

Corpus Christi (Year A) 13 June 2020

For the Life of the World. When we eat the flesh of Jesus and drink his blood in Eucharistic communion, we share in his very life, a life poured out for all on the cross. As we gratefully receive this food of eternal life, we are called in turn to pour out our lives in loving service to our brothers and sisters.

Responsorial Psalm:

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;

Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

'Open Our Churches' national petition

While it is pleasing to see progress made on the easing of restrictions on churches in NSW, our fellow Catholics in some other states and territories are still struggling to practice their faith under unfair restrictions at this time. You can voice your concerns directly

with all the premiers and chief ministers by signing the Open Our Churches petition at this address: www.openourchurches.com.au

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



Fr. Brian Egan, Parish Priest
Fr Chaminda Wanigasena, Assistant Priest
2 Burke St, Concord West NSW 2138
admin@stambrose.org.au
sacraments@stambrose.org.au
parishcouncil@stambrose.org.au
www.stambrose.org.au
Phone: 02 9743 1023
VASA: 9736 3686, 8765 1295
St Ambrose Primary School
Stuart St, Concord West
Principal: Ms Linda McFadden
Ph: 9743 5605
info@stambconcord.catholic.edu.au

Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online & receive the Spiritual Communion.

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Saturday 8.30am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday 9am Mass

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,

Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our First Reconciliation Sacrament will go ahead as planned – however there will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

First Reconciliation- Saturday 8, 15 and 22 August at 2pm

First Holy Communion- Sunday 1, 8 and 15 November at 11am

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information
– sacraments@stambrose.org.au



Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.



Recently Deceased: Bill Young Snr, Stephano Calautti, Frances Good, Michael Taffa, Gwen Kennedy, Terry Tully, Elvira Bonanno, Fr Peter Morrissey, Fr Paddy McAuliffe, Saniora Antouny

Anniversaries: Vladimir Susic, John Kennedy, Doris Cammilleri, Joe and Mary Mangion, Eleanor Williams, Margaret Bouke, Anthony Zovaro, Nadie Isgro, Santor Rizzo, Harry Dah Dah, Charlie DiSomma, Lauren Hew, Fr John Pearce, Caterina Lorzio, Carmen Cullinan

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Anwar Ghraiche, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betro, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Vladimir Susic, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Theresa Tan's Mum, Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Imogen Warner, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, , Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Vitezniak, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfroe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here-
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Room available in retired professional's home with verandah and garden. Close to Concord Hospital and transport. Suit mature working lady or pensioner. Dog OK. Terms Negotiable. Please see or ring Fr Brian.

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. CCareline is here to help. Call 131819 Monday - Friday 8am to 6pm.

JRS Winter Blanket Collection

Please support people seeking asylum this Winter by donating **NEW** blankets to JRS. See second image for drop off point information.

C o n t a c t :
Amelia Savage
amelia.savage@jrs.org.au 9098 9336



Can you help?



The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

“I myself am the living bread come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, she/he shall live forever.” John 6, 51-58
“Go in peace, glorifying God by your life!” Dismissal blessing at the end of Mass

On this Sunday’s celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are invited to reflect on the place of Eucharist in our lives, giving attention to what we are about when we “go to Mass”, and how that relates to everything we do as the rest of our week unfolds. Today our gospel reading again comes from John, the last we will hear from him until the Third Sunday of Advent in December.

In the Church I go to in Rome, the priest invariably concludes the Mass with the blessing: “Go in peace, glorifying God by your Life!” That blessing is a reminder that the Eucharist in which I have just participated is meant to continue somehow in everything that I say and do until I go to Mass again. What, I ask myself, does that really mean? And how do I go about doing what that dismissal blessing urges me to do?

Let’s begin that exploration by reflecting on today’s gospel reading. Aware that it comes from John’s Gospel, let’s remember that we are once again engaging with the language of metaphor and symbol. John presents a picture of Jesus engaging with people who knew well the language of symbol and metaphor. So, when Jesus started to talk about bread, blood, “bread that came down from heaven”, flesh and food, many in his audience would have begun to think about blood sprinkled on doorposts at the time of the Exodus and the manna in the desert that saved their wandering ancestors from starvation. All this language about food, blood and flesh captured symbols of what Jewish people understood as God’s love for them that had been expressed repeatedly throughout their long history. So, when they heard Jesus speaking of himself as “the bread of life” and “living bread”, they would have heard him telling them that he, too, just like the manna in the desert, was a living expression of God’s love for them. Those who could not accept that message ignored his language of symbols and chose to interpret him literally, protesting that they would be cannibals if they tried to eat his flesh and drink the blood coursing through his veins. They could not or would not accept that the man in front of them could teach them or demonstrate to them anything about God’s love for them. They could not accept that “feeding on his message” would lead them to God and would help them to love and care for one another. The more comfortable option was to walk away. That’s what many of us are tempted to do whenever we are challenged.

When we celebrate Eucharist, we engage with the love of God made visible in Jesus. By responding to the readings we hear, we affirm that we

intend to act them out in the way we live. Remember, we are always invited to engage with the readings not as spectators but as participants. What’s more, I will never tire of reminding myself and others that, when we participate in Eucharist and receive communion, we do well to remember that, in holding the communion bread in front of us, the priest is really saying: “Behold who you are, become what you receive” - recognise that you are the body of Christ; become Jesus, the love of God for your world! St Augustine said those words to everyone who came to him to receive communion, and he urged his fellow priests to do likewise.

Paul spells out the same thing in today’s second reading from Corinthians: “Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread we break a participation in the body of Christ?” (1 Corinthians 10, 16) The significant word, of course, is “participation”. By presenting ourselves to be nourished by Christ’s body and blood, we are accepting his invitation to live as he lived, to love as he loved. We are, indeed, his sacraments, and we give expression to his love, forgiveness, compassion, mercy and affirmation whenever we accept that dismissal invitation: “Go in peace, glorifying God by your life!”

Participating as fully as we can in Eucharist, glorifying God by our lives means reaching out in love, respect and care for everyone we encounter, for all, like us, are made in the image of God. They, like us, reflect something of the goodness and love of God, irrespective of their social status, race, religion or sexual orientation. However, recent Popes especially John-Paul II and, currently, Pope Francis have reminded us that the earth, our common home, is also a sacrament of the love, goodness and beauty of God. So, participating in Eucharist also means glorifying God by the way in which we engage with the whole of creation.

On the World Day of Peace (1st January 1990), John Paul II issued a message entitled *The Ecological Crisis: A Common responsibility*. In it he stated: “Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends to the rest of creation. If nature is the new poor, then the Christian mandate of option for the poor and oppressed now includes the natural world. If we are to love our neighbour as ourselves, then the range of neighbours now includes the whale, the monarch butterfly, the local lake, the entire community of life. If the common good requires solidarity with all who suffer, then our compassion extends to suffering human beings and other species caught in patterns of extinction. Save the rainforest becomes a concrete moral application of the commandment: Thou shalt not kill. This, in turn, requires us to realise the deep connections between social injustice and ecological devastation. Ravaging of the people and of the land go hand in hand. To be deeply true, prophetic action must not get caught in the trap of pitting social justice issues against issues of ecological health, but must include commitment to ecological wholeness within the struggle for a more just social order. We all share the status of

creaturehood; we are all kin in the evolving community of life now under siege. A vision of justice as cosmic justice is the only adequate option.”

Accepting the invitation to participate in Eucharist and to step out, glorifying God by our lives has far-reaching implications. Perhaps the best place to begin is in our own place of residence, our own backyard, and then to expand outward. The Jesuit poet, Gerard Manly Hopkins proclaimed: “The world is charged with the grandeur of God” (sonnet entitled *God’s Grandeur*). To hear that is one thing, but to take time to notice requires conscious effort. To open our eyes to our immediate surrounds is to get in touch with the sacrament of God’s creation. In this context, I am reminded of a comment by the 19th century Swiss geologist, Jean Louis Agassiz: “I spent the summer travelling; I got half-way across my backyard!” If we were to do nothing more than spend the next few weeks exploring our backyards, making meaning of how Eucharist fits into our lives, and articulating for ourselves what glorifying God in our life actually looks like, our lived understanding of Eucharist would surely be enriched, and we would then dare to be bread broken and wine poured out for our broken world.

DUE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Act of Spiritual Communion

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.

Your intentions will be offered to God by us
in our private masses.

Fr. Brian Egan (Parish priest)
Fr. Chaminda Wanigasena (Assistant Priest)

Safeguarding Policy at St Ambrose Parish

The following volunteers need to be covered: Children’s Liturgy Ministers, Youth Choir Ministers, All Eucharistic Ministers (whether at Mass, in the home or at the Hostel), Lectors/Ministers of the Word, Counters & Collectors.

Special Individual KITS have been prepared for as many of the above volunteers, as I have been personally able to find through the various rosters. I have left SPARE KITS in the foyer of the church. The KITS are fairly self-explanatory and give directions for their completion. You will find a LARGE PLASTIC CONTAINER in the Piety Stall, where you are asked to please leave all your documents (in their plastic sleeve) on completion of the FOUR requirements listed in your KIT.

Online training is quite simple. When you are ready to complete it, email me on judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au and I shall send you the website address for the training which takes about 1 hour but can be done in two sessions if needed.

Face to face training cannot be done until the time when we can gather without restraints of any kind. Please phone Sr. Judith on 0455 727 501 if you need any help. I am residing at Edgecliff for four or five weeks as there are necessary repairs at the Convent in MacKenzie St. The Safeguarding process is tedious but its purpose is for the protection of our precious children, so as a F A I T H community let us give it our best!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a word of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

DO YOU HAVE PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND CASH TO HAND IN?

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at ‘lent.caritas.org.au’ and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney, NSW 2001

Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash
Please call our friendly team on 1800 024 413.

JRS FOODBANK

During these unprecedented times people seeking asylum in the community need your help now more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated.

Food items:

- Basmati Rice
- Cooking Oil
- Long life milk
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit
- Biscuits and muesli bars
- Oats and cereal

Toiletries:

- Nappies (large sizes)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Sanitary pads and napkins
- Razors and shaving foam
- Deodorant (male & female)
- Soap

Thank you for walking with us at this critical time! We provide emergency payments and food to hundreds of individuals, including children to pay for rent and life-saving medications. These individuals do not have access to Centrelink, Medicare, the pharmaceutical benefits scheme so your support is critical.

Please contact Amelia.Savage@jrs.org.au to donate.

