

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 30 August 2020



'You Have Seduced Me, Lord!' The prophet Jerimiah was captivated by God. His attachment meant that he suffered greatly at the hands of God's enemies but he also experienced a fire within, lit by God's love, that urged him on. We too can follow Jesus wholeheartedly only if we are captivated by him. Like Peter, we may remonstrate with Jesus as we struggle to understand his ways, but we will follow him faithfully along the way of the cross to the fullness of life.

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will go ahead. There will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

First Holy Communion - Sunday 1, 8 and 15 & 22 November at 11am

Confirmation

**Friday 11 Sept @ 7pm, Saturday 12 Sept @ 12 & 3pm,
Friday 18 Sept @ 7pm and Saturday 19 Sept @ 2pm
No further candidates can be accepted.**

Confirmation sessions will be held in the Church on
Mondays 24th and 31st Aug from 3.30pm till 8pm.

Parishioners are welcome to come into the Church for private prayer, keeping in mind, the children and parents will be in attendance.

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



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.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 30 August 2020



Please pray for the children of our parish and their families as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation through the Parish Sacramental Program over the coming weeks.



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



Recently Deceased: Milan Novacic, Ida Bova, Lorna Redolfi, Michael Picone, Luis De Marques, Giuseppe Scarnecchia, Maria Teresa Nguyen, Peter Le

Anniversaries: Aronne Borg, Martin & William Toohey, Giuseppe, Luigina and Antonio Anello, Silvestro Bonanno, Vladimir Susic, Elinda & Jack Tumminello, Frank MacCarthy

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 Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, 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, Luke, Alejandro Sotelo, Victoria Haguina, Santina Martinelli, 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 Familes, 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:

Patricia Christosi, Dalton James Bonnici, Maria Manno, Joseph Borg, 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 Vitezniak, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfloe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

Live Stream Mass.



This weekend is the last weekend our Sunday Mass will be live streamed.

Sean D’Mello and his family have been live streaming our Saturday Evening Mass for us since before Easter when the Covid 19 virus first caused a church lockdown.

Our live streamed Masses have been very popular.

In every way Sean has saved us during the pandemic.

I am extremely grateful to Sean, Zac and Tyler whose skill has brought the Mass out of the Church and into our homes.

People have told me that it was “just like being there.”

Sean has generously provided us with the necessary equipment to be able to live stream Masses and services in the future.

Sean is a parishioner here at St Ambrose. Sean you can now go back to worshipping in the pews instead of being our “director”.

Thank you Sean

Fr B

MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

During Mass last week Fr Brian ministered Sacrament of the Sick to those present. It was wonderful to have so many Parishioners come along to pray for and with those seeking healing in this Sacrament. During these times of uncertainty, many are experiencing anxiousness for the first time and this Sacrament gives us strength, courage and awareness of God’s loving presence in our lives.

Mark your calendar for the date of the next Mass with Sacrament of the Sick on **Friday 16th October** at 10:30. VASA can provide transport if needed.



Anointing the sick

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.

COMMUNITY GRANT FROM CITY OF CANADA BAY COUNCIL

VASA has received a Community Grant from Canada Bay Council for 2020-2021. The grant is to support our elderly housebound residents to enjoy out of home excursions to local venues twice during the year. Each month VASA brings together about 15 people for Morning Tea. Usually VASA volunteers host these events in their homes, providing food and transport. The grant will allow us to take them to a different destination in the Community.

These Morning Teas create opportunities for participants to feel valued and actively connected to each other and their community, thus contributing to their overall health and wellbeing. Participants look forward to the Morning Teas as sometimes the only outings besides doctor appointments.

VASA volunteers also enjoy their time with our patrons and the atmosphere is always joyful and rather noisy with conversation.

If you know an elderly person living near you who may like to join us, please let us know so we can invite them.

Kerry 9736 3686 Trish 8765 1295



Congratulations to Finn Mujic who we recently welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep Finn and family in your prayers.



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.

HELP NEEDED FOR LIVESTREAMING OF MASS

As we all become accustomed to the restrictions due to Covid, the livestreaming of our 5pm Saturday Mass each week is being welcomed by those who are not able to join us in the Church.

We would like to form a group of Parishioners who would be appropriately trained to continue to provide the livestreaming each week. This would be on a rostered basis so you would not be required to do it every week.

Sean, Tyler and Zack have done a superb job over recent months and will be happy to share their knowledge and skills with others who are willing to come forward to learn how to operate the equipment available in the Church.

If you are interested in being part of this group please come along to 5pm Saturday Mass and have a chat to Sean or, if more convenient, contact the Parish Office on 97431023 or email admin@stambrose.org.au

**'LOVE GOD.....LOVE OTHERS'
CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES FOR THE NEEDY CHILDREN
OF SOUTH EAST ASIA....**



These are unusual times, so we need to think in an unusual way....re our

ANNUAL OUTREACH to the NEEDY

"Operation Christmas Child" in our Parish will be going ahead as Samaritan's Purse still continues to co-opt volunteers, to collect, to pack, and to prepare boxes for transport to Asian children in time for their Christmas. Boxes will be available this weekend at the side door of the Church OR if the Church is closed, there will be BOXES on the verandah of the Convent, with brochures which remind you of the importance of what gifts are suitable for sending these children.

Please READ the Brochure carefully. Since the opportunity for particular shopping is in many ways curtailed, maybe you have NEW items at home which could be suitable for a GIFT BOX....or you might be able to shop. Any small offering you can make will be appreciated by those packing the boxes.

RE RETURN OF YOUR GIFTBOX WHEN READY TO SEND

If you are coming to Mass, please leave your GIFTBOX under the Altar as part of your Offertory at the Mass.

As the church is often closed at various times feel free to leave your GIFTBOX on the front verandah of the Convent, Unit 2/90 MacKenzie Street (park at the front of the house...easy to drop/or pick up BOX on the front verandah)

Would there be any SEWERS in our Parish who are prepared to stitch together some library bags if we supply you with the material? Please contact Sr Judith judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au 97361477 or 0455727501

Alternatively, if you are unable to pick up and fill a BOX....just leave your gifts for the children in the plastic box on the Convent verandah and they will be taken to the despatch centre by our generous volunteer Parishioner. Thank you for helping us to continue this loving service to the needy children this Christmas 2020.

Tax Receipts 2019/2020 – thank you to all who have contributed financially to parish and appeals on behalf of other agencies. Anyone needing a tax receipt for giving to CFW, Project Compassion and or Priests Retirement Foundation please email admin@stambrose.org.au Receipts can be printed out for you and left in the foyer of the church or can be emailed to you. Please include your preference in your email.

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.

Br Julian's Reflection 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"You pushed me into this, God, and I let you do it. You were too much for me. And now I'm a public joke. The all poke fun at me."
Jeremiah 20, 7-9

"Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking." Romans 12, 1-2

"All those who wish to come after me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me. Those who wish to save their life will lose it, but those who lose their life for my sake will find it."
Matthew 16, 21-27

Today's first two readings from *Jeremiah* and *Romans* provide a very appropriate introduction to the gospel-reading, for they are about the cost of living with integrity. When Jesus told his disciples about needing to travel up to Jerusalem, he was telling them that that was what his personal integrity demanded of him.

Those of us who went through Catholic primary schools when the *Green/penny/Baltimore Catechism* was the basic text, learned that "Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God". It would seem that Jeremiah had learned a similar lesson way back in the 7th Century BC. In today's first reading we hear Jeremiah being fiercely honest with God, giving God a piece of his mind. We have in English a noun *jeremiad*, clearly derived

from the prophet's name, meaning a prolonged complaint or lamentation. Disillusioned by the way his life was unfolding, Jeremiah accused God of tricking him into becoming a prophet. All he got in return for speaking the truth to his people were threats to his life and bitter ridicule. In his lament, he told God, with bitter regret, just how miserable his life had become. That was the price Jeremiah paid for living with integrity.

It's worth recalling the assurances Jeremiah received from God when he was struggling to accept his mission as a prophet:
*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you."
"Ah, Lord God!" I said, "I don't know how to speak; I am too young."
But the Lord answered me: "Don't say 'I am too young.' To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you", says the Lord. (Jeremiah 1, 5-8)*

Understandably, Jeremiah felt badly let down, when he discovered that even those who knew him well were plotting to murder him. So he did not hesitate to let God know exactly how he felt. The irony, of course, was that the people Jeremiah challenged rejected him in the very same way as they had rejected God over generations. However, having spoken honestly to God, he realised that God's word had so overwhelmed him that he could not step away from it: "It is like a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones;" (Jeremiah 20, 9) Eventually, he acknowledged that God was really by his side: "But the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph." (Jeremiah 20, 11). Centuries later, Paul came to a similar conclusion, acknowledging that he was so overwhelmed by the person of Jesus and his message that he felt compelled to make them known to the world: "Yet, preaching the Gospel is not the subject of a boast; I am compelled to do it and have no choice. I am ruined if I do not preach it." (1 Corinthians 9, 16)

Today's second reading from Romans echoes the conclusion that Jeremiah had reached and, at the same time, is a preamble to the gospel-reading in which Jesus sets out for Jerusalem to confront the moral bankruptcy of the religious leaders. Paul is urging his audience: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind and heart..." (Romans 12, 1-2). Letting God into our lives and confronting the abuses and injustices of our world involve a price to be paid, and that price might well be criticism, personal discomfort and rejection.

The account of Peter's profession of faith in last week's gospel-reading marks a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. Matthew now puts the focus on Jesus' efforts to prepare his disciples for the mission he will entrust to them just before he is executed. His first lesson is all about living with integrity. Jesus knows only too well the risks involved in travelling to

Jerusalem to confront the religious leaders. Peter senses the danger and his attempt at intervention meets with a stern rebuff from Jesus, who interprets it as an effort to stop him from being true to himself. Peter's words are an echo of the three temptations from the devil which Jesus experienced in the desert just before he had begun his ministry. That explains his spontaneous, almost reflex, reaction: "Get out of my way, Satan. You have no idea how God works." (Matthew 16, 23). Failure to confront the religious leaders in Jerusalem would, in the mind of Jesus, be equivalent to tacit agreement with what they were saying and doing. Surrendering to Peter's advice would have meant for Jesus a denial of the mission he had grown to appreciate came from God. If we are to be participants in this gospel-reading, we have to discern what being true to ourselves demands of us in the current circumstances of our lives. Any attempt to proclaim in words anything we have failed to integrate into our lived lives is bound to be empty rhetoric.

Jesus summed all that up in the concluding lines of today's gospel-reading. He urges us to let go of anything in our lives that is empty, of little substance or self-centred, so that we might grow into a way of living that is nourished by the love of God. That, of course, means letting go of things like unhealthy anger, self-pity, and needing to be in control. It will be then that we will discover that we can emerge stronger from the hurts and disappointments that come our way, and that we will even grow to be a little wiser in the wake of our failures and mistakes. Of course, that kind of growth will come only if and when we put our trust in God. Living true to ourselves, living with integrity requires patience, trust in God and commitment, and comes at a cost. Today's readings ask us if we are prepared to pay that cost.

