on Eve, he doesn't say "what a babe!", he says "Here at last is flesh of my flesh, and bone of my bone." We see again the Godly ideal: Man and Woman united in love, respect and working together for the good of all.

There is another point to raise, who is King Lemuel of Maasa? He's a figure not mentioned again in the Bible. There seem to be two schools of thought, one that he is a king from a tribe in Northern Arabia, another that he is really a pseudonym for King Solomon.

If this second school is right, it means then that the true author of this proverb was Bathsheba (coerced to become David's wife, mother of Solomon and an ancestor of Jesus). Bathsheba is often portrayed as either a victim of a man's lust or a seductress, if these are her own words then we see her as a woman calling out for her son to see women not as objects but as persons.

Sadly, Solomon didn't listen to his mother and his lust for women drove him far from God. His divided heart would cause his kingdom to fall, and the people of God to suffer for centuries. Let us make sure that we don't fall into the same trap, a person's worth is found not in their body but in their soul.

Fr. Alex

# NOTICES

## PARISH MINISTRIES

**Director of Music**  
Ms Jaki Kane

**RCIA**  
Miss Becky Langworthy  
Contact Office

**School of Religion**  
Miss Chiara Catanzariti

**Youth Ministers**  
Mr Andre Le  
youth.cathedral@cg.org.au

### Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon Nov 20 33rd Week in Ord. Time  
Tues Nov 21 33rd Week in Ord. Time  
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Wed Nov 22 33rd Week in Ord. Time  
St Cecilia  
Thu. Nov 23 33rd Week in Ord. Time  
Fri. Nov 24 33rd Week in Ord. Time  
St Andrew Dung-Lac and companions  
Sat. Nov 25 33rd Week in Ord. Time  
Sun Nov 26 CHRIST, KING OF THE  
UNIVERSE

## PARISH GROUPS

**St Vincent de Paul**

**Good Shepherd Prayer Group**  
Wednesday at 7pm SPC  
Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

**Christian Meditation**  
Saturday at 4:30pm 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 **begins Feb.**

**Filipino Community**  
First Sunday bi-monthly at  
5.00pm SPC

**For details of any of the  
above, contact the Parish  
Office.**

## NOVEMBER PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls, you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness who walk in the shadow of death so remember in your kingdom your faithful servants, that death may be for them the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints, you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love now and for ever. Amen.

**NOVEMBER MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES** available at Church exits. Completed envelopes can be returned on collection plates or to the parish office. Please print clearly.

**RED WEDNESDAY—MASS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS—** Will be held at the 12:15pm Mass on Wednesday 22nd November at the Cathedral.

**Catechesis with Fr. Alex** — Our very last session on Monday 20th Nov 6:30-8pm at Haydon Hall, food and wine provided. The topic will be on **The End of the World**

**TWILIGHT MASS FOR DECEASED CHILDREN** – Twilight Mass for all those who have lost babies (including the unborn) & children, will be held **Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 6:30pm**, Saint Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. If you have lost a child of any age, you are invited to record their name on cards available on the night. On the evening you are invited to light a candle to place before the altar.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY—** You are invited to the Cathedral Parish Christmas Party. Friday **15 Dec, 6-8pm**, Haydon Hall. Drinks provided. Please feel free to bring a savoury, salad or sweet plate to share. All are welcome!



**CANBERRA BACH ENSEMBLE** – *Bach's Advent Cantatas*. Choir, orchestra, and soloists, directed by Andrew Koll, will be performing JS Bach's Advent Cantatas BWV 61, 36, 62 and 1, on **Saturday 2 Dec 7.30pm**, and **Sunday 3 Dec 2pm** at St Christopher's Cathedral. For more info and tickets, visit [www.canberrabachensemble.com](http://www.canberrabachensemble.com)

A purple-themed advertisement for the Canberra Bach Ensemble. It features a portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach, musical notation, and a central image of a white sculpture of a person holding a child. Text includes: 'CANBERRA BACH ENSEMBLE', 'Nun komm', 'Now come, Saviour of the Gentiles', 'der Heiden Heiland', 'Advent Cantatas BWV 61, 36, 62 &amp; 1', and performance dates: 'Saturday 2 December 2023, 7.30pm' and 'Sunday 3 December 2023, 2.00pm' at 'St Christopher's Cathedral, Franklin Street, Manuka'. A QR code is also present.

**Vigil Mass – Saint Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, 6pm Mass—**  
Friends, in recent years the number of parishioners and visitors attending the 6pm Vigil Mass at SPC has slowly declined, while numbers at the five other Masses in the parish have increased. For this reason we have decided that the 6pm Vigil Mass will cease to be offered at the end of December 2023. The Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass will continue to be offered at the Cathedral. I understand that this inevitable decision will come as a disappointment to many who have attended Mass at this time for some years. Of course, the 930am Mass on Sundays will remain.  
I thank you most graciously for your understanding.

# NOTICES

**Giving and Receiving— Direct debit and QKR options are available, as well as TapnGo machines Thank you sincerely for your generosity.** If you are able, perhaps consider donating to 1st and 2nd collection via direct debit .  
**The First collection: contributes to clergy of the Archdiocese.** If you make an offering 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 parish mission and maintenance.** 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 # and Surname (only current Planned Givers);  
or Donation (parishioners not registered Planned Givers).

For more information or to set up monthly payments via direct debit, please contact the Parish Office. For step by step Qkr! instructions, visit [cgatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/](http://cgatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/)

**Thank you for your generosity**

**Synod of Bishops: English Translation of the Synthesis Report—** The Synthesis Report from the recent Synod has been released. For those interested, the report can be found on the Cathedral website.

**CARETAXI: SAFE CHURCH TRANSPORT—** Mass, Medical/GP appointments, shopping trips, recreational trips, and more; qualified and caring drivers. Visit [caretaxi.com.au](http://caretaxi.com.au), or 0451 734 334.

**Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal—** An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter & health needs. With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413

**ST BENEDICT'S CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER —** All are invited to come and enjoy live music, singing Christmas carols from our St Benedict's music ministry. Food, fun and prizes to be won! Sunday **December 3rd 11am - 3pm**, held in St Benedict's School Hall (opposite church) \$15 a ticket (family passes available) Tickets can be purchased online <https://www.trybooking.com/CMZZP> All proceeds to be given to St Benedict's Church. Donations welcome.

**Loreto Ex Students' Reunion—** in Canberra Saturday, **16 March 2024** For further details: [loreto.canberra@gmail.com](mailto:loreto.canberra@gmail.com)

**MAGI PILGRIMAGES—** You are invited to an 18-day pilgrimage with Fr Maria Raju, from 23rd Sept—9th Oct 2024. The pilgrimage features Fatima, Lourdes, Turin, Milan, Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Rotondo and Rome for an all-inclusive price of \$8790. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email us [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)



## Year of the Holy Spirit

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

O God, who by the light  
Of the Holy Spirit,  
Did instruct the hearts  
Of the faithful,  
Grant that by the same  
Holy Spirit we may be  
truly wise and ever rejoice in His  
consolations.  
Through the same  
Christ our Lord

Amen.

AUGUST 2023—AUGUST 2024

#### We pray for...

**Those to be baptised:** Sofia Cargill & Anya Li

**Those who are ill:** Frank Fulop, Margaret "Peggy" Byrnes, Archie Ferris, Tony Dickins, Catherine Cleary, Marilena Damiano Fr Greg Beath, Sophy Jacob, Alla Skorokhodova, Tony Kelly, Susie Menadue, Geraldene Ford, Kevin & Geraldine Conlon, Maja Marija Olip, McKenzie Killian, Fr Bill, Leung Man Kon, Beryl Johnson, Florencio Fariña, Alejandra Martinez, Colliss Parrett, Arianna Vignale, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Paul Mychailuk, Kalum, Nicholas Dyne.

**Anniversaries of death:** Anna Maria Murphy, Barbara Crossin, Gerald Billings, Dorothy Simmons, Ken O'Toole, Paul Webber, Mario Damo, Shane Christopher Greenwood, Maurizio Scarpino, Milka Fink, Lady Nora Randall, Gladys Robertson, Alma Back, Molly Broash, Anna Murphy, Joan Pederson, Gaetano De Simone, Giulio Pantano, Frank Colvin, Mary Roots, Alison Waldren, Michael (Jock) McGuigan, Blair Brookes, Thomas Green, Alyson Edwards, Vincenzo Bimonte, John Robertson, Margaret Frawley, Tan Roberts, Garry O'Donnell, John Gallagher, David Cusack, Aurelio Biurra, Ray & Betty Fry, Philomena D'Cruze

**Recently Deceased:** Don Debus, Raymond Anthony, Kevin Bray, Colin Dwyer, Anita Ong-Siong Sy, Mgr Rob Egar, Rosa Mustapic, Pamela Rotmwell, Norma May, Ethel Lee, Francesco Calabria, Domenico Mico, Anton Sampath, Michael Miley, Fr Brian Gleeson CP





Cathedral QR code

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place .

**Responsorial:** Happy are those who fear the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

**First Reading**

**Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31**

A perfect wife— who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband’s heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

**Second Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6**

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

**Gospel**

**Mt 25: 14-30**

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each is proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir”, he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.” Next the man with the two talents came forward. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will entrust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.” Last came forward the man who had the one talent. “Sir,” said he “I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and went off and hid you talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.” But his master answered him, “You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”

**READERS ROSTER NOVEMBER**

**Lectors**

**Eucharistic Ministers**

Mass	18/19 Nov	25/26 Nov	18/19 Nov	25/26 Nov
5.00pm (SCC)	Dorilyn Desuyo Ruth Meadows	Samantha Hazlett Stewart Unwin		
6.00pm (SPC)	Felicity de Fombelle Fiona Wheeler	Tarinya Hannedege		
8.00am (SCC)	Stewart Unwin Dione Smith	Joe Zavone Louise Zavone		
9.30am (SPC)	Raphael Molu Tarinya Hannedege	Damien Balachandran Raphael Molu		
11.00am (SCC)	Cecilia Flores Jacqui Ramesh	Bronwen Grey Les Buszynski	Edwina Hyman Bronwen Grey	Edwina Hyman Leeann Galloway
5.00pm (SCC)	Samuel Thatcher Sarah Miron	Lynette Yap Anthony Brierley		

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