



Catholic Parish of Baulkham Hills

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

1 Canyon Rd Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
Telephone 02 9639 8385 ▪ olol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au
▪ www.parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au

YEAR A

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16TH JULY 2023

Parish Information

St Michael's Church

1 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm,
Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am, & 6.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday ~ Friday 9.15am
Saturday 9.00am

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

1 Canyon Rd,
Baulkham Hills

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday 9.30am

Weekday Masses

Wed – Thurs **No Mass at OLOL**
Friday 9.30am

Adoration of Blessed Eucharist

Friday 8.50am
Prior to 9.30am Mass

1st Friday of Month

Mass of Blessing of the Sick

Reconciliation – OLOL

Saturday 5.00-5.30pm

Reconciliation – St Michael's

Saturday 9.30-10.30am
Saturday 4.45-5.15pm

Baptism

By Appointment
4th Saturday of the month at 11.15am

Our Lady of Lourdes Office

Mon/Tues 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Wed – Fri 9.30am – 4.30pm

Parish Priest

Fr Wim Hoekstra

Assistant Priest:

Fr Jessie Balorio

Deacons:

Rev. Roque Dias

Parish Secretary

Louise Ryall

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Principal

Mr. Steven Haskins

HOMILY OF POPE ST JOHN PAUL II (TRANSLATED FROM ITALIAN, EXCERPT)

15 July 1990

In the biblical texts of this 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Almighty appears to us clothed with tenderness and attention, generous with the gifts of salvation towards humanity. He patiently accompanies the people he has chosen for himself; he faithfully guides over the centuries the Church "new Israel of the present age, which walks in search of the future and permanent city" (Lumen gentium, 9). He speaks and acts, he gives without measure and without repentance, he intervenes in our daily affairs even when we are weak and do not correspond to his free and generous love for him.

However, man has the tremendous possibility of making the divine initiative useless and rejecting his love. Our "yes", free adherence to his life proposal, is indispensable for the plan of salvation to be fulfilled in us.



Let us reflect on the parable of the sower. It helps us to better understand this providential reality and to wisely ponder the weight of the responsibility that falls on each one in making the seed of the Word, widely spread in our hearts, ripen. The seed we speak of is the word of God; it is Christ, the Word of the living God. It is a question of a seed, fruitful and effective in itself, gushed from the inexhaustible source of Trinitarian love.

However, making it bear fruit depends on us, it depends on the welcome that each one reserves for it. Often the man is distracted by too many interests; innumerable reminders reach him from all sides and it is difficult for him to distinguish, among so many voices, that of the one Truth that makes us free.

It is necessary to become available land without thorns or stones, but tilled and weeded with care. It depends on us to be that good land, in which "the seed bears fruit and produces now one hundred, now sixty, now thirty" (Mt 12:23). How great then is the responsibility of the believer! How numerous are the opportunities offered to those who welcome and preserve this mystery! Blessed is he who opens all of himself to Christ, the seed that makes life fruitful!



I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, to grow in God's desire, I encourage you to generously accept the invitation that today's liturgy addresses to us. May you always correspond to the impulses of grace and bear abundant fruits of holiness.

PLEASE NOTE: AS FR JESSIE IS NOW ON LEAVE, THERE WILL BE NO MASSES CELEBRATED AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

MASS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CELEBRATED EACH FRIDAY.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading Is 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.



Second Reading

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel (Shorter Form) Mt 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

REFLECTION FOR FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

JULIAN McDONALD CFC AO

“Blessed are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear!...The one who received the seed in rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.”

Matthew 13: 1-23

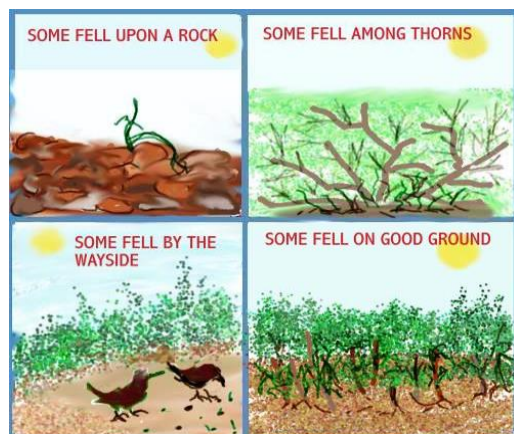


Today's gospel-reading is Matthew's version of the parable of the sower, the seed and the soil. He borrowed it directly from Mark but added a reference from Isaiah relating to how the prophet, after volunteering to be God's messenger, was instructed by God to tell the people of Israel, who had already closed their minds and hearts to God's word, to go ahead and close their ears and eyes also, so as to match their hardness of mind and heart.

What is significant about the way in which this parable unfolds is that Jesus' disciples demonstrate that their minds and hearts are not closed. They witness to their openness by daring to ask questions. However, rather than admitting to their own inability to understand the parable they had just

heard, they asked Jesus: "Why do you speak to them (the crowd) in parables?" Their question was tantamount to their saying: "We don't get it, either!" (cf Matthew 13: 10 ff) And isn't it like that for all of us? We know that we will not make space in our lives for the word of God to penetrate unless we keep asking questions. Are we slow to ask the questions for fear that the answers might demand some action from us?

Worthy of note, too, is that, when Jesus explained the parable to the disciples, he used an allegory which was more than likely as puzzling for the disciples as was the original parable. To put it all together, they would have had to realise eventually that Jesus was likening himself to the sower, the seed to the word he was teaching, and the soil to them, for they were the ones in whom he was planting his message with a view to its taking root in their lives before they could share it with others. What is unique about this parable of the sower is that it is the only parable in which Jesus used an allegory (rather like another parable) to explain the parable he told in the first place.



If there is one thing which we can say with certainty about Jesus likening himself to a sower, it is that he was not attempting to give anyone hints about how to sow crops. The seed is spread with such extravagance that no ordinary farmer would have been able to afford to pay for it. The lavish scattering is a reference to God's generosity. Once God's word has been let loose on the world there is no stinting of it. God's unconditional love, compassion, forgiveness and mercy are for everyone, even though there are some who cannot find it within themselves to accept what God offers. Even those open to God's word might well have, at different times, every kind of terrain listed in the parable. There are times in our lives when, despite our best efforts, our capacity to welcome and respond to God's word is less than we might like. Moreover, when we are open to receiving God's word, our reception might be limited by external factors beyond our control. Such external factors are represented in the parable by the birds of the air, the sun and other forces of nature. At other times, oppositional and antagonistic people, represented by thorns and briars, might insert themselves as obstacles to prevent our hearing. The reality is that there will always be circumstances beyond our control that prevent us from being the good soil we hope to be. When we come to realise that about our life situations, we might be more inclined to resist judging others who don't measure up to the standards we imagine we can set for them.

In another point worthy of note, the fact that Jesus talks about various returns from the seeds that fall on productive soil alerts us to just how realistic he was. He knew both the power of God's word and the vagaries of the human condition that work against the production of perfect harvests. At the same time, today's first reading from Isaiah ch. 55 reminds us that God's word, like the rain and snow falling on the earth, will always produce some good. Once we allow the seed of God's word to find its way into our lives as water seeps into soil, we can anticipate that God will surprise us and prompt us to be agents of God's action in our world.



Over the course of our lives, most of us have encountered followers of Jesus who have reflected something of the extravagance of the sower in the parable. They are people whom we can admire without needing to imitate them. Back in the early 1980s a film was made of the life of a retired nurse called May Lemke. May had acquired a reputation for her skill in working with children who had a disability. When a baby boy born in a Milwaukee hospital was put up for adoption after being diagnosed with grave physical and intellectual disabilities, Wisconsin Social Services personnel approached May and her husband Joe with a request to care for the child for the few weeks he was expected to live. May's response was sharp and short: "I and my husband will gladly accept this little boy, and I assure you that he will not die young." The couple proceeded to adopt the child legally. They named him Leslie and had him baptised. The care Leslie needed was intense and very demanding. Still, they persevered despite being urged to place him in an institution. Sixteen years elapsed before Leslie was able to stand, and, as yet, he had not spoken a word. May massaged his body daily over all those years and did not stop praying for him. She and her husband repeatedly shed tears for him. They told him stories, wondering if he would ever comprehend them, and they played music for him daily. Classical music seemed to have a calming impact on him. One day they saw him plucking at string that was tied around a package that had come in the mail. In response, they bought an old, upright, second-hand piano and put it in Leslie's room. May tried to show him how to press the piano keys, but that seemed to do nothing for him.

Some months later, May was wakened in the middle of the night by the sound of someone playing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. She shook her husband awake and asked him if he had left the radio turned on. When he told her that he didn't think so, they decided to investigate. They discovered Leslie sitting at the piano and playing it by ear and smiling. Before that night, he had not managed to get out of bed by himself. Neither had he sat on a piano stool or struck a key independently. And he had not uttered a single word. Now he was playing beautifully. May and her husband dropped to their knees as May said: "Thank you, God. You didn't forget Leslie." In next to no time, Leslie was playing classical, country & western, jazz, rock and gospel. Everything the couple had played for him had somehow become stored in his brain, and now it was flowing out through his hands. Medical professionals have categorised Leslie as an autistic savant, a person who is intellectually disabled because of brain damage yet extremely talented. Cases of autistic savants have been documented for well over a century. Yet nobody can explain them.

May and Joe Lemke, like the sower in the parable, sowed seeds of care, compassion and love endlessly, lavishly, extravagantly season after season, from one year to the next. While their earthly lives have ended, the harvest they reaped lives on. Leslie still lives with disability. He has become more verbally articulate and has a verbal IQ of 58. He is a very accomplished singer and pianist and has performed in public in the United States, Canada, Japan and Norway. Some might say that the yield of the sowing carried out by May and Joe Lemke is only thirty percent but without their sowing there would be less evidence of God's creative goodness at work in our world. Sowers come into our lives in countless guises. They come as parents, carers, encouragers and friends. They often sow liberally and harvest in abundant, medium and small measure. What matters most is the quality of the seed they sow, the generosity of their sowing and the fact that they sow in the first place. This parable might be inviting us to assess ourselves as sowers, to look at the seed we sow and to examine the quality of the soil in which we are sowing that seed.

Prayer Requests



Please remember in your prayers the relatives and friends of our Parish Communities for whom prayers have been requested:

Recently Deceased: Angelo Odello

Anniversaries: Phillip Lawrence, Col Pendergast, Henry Charles Blackman

Remembrance: Geoff Kane

Our sick relatives & friends

Rod Johnson, Eileen McMullen, Maria Roche, Benett Perera, Joel Uvero (Lourdes Subijano's brother), Melba Oki, David Wadick, Peter Dawson, Harry Williams, Peter Campbell, Philippa Ford, Honor Rosario, Lavinia Costello, Pablo Herrera, Anne Torina Wayman, Michael Dawborne, Evan Garcia, Brian Roche, Warren Moses, Carmel Willis, Matthew Burke, Julie Bracks, Roumanos Nehme, Deba Beani, Edward Beani, and all who are ill or struggling as a result of the Coronavirus throughout the world.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Our Lady of Lourdes Church each Friday morning prior to the 9.30am Parish Mass. Adoration commences at 8.50am.

Are you Coeliac/Gluten Intolerant?



If you are Coeliac or Gluten- Intolerant we have low gluten (negligible) hosts to enable you to receive the Body of Christ in Communion. Please speak to Father or the Acolyte before Mass and go to the priest celebrating Mass to receive Communion.

PARISH SUPPORT DONATIONS

We really appreciate your support. To assist with the proper recording for the second collection, please include your envelope number if you have one.

For EFT to the **First Collection** – for support of priests

BSB 067 950
Account No 000004265
Account Name Diocesan Clergy
Reference 6001 your name

For EFT to the **Second (envelope and loose) Collection** – for support of the Parish,

BSB 067 950
Account No 00000214
Account Name St Michael's Baulkham Hills
Reference Envelope Number or Your Name

If you wish to pay by credit card, please use this link <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/stmichaelsparishbaulkhamhills>

Keeping You Connected

The following links will take you to the live-streaming of Holy Week Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes:

15th July 2023, "The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time" .. <https://youtube.com/live/T3IDy55oykE>

22nd July 2023, "The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time" ... https://youtube.com/live/XpqOm_rfHNE

29th July 2023, "The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time" ... <https://youtube.com/live/yx3WK5sahBY>

The 6.00pm Vigil Mass is available for viewing, via these links, from 6.00pm each Saturday evening for those who are unable to join us for our weekly Sunday celebration.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS ...

✝ Sacrament of Reconciliation



Online Registration for these Sacraments has now closed.

The compulsory Parents' information evening will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Open Learning Centre or St Michael's Church on Monday 17th July at 7.30pm.

If you are unable to attend a Parent Meeting on Monday evening there will be another meeting held at St Michael's Church on Tuesday 18th July @ 7.30pm.



Catholic Women's League

Catholic Women's League will meet this Friday, 21st July at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre at 10.00am or following 9.30am Parish Mass. New members are always welcome. Please join us.

Music Ministry 9.30am Mass

Are you interested in joining a group of singers and instrumentalists who enjoy playing and singing?

- Do you enjoy singing?
- Do you enjoy playing an instrument?
- Are you young?
- Are you old?
- Are you in between?
- **Then this is for YOU !!!**



- **Contact: Deb debboffa@hotmail.com**

Welcome Mons Ron McFarlane



This weekend we welcome & thank Mons. Ron McFarlane who is kindly assisting with the celebration of our weekend Mass in the Parish, during Fr Jessie's time on leave.

PARISH NOTES 14 JULY 2023

Dear Parishioners,



PROJECT 24 – RENOVATING OLD ST MICHAEL'S

A number of parishioners have asked that we repair and renovate Old St Michael's Church, whose foundation stone was laid in 1844 and whose building was completed in 1848.

So we're considering options on this, and next week there'll be a sausage sizzle plus after the 8am and 10am Masses, for you to come and see what is required, and how you can help with your donations.

We need your help as this will not be cheap, but it will ultimately serve as a good meeting space, a possible prayer space and who knows what else...

We have many generous people who are giving their time, finance and energy towards this project. Will you also be one of them?

You can make a direct donation using the following Bank details:

BSB:	067950
Account Number:	100005310
Account Name:	Old St Michaels Reno
Reference:	Surname

DIOCESAN SYNOD NEWS

Bishop Vincent warmly invites applications for membership to the Diocesan Synod, which will be held on 12 to 15 October, 2023.

[Click here](#) to find the criteria for your application as well as the requirements of each Synod member.

Please note that numbers to attend the Synod are limited. Your application will be reviewed and assessed, and you will be advised on the outcome.

Applications must be returned by 31 July 2023.

FR JESSIE ON LEAVE AND NO WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY MASSES AT OLOL FROM JULY 19

Fr Jessie will be on leave from Friday 14 July to Sunday 25 August. He will also be attending a Seminar in the Philippines during that time.

We will be helped by visiting priests on weekends, but we will have to temporarily cease the Wednesday and Thursday masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Church until further notice.

LITURGICAL FORMATION COURSE – we need your help

Another **Liturgical Ministry Formation Course** starts on Monday 4th September at the Bede Heather Centre, Marion St, Blacktown.

If you would like to take on the ministry of reader, extraordinary minister of holy Communion, or ministry at the altar, in the Parish of Baulkham Hills, this is the link [for the registration form](#). This is the formation course for you **and all ministries are open to both women and men.**

Copies of the registration form are also available in the foyer of St Michael's and on the noticeboard at Our Lady of Lourdes churches.

We are in desperate need for all these ministries at both Churches.

MASS LINK FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Mass link for this Saturday at **6pm** for the **Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A** and available on YOUTUBE after that <https://youtube.com/live/T31Dy55oykE>. Please copy the link into browser if it does not immediately work.

Mass is live streamed on Saturday evening at 6pm from Our Lady of Lourdes, and available for viewing afterwards via the link. We are also using FACEBOOK links via the Parish of Baulkham Hills FACEBOOK page.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS - COMPULSORY PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

There will be compulsory Parent Information Sessions held at St Michael's Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Open Learning Centre this **Monday 17th July** and at St Michael's Church on **Tuesday 18th July at 7.00pm**. Parents who have registered their children in the Sacrament Program to prepare for First Reconciliation are required to attend **one** of these sessions.

DIOCESAN ADULT CONFIRMATION: 5 SEPTEMBER

Adult Confirmation 2023 will be held on Tuesday 5 September at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on Saturday 2 September at 9:30am – 2pm at the Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown (formerly known as the IFM).

Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist but are yet to receive the Confirmation. If you would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org.

THE DECEASED

Please also remember those for whom prayers have been requested, especially for:

Recently deceased: Fr Carl Ashton, Kathleen Doris Smith

Anniversaries: Shiranee Lokuge, Julia St. Flour, Ron Flood, Phillip Lawrence, Brigette Souaiby, Clarence Muller, Kautu Muller

Fr Wim

SUPPORT DONATIONS

We really appreciate your continued support. To assist with the proper recording for the second collection, please include your envelope number if you have one.

For EFT to the First Collection - supporting the priests

BSB	067 950
Account No	000004265
Account Name	Diocesan Clergy
Reference	6001 your name

For EFT to the second (envelope and loose) Collection – for support of the Parish,

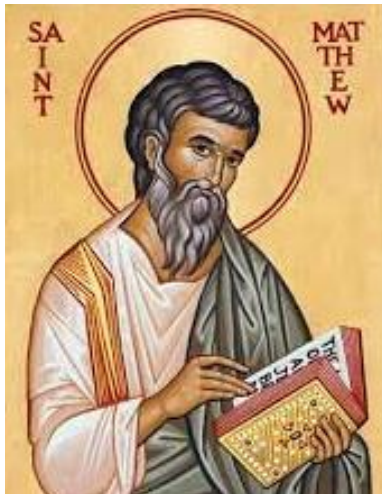
BSB	067 950
Account No	000000214
Account Name	St Michael's Baulkham Hills
Reference	Envelope Number or Your Name

If you wish to pay by credit card, please use this link

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/stmichaelsparishbaulkhamhills>

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/0>



The position of the Gospel according to Matthew as the first of the four gospels in the New Testament reflects both the view that it was the first to be written, a view that goes back to the late second century A.D., and the esteem in which it was held by the church; no other was so frequently quoted in the noncanonical literature of earliest Christianity. Although the majority of scholars now reject the opinion about the time of its composition, the high estimation of this work remains. The reason for that becomes clear upon study of the way in which Matthew presents his story of Jesus, the demands of Christian discipleship, and the breaking-in of the new and final age through the ministry but particularly through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The gospel begins with a narrative prologue (Mt 1:1–2:23), the first part of which is a genealogy of Jesus starting with Abraham, the father of Israel (Mt 1:1–17). Yet at the beginning of that genealogy Jesus is designated as “the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Mt 1:1). The kingly ancestor who lived about a thousand years after Abraham is named first, for this is the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the royal anointed one (Mt 1:16). In the first of the episodes of the infancy narrative that follow the genealogy, the mystery of Jesus’ person is declared. He is conceived of a virgin by the power of the Spirit of God (Mt 1:18–25). The first of the gospel’s fulfillment citations, whose purpose it is to show that he was the one to whom the prophecies of Israel were pointing, occurs here (Mt 1:23): he shall be named Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

The announcement of the birth of this newborn king of the Jews greatly troubles not only King Herod but all Jerusalem (Mt 2:1–3), yet the Gentile magi are overjoyed to find him and offer him their homage and their gifts (Mt 2:10–11). Thus his ultimate rejection by the mass of his own people and his acceptance by the Gentile nations is foreshadowed. He must be taken to Egypt to escape the murderous plan of Herod. By his sojourn there and his subsequent return after the king’s death he relives the Exodus experience of Israel. The words of the Lord spoken through the prophet Hosea, “Out of Egypt I called my son,” are fulfilled in him (Mt 2:15); if Israel was God’s son, Jesus is so in a way far surpassing the dignity of that nation, as his marvelous birth and the unfolding of his story show (see Mt 3:17; 4:1–11; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16; 27:54). Back in the land of Israel, he must be taken to Nazareth in Galilee because of the danger to his life in Judea, where Herod’s son Archelaus is now ruling (Mt 2:22–23). The sufferings of Jesus in the infancy narrative anticipate those of his passion, and if his life is spared in spite of the dangers, it is because his destiny is finally to give it on the cross as “a ransom for many” (Mt 20:28). Thus the word of the angel will be fulfilled, “...he will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21; cf. Mt 26:28).

In Mt 4:12 Matthew begins his account of the ministry of Jesus, introducing it by the preparatory preaching of John the Baptist (Mt 3:1–12), the baptism of Jesus that culminates in God’s proclaiming him his “beloved Son” (Mt 3:13–17), and the temptation in which he proves his true sonship by his victory over the devil’s attempt to deflect him from the way of obedience to the Father (Mt 4:1–11). The central message of Jesus’ preaching is the coming of the kingdom of heaven and the need for repentance, a complete change of heart and conduct, on the part of those who are to receive this great gift of God (Mt 4:17). Galilee is the setting for most of his ministry; he leaves there for Judea only in Mt 19:1, and his ministry in Jerusalem, the goal of his journey, is limited to a few days (Mt 21:1–25:46).

In this extensive material there are five great discourses of Jesus, each concluding with the formula “When Jesus finished these words” or one closely similar (Mt 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1). These are an important structure of the gospel. In every case the discourse is preceded by a narrative section, each narrative and discourse together constituting a “book” of the gospel. The discourses are, respectively, the “Sermon on the Mount” (Mt 5:3–7:27), the missionary discourse (Mt 10:5–42), the parable discourse (Mt 13:3–52), the “church order” discourse (Mt 18:3–35), and the eschatological discourse (Mt 24:4–25:46). In large measure the material of these discourses came to Matthew from his tradition, but his work in modifying and adding to what he had received is abundantly evident. No other evangelist gives the teaching of Jesus with such elegance and order as he.



*“Behold, I am doing a new thing”
Isaiah 43:19*

Your stories matter! Send your submissions to the first Diocesan Synod before 31 July

Our Diocesan Synod is calling you to share stories and have conversations at your parish, with a friend, or with family, about how we can walk together to become the Church that Christ calls us to be. The success of the Synod relies on your participation. Your submissions will inform the development of the agenda for the Synod, from 12-15 October 2023, which will gather clergy, consecrated and laity to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Applications to be a member at the Synod are now open. Apply to be a member or make a submission before 31 July:
<https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

BE A MEMBER
of our Diocesan Synod
Event: 12-15 October
Applications close July 31
For details and to apply:
www.parracatholic.org/synod2023

Liturgical Ministry 2023 - WE NEED YOU!

Are you interested in Parish Ministry ???

The following courses are once again offered by the Parramatta Office for Worship, for Formation in Liturgical Ministry.

Each component is completed over two Monday nights from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Bede Heather Centre,
1-5 Marion St, Blacktown.

Your formation begins with 1 week – *Introductory Session* on **4th September**. On completion of this introductory week, the participant continues with the two-week course of choice outlined below:

11th September Ministry of the Word – Session 1

18th September Ministry of the Word – Session 2

9th October Extraordinary Minister of Communion

16th October Extraordinary Minister of Communion

23rd October Communion of the Sick & Dying*

30th October Ministers at the Altar**

6th November Ministers at the Altar**

We would really love to see some fresh faces involved in our ministries.

Welcome back to our School Families

This week we warmly welcome our school staff and children back to school after a chilly, but mostly sunny winter break.

We hope our families have been able to have a relaxing break and are ready to join their friends on their learning journey for the new school term.

Celebration	Date	Mass	Acolyte	Reader 1	Reader 2	EMC
15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	15 th July	Saturday Vigil, 6pm	Roland Barros	Colette Rajan	Nathan Colaco	Sonia Tannous
	16 th July	Sunday 9.30am	Anthony Pope	Frangee Ampil	Chris Luther	Marlene Murrow, Kay Bull
16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	22 nd July	Saturday Vigil, 6pm	John Cavaleri	Peter Watkins	Paul Lewis	Maureen Steele
	23 rd July	Sunday 9.30am	Ian Starkey	Mariah Di Mauro	Christine Coxall	Janina Starkey Louise Ryall
17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	29 th July	Saturday Vigil, 6pm	John Vassett	Lourdes Subijano	Zelda Booth	Nicole Whittaker
	30 th July	Sunday 9.30am	Anthony Pope	Michael Guillema	Marietta Guillema	Marlene Murrow Madeleine Menasse

Members of the Ministry Team – Would you kindly arrange a replacement or send a “Reply All” email to the team if you find you are unable to fulfil your ministry on your rostered ministry day/time. Many thanks for your assistance



Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

*Sessions are held Mondays 7.00pm, Bede Heather Centre (formerly known as the Institute for Mission),
1-5 Marion St, Blacktown 2148*

Sessions	Dates	Selection
Compulsory Introductory Session	Monday 4th September	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ministers of the Word (2 sessions)	Monday 11th & Monday 18th September	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (2 sessions)	Monday 9th & Monday 16th October	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communion to the Sick and Dying (1 session)	Monday 23rd October	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ministers at the Altar (2 sessions)	Monday 30th October & Monday 6th November	<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Please note if wishing to complete Communion to the Sick and Dying, it is compulsory to attend Ministers of Communion first.**
- **If you would like to become a Minister at the Altar, you must attend all 8 sessions.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parish: _____

Parish Priest: _____

Parish Priest Signature: _____

Please complete and return before Monday 28th August 2023

Please Return Enrolment Form to:

Children's Guardian Act 2019 & the Child Safe Standards

From 1 February 2023, the Children's Guardian now has power in law to take action to ensure organisations comply with the Child Safe Standards.

From: <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-scheme/implementing-child-safe-standards/our-approach-compliance-and-enforcement>

What can each one of us do to actively demonstrate how the 10 Child Safe Standards play a very important role in ensuring children in our Parish are cared for and safe in our community?

Our 6 points of Safeguarding Training demonstrates that each person in parish ministry is compliant in Standard 7. Our training also informs all those in parish life of their role and responsibility in ensuring each of the other Standards can be demonstrated as well.

Each Parish Ministry is very important to our faith and local community. Let us all show this by our collective commitment to this training.

If you are still to finalise your Safeguarding Training, please take advantage of the upcoming face to face opportunities around the Diocese. Next week the 'New Year's Dash Training' begins at: Glenbrook, Rooty Hill, Springwood and Quakers Hill. Check with your Parish Office for dates and time. You are welcome to register for any of these training sessions by contacting: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

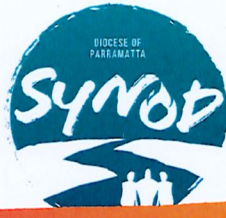
If you would like to complete the training independently on our online training platform you can start these modules at any time and complete them at your own pace.

Sign up onto the platform by clicking on this link: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

Let's get this done and show our Parishes are committed to building safe communities!

LISTENING AT HOME



TOWARDS OUR SYNOD

FOR KIDS

Bishop Vincent wants to hear from you and your family. What you share will help shape the future of our local Church. We encourage you to pray, listen, and discuss the following questions, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time together.

For guidance on how to have a Spiritual Conversation visit www.parracatholic.org/synod2023

1. How do you walk together with your family and friends when they are finding life hard?

2. What is the best thing about being part of God's family, The Church?

3. What are some ways we could share our gifts with the community?



Submit your responses online
www.parracatholic.org/synod2023



LISTENING AT HOME TOWARDS OUR SYNOD

Bishop Vincent wants to hear from families and households across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Your stories will inform the direction of our local Church into the future through what is known as a synod.

A Synod is both an event and a process where people gather to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Synods are transformative experiences that lead to renewal in the Church's life.

We encourage you to pray, listen, and discuss the following questions, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time together.

For guidance on how to have a Spiritual Conversation visit www.parracatholic.org/synod2023

**1. As a household, identify one need in your community.
What is one practical way the church can meet that need?**

2. As a household, what are the joys and challenges you experience that impact your family's participation in church?

3. As a household, what do you believe the mission of the Church is in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains?



Submit your responses online
www.parracatholic.org/synod2023



Diocese of Parramatta Notices

DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Safeguarding Mandatory Modules Face-to-Face Training

The Diocesan Safeguarding team are organising sessions for parish clergy, staff and volunteers to complete their Mandatory Safeguarding Modules 1-3 throughout July at St Paul the Apostle Parish, Winston Hills.

4. Saturday 22 July (12noon-4.45pm) - Modules 1-3

Please email safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org or winstonhills@parracatholic.org to register for one of these face-to-face opportunities to complete your Mandatory Safeguarding Training.

Get #Active4Vocations in the City2Surf: 13 August



Join the Parramatta Catholic Foundation #Active4Vocations team. Walk, stroll, jog, or run with our Holy Spirit seminarians, deacons, priests, and community. Scan this QR code or

visit tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations to register or donate. Funds raised support our Diocese's seminarians to become priests. **Thank you for getting #Active4Vocations.**

Diocese of Parramatta - Positions Vacant:

- Assets and Leasing Manager, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Wednesday 19 July**
- Communications and Digital Manager, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm on Thursday 20 July.**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

MET Worship RCIA Teams Formation Seminars: Beginning 3 August

MET Worship's Formation Seminar for RCIA Teams will be commencing on Thursday 3 August throughout August from 7pm to 9pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. New topics will be covered each week throughout the Seminar including Using Rituals, Mystagogia and more! To RSVP and to learn more about the seminar topics, please contact mary.gale@parracatholic.org or call 0460 037 795.

MET Marriage Retrouvaille Program Information Session: 25 August

The Diocese of Parramatta aims to offer the Retrouvaille program for couples who are having difficulties in their marriage. We are looking for married couples who are committed to helping others heal their marriage relationships. You will be trained to facilitate this program. An information evening will be held on 25 August at 7.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Contact Karin on (02) 8838 3460 marriage@parracatholic.org

Diocesan Adult Confirmation: 5 September

Adult Confirmation 2023 will be held on Tuesday 5 September at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on Saturday 2 September at 9:30am – 2pm at the Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown (formerly known as the IFM). Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist but are yet to receive the Confirmation. If you would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org.

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Friday 11th & Sunday 13th August – Places available
Friday 8th & Sunday 10th September – Places available
Friday 6th & Sunday 8th October – Places available
Friday 3rd & Sunday 5th November – Places available
Friday 1st & Sunday 3rd December – Places available

Volunteer for the House of Welcome

Volunteers are needed by the House of Welcome to do odd jobs around properties which house refugees and people seeking asylum. If you are a handyman or woman with a few hours you can donate, contact Maricar at m.tupaea@houseofwelcome.com.au.