

## 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 25 October 2020



**Observe The Sort Of Life We Live.** In every society people observe the actions of others. When many people ignore a particular law others conclude that it is alright for them to do the same. Children often imitate the behaviours of their parents. When we practice the law of love in our lives we benefit not only those who need our help but also those who observe our actions.

### Responsorial Psalm:

**I love you, Lord, my strength.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!**

### 2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our Sacrament of 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**

Contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information  
[sacraments@stambrose.org.au](mailto: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 8.00am** 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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**Prayer for all HSC Students currently undertaking exams**

Loving God,  
Be with all HSC students as they prepare for their exams.  
Thank you for the many talents and gifts you have given them and for the wonderful opportunities of education.  
Calm their nerves and anxiety, help them to remember all that they have studied, to express it clearly in their writing and to answer the questions the very best way that they can.  
Holy Spirit, stay close to them during their exams and always.  
In Jesus' name. Amen



### **Silver Circle Results – Week**

<b>1st Prize</b>	No. 10	\$20	Marilyn King
<b>2nd Prize</b>	No. 30	\$10	Pam Marchant



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



**Recently Deceased:** Terry Murphy, Yao Yu Lan (Taiwan)

**Anniversaries:** Norman Klein, Aileen Morris, Asuncion Dimaculangan, Jack Leckie, Phillip Mouawad

**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, Desmond Lim, Herdy Riduan, Gina Querin, Ruby Madera, Fr Chidiac & Family, Toufic Chidiac & Family, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppa & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, Tony & Carmen 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:**

Joe Abbate, Patricia Christosi, Dalton James Bonnici, Maria Manno, Joseph Borg, Yuan Sheng Ye, Veronica Rutherford, Paul Dovico, David Bagnato, Angela, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Viru, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, 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, 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, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Vitezniak, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Peter Weinfoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

**Special Intention:** Anita Picone, Anton Felix

**COMMUNITY GRANT FOR VASA**




City of Canada Bay Council has presented VASA with a grant under the Community Grants Program for 2020-2021.

VASA provides a monthly gathering for people in the area who may live alone, may have difficulty with mobility and may have limited possibility of connecting with their community. Most of the gatherings take the form of Morning Tea in VASA Volunteer's homes, with car transport and food provided by volunteers. The grant will allow us to take the ladies and gentlemen to a local venue to enjoy an outing to somewhere special.

There is always much chatter and laughter as long time acquaintances reconnect at Morning Tea after they have become socially isolated due to their decline in mobility or other health issues.

We invite all Parishioners to come and join our happy occasions each month. If you know someone near you who might like to join us please share this invitation with them. They don't need to be a Catholic.

For details of next venue please ring Trish 8765 1295 or Kerry 9736 3686.



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:**  
**CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR NEEDY CHILDREN OVERSEAS:**  
Thank you once again for your great generosity for the kindnesses you have shown in your loving care in providing 'surprises' for the needy children of our world in time for Christmas. There are another 10 or 12 boxes filled ready to go for preparation for shipping overseas.  
**In order to allow enough time for processing the boxes ready for shipment, the cut-off date for returning the boxes to the parish is the weekend of 31Oct/1 Nov.**



**PARISH SAFEGUARDING POLICY:**

**Please take note that this Safeguarding Policy introduced by Fr. Brian is a directive of the Archdiocese for the purpose of ensuring that all volunteers in any way connected with our Parish Masses...**

**namely, acolytes, Eucharistic ministers**

**who serve at Mass, at home or at hostel, collectors, youth choir ministers and Lectors are required to complete the **FOUR** steps outlined in all the literature published in the past eight months in the Parish Bulletin to enable them to continue as REGISTERED PARISH VOLUNTEERS. There are 75 volunteers.....only 35 have completed what is necessary to qualify as a Parish Volunteer.**

**ST AMBROSE ROSARY  
PILGRIM PRAYER WALK**

Parishioners and Friends

you are invited to join the parents, grandparents and friends  
at St Ambrose Catholic Primary School fortnightly,  
Thursday afternoon @ 2pm  
to participate in our ROSARY PILGRIM PRAYER WALK.

We begin our rosary outside the school gate on STUART STREET  
and then walk around the streets surrounding the school and parish  
church for approximately 40 minutes.

As we walk we are invited to individually dedicate each decade to  
someone or something.

The gathering is a beautiful way to not only gather in prayer to honour  
Our Lady, but also to recognise the significance and beauty of this prayer  
form in our Catholic prayer life.

The dates are 22 Oct, 5, 19, 26 Nov & 10 Dec.

**ALL PARISHIONERS & TODDLERS ARE WELCOME!**

**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.

**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](mailto: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 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

***“Teacher, which commandment in the Law is the greatest?”***

***“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments.”***

Matthew 22, 34-40

A couple of years ago, I came across a moving article in the Jesuit magazine *America*. It was written by a man whose son, Chris, had died seven years earlier at the age of 19, from a ruptured brain aneurysm. In a casual family conversation shortly before his unexpected death, Chris had commented that he was going to tick the box to be an organ donor when he renewed his driver's licence. So, in the bewildering hours after their son's death, the young man's parents decided to donate his vital organs. "It was simply an affirmation of our son's generosity", wrote his father. Three months later, while their grief was still keen, Chris' parents received a letter, which read: "I cannot possibly imagine the grief caused by your loss. Certainly, there are no words anyone could say or write that could extinguish that pain. Nevertheless, you have shared with me the grandest gift I will ever receive. - the gift of life." In his article, Chris' father tells how he and his wife eventually met up with the five people who has successfully received Chris' organs. He concludes his piece with the following reflection:

"The experience of losing Christopher, but knowing his death meant life for five others, changed me in ways I never thought possible. I learned that it's possible to see God in all things, even in tragedy. The more I learned about the science of organ transplantation, the more confident I have become in the existence of God. I learned that the butterfly effect is real, that something as seemingly inconsequential as checking a box while applying for a driver's licence can have a tremendous effect years later and miles away. Most of all, in the face of all the division and distrust in the world today, I learned that how we treat each other matters. If the heart of a 19-year-old white boy beating inside the chest of a 65-year-old black man does not give me hope, then I do not know what hope is." Eric

Gregory, *My Son's Gift of Organ Donation Taught Me Death Is Not the last Word*, America, April 21, 2017

This story affirms that, at our best, we are the living presence of God to everyone we encounter. Made in the image of God, we are meant to imitate the love, compassion and mercy of that God who loved us into life. Today's first reading from *Exodus* spells out in practical detail what that means: "You must not molest the stranger nor oppress him. Remember, you yourselves lived as strangers in Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry" (*Exodus* 22, 20-22). The manner in which we treat others, especially the most vulnerable, is meant to reflect the way in which God has dealt with us.

In today's second reading from *Thessalonians*, Paul applauds that particular community for the manner in which they had reflected the compassion of God in the generosity and hospitality they had extended to Paul, himself, and his companions. He affirms them for the impact their community had on others: "The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore. - you're the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms" (1 *Thessalonians* 1, 5-10).

In considering today's gospel-reading, it is important that, yet again, we remind ourselves of context. In Matthew's eyes this is another of the confrontations between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem, during the final week of his life. In a sense, we can call this particular confrontation Jesus' final examination, for, in the minds of those challenging him, it seals his fate. As experts in Jewish law, they had analysed the Torah and concluded that it contained 613 specific commandments. In responding to them, Jesus pointed out that the two pillars on which the other 611 commandments were based were love of God and love of neighbour. While Jesus connected two commandments from the Torah - love of God (*Deuteronomy* 6, 5) and love of neighbour (*Leviticus* 19, 18). - what he did was apparently interpreted as an oversimplification by those interrogating him.

Perhaps, we too, have underestimated the complexity of what he said. While love of God and love of neighbour are inseparable, they are not one and the same. Loving God is not the same as loving one's neighbour. In fact, loving our neighbour may sometimes be more easily done than loving God, for no other reason than that we can actually see and touch our neighbour. And perhaps, our neighbour puts fewer demands on us. On the other hand, there are some Christians who argue that love of neighbour is actually worship. They use that argument to justify their absenting themselves from participation in formal church worship. But isn't worship the foremost expression of our love for God?

The logical conclusion of expressing our love for God through worship is love of neighbour. The very foundation of love of neighbour is that, as God's beloved people, we are called to love everyone and everything that God loves passionately. I suggest that the reason why Jesus was able to say that love of God and love of neighbour are inseparable is not based on a view that God and neighbour are alike, but on the very nature of love itself. To love both God and neighbour, we have to move beyond self to grasp that love is bigger than ourselves, that there is something universal about it. The authenticity of our ability to love in this way is demonstrated in the particular relationships and encounters in which we engage. It is one thing to say we love humanity, but quite another thing to actually love those with whom we rub shoulders every day.

On a practical level, we have all met people who have said to us: "I'm a decent person, I try to be kind to everyone I meet, I believe in God, but I don't feel that going to church is necessary. Loving is what it's all about." I suggest that's missing the deeper message of what Jesus is saying in today's gospel-reading. It's true that many of us have seen and even experienced examples of loveless law. But, it's also possible to slip into lawless love, forgetting the need to pray, to delve into the Scriptures, to actively roll up our sleeves and demonstrate against injustice and intolerance. I am reminded of the psychologist Erik Erickson. Back in 1969 he published a book on the great Indian leader Gandhi. The book is entitled *Gandhi's Truth: The Origins of Militant Nonviolence*. Erickson discovered that Gandhi, great man that he was, invited many untouchables to be guests in his house. However, he insisted that their bodily wastes be removed by his wife. We will all experience tension between love and law, and have leanings one way or the other. But grace still exists, and even finds its way into our lives.