

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 2 August 2020

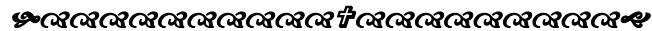
“Give Them Something To Eat Yourselves.’ With the five loaves and two fish that Jesus had blessed, the disciples fed a vast crowd. Our acts of service and love towards others may often seem small but, blessed by Jesus, they too can have a great impact. We need Jesus to bless our work, and Jesus needs us to feed the hungry and comfort the lonely of our world. Together, we can do great things.

Responsorial Psalm:

The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!



Livestreaming

Our livestreaming has proven to be very popular. To ensure it's continuity we're wondering if anyone has a 'spare laptop' that could be donated to the Church.



The minimum specs are

1. CPU – i5 4th gen onwards
2. Ram – minimum 8GB
3. Graphics card

4.

If you have a 'spare laptop' could you please contact the Parish on 97431023 or email admin@stambrose.org.au



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Stuart St, Concord West
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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: Gladys Seruys, John Kola

Anniversaries: Michele Lancuba, Peter Rahme, Olva & Jack Jacono, Dianne Druitt, Lauren Hew, Emanuela Pisani, Boris Slaminka, Marko Tadinac, Una Harris

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, Anthony Zovaro, 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 Koloj, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Emanuela Pisani, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Antonino Restuccia, Iris Moreno, Desti Manalu, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Hendra Kurniawan, Boris Slaminka, Ruby Madera, Jack Kocina, Maria & Carlo Colongioi, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guisepe & 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:

Maria Manno, Joseph Borg, Lorna Redolfi, Yuan Sheng Ye, Theresa Tan's mum, Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, 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 Weinfefoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

NOTICE FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS DURING MASS

Re Archdiocesan Parish Safeguarding Policy

This policy aims at safeguarding all our many volunteer Ministers, as well as safeguarding our children and any vulnerable adults. The volunteers required to be covered by this policy are those people in any way connected with the celebration of Eucharist, namely Eucharistic Ministers at Mass or Hostel, Youth Choir Ministers, Lectors, Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministers, Collectors, Counters, and Acolytes.

Thank you to all those who have already collected their personal KITS from the foyer of the church and have followed through and obtained their WWCC. The final step is online training which is quite simple to do and much quicker than face to face training which will not be possible for some time. To assist you with this, I can send you the website if you email me on judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au

Twelve people have already sent for the website, done the training and secured the Salt Certificate.

I HAVE LEFT A PLASTIC BOX IN THE PRIESTS' SACRISTY FOR YOU TO PUT ALL YOUR PAPERWORK RETURNS FOR RECORDING, not online please.

All details of each person's forms are required

- 1. To be recorded by me**
- 2. A copy kept in Parish Records....and**
- 3. A record of all details forwarded to the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Office.**

The Parish is currently being asked for a review of how the process of "Safeguarding" our generous volunteers is moving ahead. This process was begun four years ago, in response to the Royal Commission into Sexual Abuse and is coming to a close, prior to an audit of all Australian parishes. This is to ensure that our Parish of St. Ambrose' Concord West is well covered by law in regard to the safety of our children and vulnerable adults and that our

leadership has acquiesced in the process to protect all our generous volunteers.

I have treated the work in mounting this whole project as part of my Christ-given mission to the people of this Parish. It has taken many hours. It was good to interact with so many. Sr. Judith

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS
COMPLETING SAFEGUARDING PAPERWORK



Working With Children Checks

When returning your **safeguarding KIT paperwork to the parish**, please include your WWC number printout so the parish can verify you as a volunteer who has been cleared to undertake voluntary work at St Ambrose parish.

In order for the parish to process your verification with the NSW Working With Children Office **we need your date of birth. Please write your date of birth on the WWC printout along with a contact number so we can contact you if necessary.**

Please return KITS when ALL requirements have been completed.

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 St Ambrose Parish!

Once again you have shown your true spirit of generosity & care. St Vincent de Paul Concord West Conference thank you immensely. During these difficult & unprecedented times your support has been outstanding. Your kindness in giving to the Winter Appeal has raised \$4,371.50!!

On behalf of the community members that will benefit from your generosity, I thank you. This money helps us continue our valuable work, supporting the vulnerable and less fortunate. During this time of global pandemic, many people are affected - thankfully, with your help, we are able to assist some of them in a variety of ways.

We are encouraged by you, the people of the parish. **THANK YOU!**

Jackie Burgess, President

Please remember in your prayers the children of our parish and their families as they prepare to make their First Reconciliation through the Parish Sacramental Program. Remember to check the Piety Store for that special memento gift.



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/>

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.

The Safeguarding Office invites us on **4 August to 9 August 2020 to celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day** (Children's Day).

Children's Day is a time for communities around Australia to support and celebrate the strength and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It is also a great opportunity to learn how family and community plays a big part in the life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The Archdiocese of Sydney, Catholic Aboriginal Community will be holding a special Mass on Sunday 2nd August at 11am to celebrate Children's Day.

The Mass will be lived streamed via their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ReconciliationChurchSydney/>

Br Julian's Reflection 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As evening drew on, the disciples came to Jesus with a suggestion: "This is a deserted place and it's already late. Dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves." Jesus said to them: "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves." Matthew 14, 13-21

Jewish people have acquired a reputation for being blunt and direct in what they have to say. Perhaps this comes from their history of struggle, persecution and tragedy. They find little time for wasting words on trivial niceties. Today's first reading from *Exodus* gives us a glimpse of them at their bluntest best. When Moses and Aaron assured them that God would save them from starvation by providing both quail and *manna*, there were no complaints about the flocks of quail that landed in their camp, but they certainly questioned the manna's suitability for consumption: "*Man-hu*, what on earth is this stuff you're expecting us to gather and eat?" Researchers now tell us that it was probably a mixture of glucose and protein contained in the cocoons of beetles/grubs, but could not be stored because it attracted flies and quickly became fly-blown. In retrospect they came to appreciate that the provision of the manna was an example of God's providence in their history. Over time, they explained to the younger generations how they had survived very difficult times and circumstances, how they had done it tough in the wilderness, and how God had cared for them. But, when things were at their worst, they were not slow to complain. In turn, their leaders were not slow in urging them to draw on their own resilience, and to make the most of the small mercies that came their way.

There are important messages implied in this story. While the people find all the quail they need and have an adequate supply of manna (even though they are mystified by it), the God who comes to their assistance does not spoon-feed them. They are clearly expected to work together to gather what they need to survive, and quickly discover that the manna has to be carefully handled. Growing into freedom calls for both responsibility and accountability. These wandering people have been pushed into learning what is required to build themselves into a community. Isn't it true that all communities are built by people rolling up their sleeves and involving themselves, from the start, even in the very ordinary activities of subsistence-living. In the isolation of the wilderness, these former slaves learned the first steps in the process of reinventing themselves into a people who would be responsible for themselves, to one another and to the God they were coming to know.

Today's gospel-reading contains another set of lessons in responsibility and accountability for those who would be disciples of Jesus. Having been

involved with his disciples in a demanding schedule of teaching and preaching, and having just heard the news of John the Baptist's execution, Jesus saw the need for time out for himself and his disciples to grieve, to reflect and to rest. His plans were defeated by an ever-demanding crowd. Then, when his disciples wanted to get rid of the crowd, Jesus challenged them to act responsibly and draw on their own resources. Mark's Gospel has a parallel account of "the first miracle of the loaves". It is preceded by a brief description of the disciples reporting to Jesus on all they had done and taught during their own first excursion into ministry. Jesus' response was not to congratulate them. He simply said: "Come by yourselves to an out-of-the-way place and rest a little" (Mark 6, 31). Mark, too, records how the demanding crowd interrupted their plans. There are lessons in all this for us.

Many of us have allowed ourselves to be seduced, by employers and by the organisations to which we belong, into over-performing. While both Matthew and Mark report that Jesus did show compassion for the crowd, we would do well to take notice of Jesus' plans to take time out. Real rest. - not "time-out" about which we feel guilty. - is a necessity that is built on trust. We all have to learn to trust that our colleagues actually can manage what we temporarily step aside from. We all need personal, family and community time and space, but sometimes fear prevents us from taking such. Still, these two stories from Matthew and Mark do remind us that our decisions to take a break are important and, in fact, might enhance the effectiveness of our efforts when we return. I certainly don't subscribe to the view that God wants us to wear ourselves out. Daring to take a break is a reminder to ourselves that we are not indispensable, and that, ultimately, God is in charge.

The story of the "miracle of the loaves" occurs in all four Gospel, twice in both Mark and Matthew and once in each of Luke and John. In all except John, these stories are preceded by reference to Jesus' compassion and care for the vast crowd in front of him. Mark, Matthew and Luke all refer to Jesus' giving of himself to the point of exhaustion. - a forerunner to his total self-giving at the Last Supper. So, all these "miracle of the loaves" stories are pointers to what Eucharist is, and what it means in our day-to-day life as followers of Jesus. Mark, Matthew and Luke all integrate the importance of service in the way they tell the story. John integrates the importance of service with the symbolism of the dish and towel when he describes how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper.

Integral to the message of today's gospel-reading is the challenge Jesus puts to the disciples when they want to send away the crowd: "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves" (Matthew 14, 16). An essential dimension of Eucharist is that all people are our sisters and brothers, and that living out Eucharist in practice involves offering nourishment in word and action to everyone we encounter, especially those who, because of the circumstances of their

lives, are unable to feed and nourish themselves. Jesus effectively tells his disciples that, if they want to be part of his enterprise, they have to reach out to others and take responsibility for their welfare. Hospitality is an integral part of living Eucharist credibly. What we participate in when, as community, we celebrate Eucharist must flow over into our daily living.

We all have the capacity to reach out in welcome and acceptance to friend and stranger, to everyone in the crowd; to those with whom we are comfortable, as well as to those who look different, and who are different because of their circumstances, their culture, their country of birth, their religion. An essential dimension of Eucharist is hospitality, in reference to which St Paul wrote: "Make hospitality your special care" (Romans 12, 13). Let's not forget that hospitality is first and foremost an attitude of heart, but it requires practice. Perhaps we can make a habit of it by asking ourselves at the start of each day: "How can I be Eucharist - bread broken and given for others, today?".