

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 6 Sept 2020



'I Shall Be There With Them.' Every Christian community experiences difficulties in one form or another. Misunderstandings occur, divisions arise. Today's Gospel reminds us that Christ is present in our communities even when they are broken, when only two or three meet in his name. Healing occurs when we seek to embody in our communities the qualities of Christ, especially forgiveness and mutual love.

Responsorial Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. 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**



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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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**Wishing all fathers a very happy Fathers' Day this Sunday.
We especially remember those who are not with us.**



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: Chantal, Peter Economos, Milan Novacic, Ida Bova, Lorna Redolfi, Michael Picone, Luis De Marques, Giuseppe Scarnecchia

Anniversaries: Arty Murphy, Antoinette Constable, Chakley George, Aronne Borg, Martin & William Toohey, Giuseppe, Luigina and Antonio Anello, Silvestro Bonanno, Vladimir Susic, Elinda & Jack Tumminello

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 Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, 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, Peter Soosai, Rita Gomez, 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:

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

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.

HELP NEEDED FOR LIVESTREAMING OF MASS



Thank you to the Parishioner who has offered to assist with this new Ministry in our Parish. 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 and Audrey have done a superb job over recent months and will be happy to share their knowledge and skills with others. Sean has set up a single camera system to simplify the livestreaming and is asking for volunteers willing 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 9743 1023 or email admin@stambrose.org.au.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

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

VASA NEWS

VASA has held two Morning Teas last month as planned for our Out of Home Excursions for the older residents in our Community. The Community Grant we received from the City of Canada Bay Council has allowed us to take two groups of ten people to the local golf club to enjoy time together in a Covid safe environment. For many of them this is the first social outing since March and they were very excited and happy to be able to be away from their homes for a few hours. We were thrilled to be able to celebrate Pat's 99th Birthday at the first Morning Tea, however it was difficult to break the group into two smaller groups as required to be Covid safe. Everyone would have preferred to gather in one group but that was not possible.



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.

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.

'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.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK is being celebrated from Sept 6th to Sept 13th throughout all Parishes in the Archdiocese of Sydney. It is a good time to remind ourselves as a community of faith here at St. Ambrose' what practices we have for the purpose of keeping safe all our children and vulnerable adults. The recent effort we have made as a Parish Community through our efforts to ensure that all volunteers are covered by the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policy has been quite demanding but nevertheless most rewarding, and gratitude is due to all who participated so willingly.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS" COPIES AT SIDE CHURCH DOOR

FAITH DEVELOPMENT: In his homily last week, Fr. Chaminda mentioned reading as an important way of helping your faith to grow.

The above MAGAZINE...is excellent reading to stimulate and enliven your faith...its contents are the work of Year 11 and 12 students at our Catholic Colleges.....and present most stimulating reading about many of the simple aspects of our every day life.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A COPY HOME WITH YOUTH

These copies are provided through the generosity of our St Vincent de Paul Group in our Parish.

Priests' Retirement Foundation – Appeal this weekend.

Support our retired priests. In 2007, the Priests' Retirement Foundation of the Archdiocese of Sydney was established to ensure all priests can receive the accommodation, health care and support they need in their retirement. There are now over 70 retired priests in Sydney with more requiring assisted living. The Priests' Retirement Foundation covers needs such as: Convalescence care, Assistance in transitioning to retirement, Health insurance, medical and dental expenses, assistance with board and lodging expenses, Minor repairs and maintenance of accommodation.

All donations to this appeal over \$2 are tax deductible and will be tripled by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. **Please mark the payment slip if you require a tax receipt.** Alternatively, online donations can be made at www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-prf

Br Julian's Reflection 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Love and do as you will."

St Augustine

"Owe nothing to others except to love them...The law code...finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love." Romans 13, 8-10

"If your brother who has hurt you won't listen to the community, you'll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God's forgiving love." Matthew 18, 15-20

Almost a life-time ago in 1954, the French priest and theologian, Michel Quoist published a book of prayers and poems, entitled *Prayers of Life*. It was the first of thirteen books he wrote during his life as a youth chaplain and a parish pastor. *Prayers of Life* was not translated into English until 1963. One of the pieces Quoist included resonates with the message of this Sunday's readings. I quote it at length:

"Lord, why did you tell me to love all men (sic), my brothers? I have tried, but I come back to you, frightened...

Lord, I was so peaceful at home, I was so comfortably settled. It was well furnished, and I felt cosy. I was alone, I was at peace. Sheltered from the wind, the rain, the mud. I would have stayed unsullied in my ivory tower. But, Lord, you have discovered a breach in my defences, You have forced me to open my door. Like a squall of rain in the face, the cry of humankind has awakened me; Like a gale of wind a friendship has shaken me; As a ray of light slips in unnoticed, your grace has stirred me... and, rashly enough, I left my door ajar.

Now, Lord, I am lost! Outside, people were lying in wait for me. I did not know they were so near; in this house, in this street, in this office; my neighbour, my colleague, my friend. As soon as I started to open the door, I saw them, with outstretched hands, burning eyes, longing hearts, like beggars on church steps.

The first ones came in, Lord. There was after all some space in my heart. I welcomed them. I would have cared for them and fondled them, my very own little lambs, my little flock. You would have been pleased, Lord, I would have served and honoured you in a proper, respectable way. Till then, it was sensible.

But the next ones, Lord, the others, I had not seen them; they were hidden behind the first ones. There were more of them, they were wretched; they over-powered me without warning.

We had to crowd in, I had to find room for them. Now they have come from all over, in successive waves, pushing one another, jostling one another. They have come from all over town, from all parts of the country, of the world; numberless, inexhaustible.

They don't come alone any longer but in groups, bound one to another. They come bending under heavy loads; loads of injustice, of resentment and hate, of suffering and sin...

They drag the world behind them, with everything rusted, twisted, or badly adjusted. Lord, they hurt me! They are in the way, they are everywhere.

They are too hungry, they are consuming me! I can't do anything anymore; as they come in, they push the door, and the door opens wider...

Lord! My door is wide open! I can't stand it anymore! It's too much! It's no kind of life! What about my job? My family? My peace? My liberty? And me?

Lord, I have lost everything, I don't belong to myself any longer. There's no more room for me at home.

Don't worry, God says, you have gained all. While people came to you, I, your Father, I, your God, slipped in among them. (Michel Quoist, *Prayers of Life*, Sheed & Ward, 1963)

While today's gospel-reading begins with the issue of how we are to deal with a family, community or parish member who has hurt another member, we have to read it in the context the parable of the lost sheep which immediately precedes our gospel-reading. The bottom line is that we have to end up reconciling with the offender and restoring her or him to the community. As Michel Quoist observed, there is a real cost to loving everyone as my brothers and sisters. I have to accept them, warts and all, be open to accepting them in the messiness of their lives, be ready to reconcile with them and forgive them for the hurt they cause. In Jesus' view, there is simply no room for criticising them or whinging to others about them. We have to talk directly to them and hold out to them the hand of reconciliation and forgiveness.

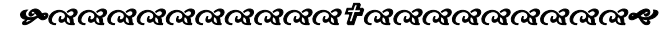
One of the characteristics of being a disciple of Jesus is a willingness to accept the prophetic dimension of that role. After reading today's first reading from Ezekiel, I have to admit to having second thoughts about taking on the responsibility of being a prophet. The consequences are that I have to be prepared to speak out when I see injustice and wrong-doing, or take responsibility for the resulting damage and hurt.

The second reading from Romans goes even further by stating that the only way for all of us to be in tune with God is to treat others, everyone we encounter or only hear about, with unstinting love. The cost is surrendering all we have and are, holding nothing back. But it brings us into the company of God, who slips in, almost unnoticed, with all those demanding our attention, even those who have caused us harm and grief and disappointment.

As the theologian Elizabeth Johnson observes: "Forgiveness, Jesus tells us, is not a quantifiable commodity. It is a qualitatively different way of life, drawn from the very being of God whose nature is to be gracious and

merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and whose ultimate goal is always reconciliation and restoration of community".

Quite a challenge! Am I up to it?



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.