

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 27 Sept 2020



Personal Responsibility. We cannot spend all of our lives blaming others for what has happened to us. At a certain stage we must accept responsibility for our own lives and deeds. Sometimes we need to admit, 'I have done wrong. I am sorry. God, help me to do right in future.' Change is always possible. If we have the desire, God will guide us in the right path.

Responsorial Psalm:

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. 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
First Holy Communion Sessions begin
Monday 14 & 21 September
Monday 12 & 19 October

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information
sacraments@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



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 8.00am 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: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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Our Confirmation 2020 program has now been completed.

Congratulations to our Confirmation Candidates and their families.

Our First Holy Communion Candidates are in preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Please pray for all our Sacramental Program candidates and their families.





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



Recently Deceased: Kevin McGrath, Raymond Dickerson, Eugenio Libro, A.J. Singh, Santosh, Fr John Langtry, Ray Hardman, Mary Kosmas, Chantal, Peter Economos

Anniversaries: Dulcie & Tony Tumminello, Mary & Jim Waters, Carmel Nolan, Giovanna Caldaroni, Arty Murphy, Antoinette Constable, Chakley George

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, 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, Gina Querin, 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 Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeloe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan



FROM THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

On March 26th this year Fr Brian wrote a letter to all Parish volunteers who are in any way connected with the celebration of our Parish Masses here in St.

Ambrose' Church. This letter was included in a **SPECIAL**

KIT which was prepared for all those volunteers, namely, acolytes, youth choir ministers, Ministers of the Word (Lectors) all Eucharistic ministers whether ministering at church or in the home, and Parish collectors. Surprisingly, the number of our volunteers in these areas is about 70 people which speaks well for the generosity and fidelity of our Parish community.

This letter in March from Fr. Brian, included in the **SPECIAL KITS** that were prepared for the above 70 volunteers notified the reason for the need for each and every volunteer in the above ministries to be covered by the Archdiocese. The Archdiocesan directive lists the ministries as are mentioned above...

Consequently, SPECIAL KITS were prepared for the volunteers as mentioned above. The FOUR requirements for each volunteer to ensure that they are safely covered as a volunteer in the parish are as follow:

1. A Volunteer Registration Form signed by volunteer
2. Code of Conduct Form signed by volunteer
3. Working with Children paperwork obtained from NSW police.....
4. Completion of an Induction Training Session or face to face training, thus obtaining A SALT CERTIFICATE.

**The above is necessary for all volunteers to Parish Ministry
in which they are currently involved....**

Volunteers who have completed step 1, 2 and 3 of the above, then contact me to obtain the website on which to complete online training....which can be done in 2 sessions if needed.

Over the six months, ONLY 30 volunteers out of 70 have completed the above requirements. If you have not responded, I would be grateful if you could let me know if there is any difficulty you are experiencing with which I can be of assistance. This is important for our Parish as the Catholic Professional Standards Office has a goal of completing its work by the end of the year... Sr Judith Clark

**'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.

CWL Silver Circle Week 2 Results

1 st prize	\$20.00	No. 14	Linda Hager
2 nd prize	\$10.00	No. 38	Maureen Arrow

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 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.

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.

Sean, Tyler, Zack and Audrey have done a superb job over recent months but they will not be able to continue indefinitely.

Sean is keen to share his knowledge and skills with others and has set up a single camera system to simplify the livestreaming. We are asking for Parishioners willing to learn how to operate the equipment which will be available in the Church. Such a group of Parishioners, appropriately trained, would come on a rostered basis so you would not be required to do it every week.

If you are interested in knowing more 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.

Br Julian's Reflection 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders: "I assure you that crooks and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. When John came preaching a way of holiness, you put no faith in him; but the crooks and prostitutes did believe in him. Yet, even when you saw that, you didn't care enough to change and believe in him."
Matthew 21, 28-32

Each one of today's three readings offers enough reflection material to keep me occupied for a week, or even longer. Ezekiel challenges us to stop hiding behind the facades of our self-importance and prepare ourselves to take on a new heart and a new spirit. Paul shares a hymn to Christ, calling us as he called the Philippian community, to live lives of service in imitation of Christ, and Matthew has Jesus present us with a very puzzling parable that challenges us to explore what living with integrity actually looks like in our time and place.

Without any hint of apology, Ezekiel calls us to stop pretending, to give up presenting ourselves as honourable, upright, good-living people. He stresses that God has no time for social status, titles, degrees, civic honours or whatever else we try to hide behind to create for ourselves a reputation for being upright. But his challenge penetrates even more deeply as he makes the point that there is nothing to be gained from doing minor adjustments to our behaviour. He comes straight out and says: "Do a complete overhaul. Go and get a totally new heart and spirit!" Ezekiel's point is that God is not really interested in what we have done or failed to do, but much more interested in what we are going to do. So he urges us to start afresh, to forget about tinkering, and to ask God to give us a new heart and a new spirit.

In the second reading, Paul echoes Ezekiel when he urges us to change our way of acting so that there may be in us the same mind as was in Christ Jesus. Paul's language is different from what most of us are accustomed to. I suggest that it has to be unraveled a bit. What he wrote to the Philippians is regarded by modern Scripture scholars as a hymn which describes who Jesus was and the mission he embraced of total service to humanity. The clearest paraphrase I have been able to find of today's second reading comes from Eugene Peterson's *Bible in Contemporary Language*. With a full introduction, he introduces the hymn that follows:

"If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care* - then give me some encouragement. Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front, don't sweet-talk your way to the

top. Put yourself aside and help others to get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself:

He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity, and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life, and then died a selfless, obedient death - and the worst kind of death at that - a crucifixion. Because of that, God lifted him high and honoured him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth - even those long ago dead and buried - will bow in worship before this Christ Jesus, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honour of God the Father." Philipians 2, 1-11

In his introduction to this hymn about Christ, Paul reminded the Philippians about the gifts they had learned from living together in community inspired by God's Spirit: compassion, solidarity, mercy, care and selflessness. The hymn this leads into contains the very essence of what the Christian life is all about: living in selfless service, in imitation of Jesus Christ who embraced our humanity totally so that we human beings might grow into God by living together in communities of selfless love.

This hymn led me to reflect on how many of us were initiated into our Catholic faith through traditional devotions, prayers and hymns, which, like the above hymn about Christ, were something of a mystery. I well remember some of the lines of a hymn in honour of Mary, written by Fr. Frederick Faber:

*Oh, Mother, I could weep for mirth
Joy fills my heart so fast;
My soul today is heaven on earth,
Oh could the transport last!
Immaculate! Immaculate!, Fr Frederick Faber, 1871*

For years I just couldn't work out what "transport" had to do with Mary. The only transport I knew as a child was trams, buses, trains and the like. So, whenever we sang that hymn, I pictured a sinking ship, and prayed that all on board would survive.

In time I learned another meaning of "transport". Paul's hymn about Christ merits loads of reflection.

The gospel parable of the two sons presents us with a puzzle, because of its ambiguity. The first son had the right words, which saved his father from being embarrassed in front of others, but his words were not turned into action. The elders and religious leaders listening to Jesus had all the rhetoric and religious trappings that pointed to their exalted status, but

they did not get their hands dirty by reaching out to people in need. The second son rejected his father's direction, but eventually relented and did as directed. He represented the tax-collectors and prostitutes, and all those late to respond to the message of Jesus (Gentiles) - all these embraced a change of attitude and heart in response to the good news Jesus proclaimed.

In essence, this parable is a condemnation of anyone whose faith and religious practice is limited to words and ritual. Moreover, the very people who are disowned and rejected by those who only look religious will be the ones whom God welcomes with open arms. Tolerance, compassion, mercy and selflessness are just words and concepts until they are brought to life in our actions and relationships with everyone we encounter. The Gospel of Jesus, with its call to justice, reconciliation and service of those in need, is much more than a message. It is a blueprint for discipleship. Blueprints are useless until they are transformed into something tangible. That transformation begins in our hearts and must find expression in our getting to know and accept as our sisters and brothers those whom we label as crooks and prostitutes.

