

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 28 June 2020

Hard Sayings. Today's Gospel included a number of so called 'hard sayings' of Jesus. They identify the basic paradox of our Christian faith: it is only by emptying ourselves in imitation of Jesus (Phil 2:7) that we can receive the fullness of life which is his gift (Jn 10:10). There can be no real growth in the Spirit if self-interest prevails.

Responsorial Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light. 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.



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Fr Chaminda Wanigasena, Assistant Priest
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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
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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.

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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: Gaylene Ann Hickey, Cecilia Marcaida, Lynette Prins, Frances Good, Leena D'Mello, Michael Tafta, Gwen Kennedy,

Anniversaries: Gordon & Gwen Cootes, Ettore Ciccotti, Joe and Mary Mangion, Doris Cammilleri, Eleanor Williams, Margaret Bouke, Anthony Zovaro

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, 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, Terry Tully, 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 Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, **John Kennedy**, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Vladimir Susic, Ruby Madera, Anwar Ghraiche & Family, Nguyen Families, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppa & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Anthony Abraham, 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 Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

SAFEGUARDING POLICY IN ST AMBROSE'S PARISH

IMPOTANT: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DROP OFF POINT FOR YOUR COMPLETED PAPERWORK FROM PIETY STORE TO PRIESTS' SACRISTY

Archdiocesan directions as to the particular volunteers to be covered by the above policy are as follows:

- Children's Liturgy Ministers**
- Youth Choir Ministers**
- All Eucharistic Ministers (including at Mass, in the home or at the Hostel)**
- Lectors/Ministers of the Word**
- Counters**
- Collectors**

Special Individual K I T S have been prepared for as many of the above volunteers, as I have been personally able to find through the various rosters, as there is no Parish list as such.... For this reason I have left S P A R E K I T S in the foyer of the church....

The KITS are fairly self-explanatory and give directions for completion of the information required for Parish Records. You will find a LARGE PLASTIC CONTAINER in the P R I E S T S ` S A C R I S T Y where you are asked to please leave all your completed documents (in their plastic sleeve) on completion of the FOUR requirements listed on your K I T.

NOTE: online training is quite simple. When you are ready to complete it, please email me and I shall send you the website for the training which takes about 1 hour but can be done in two sessions if needed.

judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au

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 is you need any help. Sr Judith will be residing at Edgecliff for four or five weeks as necessary repairs are undertaken in the Convent in MacKenzie Street.

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 our best.



St Vincent de Paul Society NSW
Support Services *good works*

St Vincent de Paul – Winter Appeal

Due to current restrictions, we will still be holding our Winter Appeal, but in a slightly different format.

We are most grateful for the support given to St Vincent de Paul and ask if you would like to make a donation that the following procedures please be observed.

Cash donations via the Poor Box or Blue Bucket at the Church exit. If you require a receipt for your cash donation, would you kindly provide your **own envelope** with your details.

Credit card donations to be made using **appeal envelopes**. These envelopes are old unused ones for either our Christmas Appeal or last year's Winter Appeal. The envelopes are available at the Burke Street side door and can be placed in the Blue Bucket.

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, we are all affected in one way or another. Our volunteers continue to assist the needy and St Vincent de Paul Concord West Conference are extremely grateful for your ongoing generosity and support of the local community that we serve.

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.

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/>

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.



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.

Br Julian's Reflection. 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God’s messenger. Accepting someone’s help is as good as giving someone help...Giving as little as a cup of cold water to someone in need will not go unrewarded.” Matthew 10, 37-42

Today’s gospel-reading brought back memories for me of my first excursion into a classroom for practice teaching. Like other beginning, would-be teachers, I experienced a mixture of anxiety, butterflies, and doubts as to my ability to measure up to the task. Today’s gospel records what looks like Jesus’ pep-talk to the disciples before he sent them off to door-knock, preach, and test themselves out as prophets. Prophets were not fortune tellers, seers or predictors of the future. Rather, they were people of integrity, who took the risk of proclaiming a truth that was aimed at disturbing the comfort of those who would listen to them. Inherent in this gospel-reading is the double reminder to us that we, too, are meant to be prophets by the way we live, and that our message might well meet with rejection, criticism and even the threat or reality of physical violence. As we all know, Jesus’ message is not popular with some audiences. We are being challenged today to look at ourselves and decide if there is a close correlation between the Gospel of Jesus and the way we live and act, allowing us to say as Gandhi did: “My life is my message”, and a message worth hearing.

The writer and scripture scholar Jay Cormier recalls a story he came across in *The Boston Globe*. It recounts the reflection of a young doctor, given to a reporter on her return from volunteering at a tent-hospital in Haiti in the wake of the January 2010 earthquake, which claimed the lives of more than 250,000 people. Cormier wrote:

A young woman oncologist was one of a group of doctors from a Boston hospital who went to Haiti in January 2010 to offer their help in the wake of the deadly earthquake. She told of being totally overwhelmed by the situation in a very primitive tent hospital. There was a seemingly endless barrage of impossible medical traumas, and they were without proper medicines or instruments. At one point, she became paralyzed by her helplessness and fear. It was all too much. Unable to function any longer, she began sobbing uncontrollably, burying her face in her hands.

She was at the bedside of a little boy, whose leg had been amputated a few days earlier. The little boy, about six or seven years old, saw her tears and her trembling and, with a smile, lifted his head from his pillow and encouraged her to move on to some other kids nearby who he knew needed her attention more than he did.

And remarkably, she found she was able to do so. For in that moment, the power of death and her overwhelming sense of horror and hopelessness were broken open. She witnessed in that little boy the triumph of love over pain and fear.

The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (in Latin, *Lumen Gentium* – Christ, the Light of the Nations) is often referred to as the foundational document of Vatican II. In its second chapter, it speaks of all baptised people as participating in the priestly and prophetic role of Christ. In other words, as followers of Jesus, we are all expected to lead other people to holiness by the way in which we live, and to play a prophetic role by acting with integrity and always speaking the truth in love, even when those around us might be uncomfortable with hearing that truth. However, the reality is that people, who use their power to keep others in dependence and servitude, and who mete out injustice, don’t like their comfort being threatened or their power being challenged. They seek to punish and silence the prophetic voice that challenges them.

The role of prophetic disciples of Jesus is to bring the kingdom of God to reality in whatever situation they find themselves. To be numbered among those disciples, we, too, need to bring God’s love, compassion and peace to everyone with whom we engage. The young Haitian boy who encouraged the distraught doctor to pick herself up and to reach out to patients in greater need was a true prophet of compassion and love. While his tender age and innocence shielded him from disapproval by anyone, his words were enough to reignite that young doctor’s hope.

Jesus reminded his disciples (and us) that there will always be those who benefit from keeping fellow human beings victimised, oppressed and trapped in misery. The very act of challenging such oppression will often result in reprisals, punishment and hatred. The Cross will be their reward. Yet, the challenge that Jesus puts to each one of us is to use every resource we have and every opportunity that comes our way to make the love and compassion of God accessible to everyone with whom we engage.

As Jesus concluded his exhortation to his disciples, he used an expression whose significance had long escaped me: “Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me” (Matthew 10, 40). As I reflect on my own role as a disciple of Jesus, I can so easily slip into convincing myself that I’m the one who is meant to be the welcomer of those who are struggling or in need. Yet Jesus makes it clear that there are times when I need to be open to being welcomed. There are times when I don’t have all the answers or don’t hold all the aces and am not in control. He reminds his disciples that, even though they carry the good news of God’s kingdom, they will be reliant on the hospitality and goodness of those they visit for shelter, a bed and a meal to eat.

I wonder if Jesus is telling us, too, to be wary of being in positions of power. Needing to be in charge can blind us to our own vulnerabilities. Perhaps this is Jesus' way of telling us to consider walking in the shoes of the disadvantaged, the forgotten, the outcast and the refugee. Then we might come to see that we are the ones in need of assistance, encouragement and support. It may well be that we will become more effective witnesses to the power of God's love from our own positions of vulnerability.

At the same time, we surely need to recognise that, while the Gospel challenges us to be wary of the kind of position and power the world applauds, we have to cultivate the power that comes from being truly centred in God, from being in touch with God's Spirit planted deep within our hearts. It will be from that place that we will grow into genuine and prophetic witnesses to Jesus and his message.