

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 9 August 2020

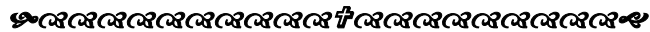
Jesus Went Up Into the Hills to Pray. The prophet Elijah and Jesus both went up a mountain to pray. Many people have experienced the presence of God in the wonder and solitude of a mountain top. But God is also to be found at sea level, in the ups and downs of our daily lives. When we are swamped by troubles and cry out, 'Lord, save me,' we allow God to reach out and hold us.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord. I trust in his word. Alleluia!



Please Note: We are currently having issues with the plumbing of the outside toilets. The plumbers will be here for two full consecutive days, Thursday 13 August and Friday 14 August.

During this time the toilets will be unavailable for use.

COVID-19 Update

The NSW Government has recommended parishioners wear face masks when attending religious services as an additional safeguard to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

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 over the coming Saturdays



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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: Giuseppe Scarnecchia, Maria Teresa Nguyen, Peter Le, Gladys Seruys

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

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 Colongioli, 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 Weinfeoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

**PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF SISTER AMANDA NGUYEN RSC
IN ST AMBROSE CHURCH**

On Saturday, August 15 at 11am, Sr Amanda Nguyen, will be Perpetually Professed as a Sister of Charity in our Parish Church. Sr Amanda has been a member of our Parish for 18 months. While living at Concord West Sr Amanda has been ministering at St Joseph's Hospital Auburn in the Palliative Care Unit.

As members of the Parish Community, The Sisters of Charity invite you to attend via Live Stream Sr Amanda's Perpetual Profession. Unfortunately, with COVID 19 restrictions we are unable to invite you to attend in person.

Your prayers are asked for Sr Amanda as she continues to prepare for this momentous occasion.

To watch our live streaming go to - **St Ambrose Church Concord West YouTube channel**

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.



PROGRESS OF PARISH SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Many thanks to all those who have assisted me in bringing this essential policy into reality here in St. Ambrose's for the purpose of protecting our children and any vulnerable adults, so that when the audit of our Parish occurs, we can then be listed as a "SAFE" Parish. It is to this end that I have been motivated to accept it and carry it through.

Our volunteers in the particular areas to be covered number as far as I can ascertain 85 K I T S. Those 85 KITS were left in the foyer of the church six weeks ago. 25 volunteers have completed all requirements...thus being certified by a SALT Certificate from the Archdiocesan Office. 22 have contacted me to obtain the website on which to complete online training after which the volunteer receives the Salt Certificate. Hopefully the other 40 have collected their K I T S from the foyer of the Church, as many did not sign, I am not sure if they did, but I have had no response from about 40 people. I am anxious to hear from those 40 other people from whom I have not heard.

It would seem that most people would be familiar with online interaction, and that given the website, could attain the required Certificate. As well, perhaps there are some who would need to attend a session in place of online training. When and how that could take place I would like to know what that number would be, who are unable to be covered online.

I am required to submit to the Professional Standards Office all the details contained on the following:

1. **Volunteer's Form**
2. **Code of Conduct Form**
3. **WWCC child protection**
4. **Online training - Salt Certificate's date**

This Safeguarding Policy covers Eucharistic Ministers at Mass, in home or hostel, Collectors, Readers, Youth Choir Ministers, Parish Secretaries, Sacramental Coordinators, Children's Liturgy Ministers & Catechists

Contact: judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au **Sr Judith**

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS COMPLETING SAFEGUARDING PAPERWORK



Working With Children Checks

When returning your **safeguarding K I T 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.

With The Catholic Weekly returning to print, some of you might prefer to read it electronically on your desktop, tablet or mobile. Subscribe to The Catholic Weekly Digital Edition at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/product/the-catholic-weekly-digital-edition/> and be the first to receive the latest catholic news and opinion.

VASA UPDATE

VASA volunteers have been continuing to care for older housebound people in our area. As some of the restrictions have been eased, we are taking some of them shopping each fortnight in our volunteer's cars. The regular shopping service using the Council Community Bus is not permitted at the moment. We have built up trust with these vulnerable people over some years. Those whose relatives live far away, know they can call on a VASA volunteer for help with transport to medical appointments when needed. They appreciate a friendly chat when we can visit them or otherwise over the phone. We had a Morning Tea last month with very limited numbers and the noise of the conversations was wonderful to hear!

VASA would welcome anyone who could help with transport either occasionally or on a regular basis. If you feel you would like to start some volunteer work in the community please ring for a chat.

Kerry 97363686

Trish 87651295

JRS Appeal for Foodbank Donations

The Jesuit Refugee Service mobile food bank is a huge and growing operation. Since 1 April, they have collectively fed more than 5,000 women, children, and men who have lost jobs, been excluded from Federal Government financial support and cannot return home. In one week alone they fed close to 800 people, including by providing more than 300 kg of rice, 300 kg of pasta, 300 litres of long life milk, 500 cans of tuna and much more! Regardless, their stocks of rice, pasta, oil, tuna, and long life milk are RUNNING LOW. If you can donate these items we have drop off spots around Sydney here. In the absence of Federal Government support for people in need, we continue to need your help.

Please visit: <http://jrs.org.au/how-to-help-refugees-and-people-seeking-.../> and learn how you can support people who have no other means to buy these basics for their families. This short video also shows what happens to food donations that are made: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=293160638622911>

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

Br Julian's Reflection 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When Elijah saw how things were, he ran for dear life to Beersheba...

1 Kings 19, 3

"Courage! It is I! Do not be Afraid." Matthew 14, 22-33

There is little doubt that Covid 19 has demanded the attention of people all over the world because of the devastation it has created on a global scale. The result is that some of us are living in fear, others find comfort in denial, and others, still, believe that it has been fabricated by powerful governments conspiring to use their muscle to control the world economy and reduce to dependence nations living in freedom. Stress and fear often cause some of us to imagine all kind of possible explanations. Just last week I was confronted by a neighbour who insisted that the pandemic was God's way of either bringing the world to its senses or punishing the world for its sinfulness.

I can find nothing in the Gospels, or, for that matter, in the New testament to suggest that the God of Jesus has any trace of vindictiveness or is intent on putting obstacles in our way simply to test us out. Yet, the readings for this Sunday are timely, because they invite us to give our attention to the role that fear plays in our lives. Another aspect of our behaviour is the way in which we can use our imaginations to create expectations. In fact, fear is just one kind of expectation. It's the

expectation that what we have come to fear will actually happen. The person who told me that Covid 19 is either a punishment or a wake-up call from God had either turned his expectations of God into reality or was looking to God to approve the prejudices he had developed about some human behaviour of which he disapproved. What we fear and the expectations we create can so easily be transformed into reality, paralysing us or tranquillising our ability to take the kind of risk that being disciples of Jesus demands of us.

Today's first reading about Elijah unfortunately leaves out the circumstances that prompted the prophet to run for his life. Elijah had been making fun of the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah, who had the support of Queen Jezebel. When they could not light a fire to sacrifice an ox, Elijah taunted them with insults: "Maybe your god has gone off to meditate or got involved in another project or gone off on holidays." He was out to prove that the God of Israel was better than all of their gods. To further humiliate them, he built an altar and had it doused three times with buckets of water. Then he called on his God to send down fire. As the story goes, Elijah's offering was totally consumed by fire. However, he then went to extremes and directed his followers to take hold of the prophets of Baal and slaughter them. Jezebel was less than impressed, and sent a messenger to Elijah: "The gods will get you for this and I'll get even with you.! By this time tomorrow you'll be as dead as any one of those prophets" (cf 1 Kings 18, 22 – 19, 2).

A threat like that would make anybody run for cover. That's exactly what Elijah did, and headed for Beersheba. But the running exhausted him, and he fell into a depression and wished he were dead. But an angel of God intervened, provided him with food and water, and directed him to set out for Mt Horeb (Mt Sinai) where he would encounter God. We are told he walked for forty days and forty nights. Manifestations of the Divine were often associated with spectacular natural events. On the mountain, Elijah experienced a hurricane, an earthquake and a bushfire, all of which frightened him. But contrary to all his expectations and still gripped by fear, he ventured to the opening of the cave in which he was sheltering, and experienced God present in a gentle breeze.

I want to suggest that today's gospel story of the storm on the lake parallels the Elijah story in its message. Imagine, for a moment, that you are with the disciples on their boat at 3.00 am, being tossed around in a violent storm and suddenly a familiar figure appears out of nowhere. My first reaction would be similar to that of the disciples: "It must be a ghost or a poltergeist!" I, too, would be terrified. And then everyone on the boat hears the familiar voice of Jesus: "Get hold of yourselves! It is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14, 27). We and the disciples create one reality with our very understandable expectations and fears, and Jesus creates something very different with his calming assurances.

Not for a moment do I think this is a story that is easy to understand. No ordinary human being walks on water, so Peter was bound to sink when he jumped overboard, despite the fact that, as a seasoned fisherman, he was probably a good swimmer. I suggest that this event recorded by Matthew ranks side by side with the story of the Transfiguration recorded in Chapter 17, 1-8. They are both glimpses into the fact that Jesus really was from God and was, in fact, the Messiah, the Christ of God. Somehow, that realisation struck Peter like a ton of bricks, and in his enthusiasm to commit himself to Jesus and his mission he became oblivious to his surroundings and leapt out of the boat to stand with Jesus. Then, when he was going under, he called for help and Jesus responded as he had previously to everyone else's cries for help - he came to Peter's rescue.

There are glimpses of the goodness and love of God all around us, but we can often miss them because they are to be found where we don't expect them. Isn't it true that such goodness, love and selflessness are reflected in the very ordinary kindness of the people out there testing all those who are lining up for Covid 19 tests, in the welcoming smiles of the women and men driving buses, trams, trains, ferries and taxis, in the friendliness of those checking out our purchases at stores and supermarkets? And let's not forget that God does not send hurricanes, bushfires, earthquakes and viruses to test us out, but, when they do come, it does not take us long to unconsciously disclose what kind of God we believe in and just how strong our faith in that God really is.

Similarly, none of us can credibly claim to be wishy-washy disciples and followers of Jesus. By jumping overboard Peter demonstrated in action that discipleship of Jesus calls for nothing less than total commitment. But one does not switch on total commitment. Rather one grows into it. It's comforting, however, to know that Jesus can cope with our human weakness, with out moments of doubt. In fact, if we don't experience doubt, we will not grow into mature, adult faith. However, we can be sure that Jesus will not ignore us whenever we are courageous enough to call to him: "Jesus, save me. I'm going under." Lastly, our faith in God will be seen at its best when we find the courage to take the risk of reaching out to the stranger, of daring to go against the crowd when adhering to truth and integrity demand nothing less than that.