



Parish of Baulkham Hills

St Michael's Church

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 13th August 2023

PARISH NOTES

Dear Parishioners,

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

This Tuesday, 15th, is the solemnity of the Assumption, a Holy Day of obligation.

Mass times are:

9.15am St Michael's	Fr Kevin Walsh
9.30am OLOL	Fr Wim - OLOL school attending
12noon St Michael's	Fr Wim - St Michael's School attending
7.30pm St Michael's	Fr Wim
7.30pm OLOL	Fr Bob Anderson

SYNOD NEWS - FROM BISHOP VINCENT

Bishop Vincent has asked that all Catholic people of the Diocese commence a nine-week novena for the success of the Synod to be held in October. This week he wrote to the clergy:

At the end of July, we reached a major milestone in the journey of our Diocesan Synod. We wrapped up our listening stage of the process, received the final submissions and closed membership applications for the Synod.

*As we continue to walk together in faith, I extend to you an invitation to participate in a **nine-week novena** leading up to our Diocesan Synod.*

During the next nine weeks, I encourage you to pray the novena during your weekend Masses, inviting your community to pray earnestly for the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit as we begin the process of discernment and planning.

From the Introduction to the Novena Booklet

As we approach the Synod, a sacred time of discernment and renewal for our diocesan community, we recognise the significance of seeking God's guidance and grace. For this reason, over the next nine weeks, all Catholics in the Diocese of Parramatta are invited to pray a Novena for the Diocesan Synod.

Through this novena, we humbly ask for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to lead us, enlighten us, and inspire us to be active participants in shaping the future of our Diocese. May this novena be a powerful catalyst for change and spiritual growth as we prepare to embark on this transformative Synodal journey.

The novena will begin the week of Sunday 13 August and conclude in the week beginning Sunday 8 October. The Synod Assembly will be held Friday 13th to Sunday 15th of October.

You are invited to pray the novena once a week ... with your families, or during personal prayer.

EACH WEEK WE WILL PRESENT THE REFLECTION AND PRAYER IN THE PARISH BULLETIN, after the notices.

THE PRAYER WILL ALSO BE RECITED AT ALL MASSES as a conclusion to the Prayers of the Faithful.

PROJECT 24 – RENOVATING OLD ST MICHAEL'S

Please continue to make donations towards this project. Details towards the end of this bulletin. Please advise transfer details (amount, name and date) to admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au, so we can keep a record of donations.

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

Fr Jessie continues to enjoy his time at home with family and friends and will be away till Sunday 25 August. As a result, there will be no **Wednesday or Thursday Masses** at Our Lady of Lourdes Church until further notice. Friday and weekend Masses will continue as usual.

This weekend we welcome Father Philip Alesin who will be with us for the next few weeks. This weekend he will celebrate the Saturday night and Sunday morning Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Originally from Nigeria, Father Philip started his priestly formation in 1997 and was ordained to the Priesthood on 13th August 2005 – **he's been a priest for 18 years this Sunday!** During this period, he completed degrees in Ibadan and Rome. After over a decade of parish ministry and other roles in Nigeria, he came in 2017 to Australia for further studies at the University of Queensland where he obtained his PhD from the School of Political Science and International Studies. We welcome him today.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

The Parish program for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation has started with over 250 children and their families taking part. Please pray for all these children and their parents.

If you have not yet been allocated or chosen a time for the reconciliation, please connect with the sacraments email – sacspobh@gmail.com

MASS LINK FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

The Mass link for this Saturday at 6pm for the **Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A** and available on YOUTUBE after that is <https://youtube.com/live/yfKDyxKCSrk>. 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.

POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY AT THE CONCLUSION OF WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023

This follows after the Reflection on the Synod.

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE this weekend

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) volunteers will be selling raffle tickets and memorabilia items this weekend. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 15 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 for a book of 10 tickets.

LITURGICAL FORMATION COURSE – have you registered yet?

Another **Liturgical Ministry Formation Course** starts on Monday 4th September at the Bede Heather Centre, Marion St, Blacktown. We would like you to take on the ministry of reader, extraordinary minister of holy Communion, or ministry at the altar, in the Parish of Baulkham Hills, and this is the link [for the registration form](#).

This 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.

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

FR ZVONIMIR – BLEIBURG: Massacre of the Croatian people 1945

This is the title of Fr Zvonimir's latest book and covers the history of his beloved Croatia, focussing on the suffering of the Croatian people, and their neighbours at the end of the Second World War. He ends with a chapter on Reconciliation, Forgiveness and Peace. The book is priced at \$50 and you can order directly from Fr Zvonimir via email zvonimir@john23rd.org.au and he will arrange delivery to you. Brochures are available at the back of the Church.

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 or register at marriage@parracatholic.org

CASTLE HILL PARISH - AN EVENING OF SACRED MUSIC: 25 AUGUST

St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill, will be hosting an evening of Sacred Music on Friday 25 August at 7:30pm. The event will be a night of performances by choirs, music groups and soloists from around the Diocese, performing a selection of hymns and choral music. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at <https://www.trybooking.com/CJJSJ>. Entry includes light refreshments during intermission. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 9634 2622 or email admin@stbernadette.org.au

THE DECEASED

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

Recently deceased: August Melinz, Illuminada Gibson, Elie Maroun

Anniversaries: Moss Tanous, Helen Rose

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

For EFT to the Old St Michael's Church Renovation

BSB	067 950
Acct No	100005310
Acct Name	Old St Michael's Reno
Reference	Your name and please email details to admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au

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

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA SYNOD NOVENA WEEK 1 - Aug 13

REFLECTION

A certain rich man came up to Jesus "as he was setting out on his journey" (Mk 10:17) The Gospels frequently show us Jesus "on a journey"; he walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts. He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side.

He meets us where we are, on the often-rocky roads of life ... as we begin this synodal process, let us begin by asking ourselves - all of us, Pope, bishops, priests, religious and laity - whether we, the Christian community, embody this "style" of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity. Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: "It's useless" or "We've always done it this way"?

Celebrating a Synod means walking on the same road, walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First, he encounters the rich man on the road; he then listens to his questions, and finally he helps him discern what he must do to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen and discern.

Pause for reflection

PRAYER

O God, who always walks with us on the journey of life, we call upon you to lead us forth united. Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod. Keep us anchored in your love.

Open our hearts as we listen and discern. Reveal to us the way we are called to go out into the deep. Give us the courage to pursue the mission with bold humility.

May we experience renewal in our local Church today, and for generations to come. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, who in the power of the Holy Spirit continues to guide your Church, to the fullness of your Kingdom now, and forever. Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.



HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE – WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023



The following is the homily delivered by the Pope during the Eucharistic Celebration on Sunday 6th August – Feast of the Transfiguration - to those gathered for World Youth Day Lisbon 2023.

Homily of Pope Francis

After these exciting days, surely we feel like repeating the words of the Apostle Peter on the mount of the Transfiguration: “Lord, it is good for us to be here!” (Mt 17:4). Indeed, how good it has been to share this experience with Jesus, with one another, and to pray together with joyful hearts. Now, we can also ask an important question: What will we take back with us as we resume our daily lives?

I would like to answer this question with three verbs, drawing from the Gospel we have heard: to shine, to listen, and to be unafraid. What will we take back with us? I would respond with these three words: to shine, to listen, and to be unafraid

The first: to shine. Jesus is transfigured. The Gospel tells us: “his face shone like the sun” (Mt 17:2). Shortly before this, he had predicted his passion and death on the cross, shattering the disciples’ image of a powerful and worldly Messiah, and disappointing their expectations. Now, in order to help them embrace the loving plan that God has for each of us, Jesus takes three of the disciples, Peter, James, and John, and leads them up the mountain, where he is transfigured. Through this brilliant burst of light, Jesus prepares the disciples for the dark night of the Passion.

Dear young friends, today we too need something of this burst of light, so that it can fill us with hope as we face the many failures of each day and the darkness that assails us in life and respond to them with the light of the resurrection of Jesus. For he is the light that never sets, the light that shines even in the dead of night. As the priest Ezra said, God has illumined our eyes (cf Ezra 9:8). Our God illumines: he illumines our vision, our hearts, our minds, our desire to do something with our lives. The Lord’s light always shines.

Yet, I would like to tell you that we do not radiate light by putting ourselves in the spotlight, for that type of light is blinding. No, we cannot illumine others by projecting a perfect, well-ordered, refined image of ourselves, or by appearing to be powerful and successful, strong but without light. No, we radiate light – we shine – by welcoming Jesus into our hearts and learning to love as he does. To love like Jesus: that is what makes us shine, makes us do works of love. Friends, I am telling you the truth: whenever you do works of love, you become light.

But the moment you stop loving others and become self-centred, you extinguish your light.

The second verb is to listen. On the mountain, a bright cloud overshadows the disciples. And what does it tell us, this cloud from which the Father speaks? “This is my Son, the Beloved... listen to him!” (Mt 17:5). Listen to him. To listen to Jesus, that is life’s secret. Listen to what Jesus is saying to you. “But I don’t know what he is saying to me”. Well, take the Gospels and read there what Jesus is saying, what he is saying to your heart. For he has the words of eternal life for us, he reveals that God is our Father, that God is love. He shows us the way of love. Listen to Jesus; otherwise, even if we set out with good intentions along paths that seem to be of love, in the end those paths will be seen as selfishness disguised as love. Be careful of selfishness disguised as love! Listen to Jesus, for he will show you which paths are those of love. Listen to him.

The first word: to shine, so be radiant; then, listen in order not to take the wrong path; finally the third word: to be unafraid. Do not be afraid. We often find these words in the Bible, in the Gospels: “Do not be afraid”. These were the last words spoken by Jesus to the disciples at the moment of the Transfiguration: “Do not be afraid!” (Mt 17:7).

As young people, you have experienced these days of joy – I was about to say of glory, and indeed our encounters have been a kind of glory. You have great dreams, but often fear that they may not come true; sometimes you think that you are not up to the challenge, which is a kind of pessimism that can overcome us at times. As young people, you may be tempted at this time to lose heart, to think you fall short, or to disguise your pain with a smile. As young people, you want to change the world – and it is very good that you want to change the world – you want to work for justice and peace. You devote all your life’s energy and creativity to this, but it still seems insufficient. Yet, the Church and the world need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain. To all of you, dear young people, who are the present and the future, yes to all of you, Jesus now says: “Have no fear”, “Do not be afraid!”.

Now, in a brief moment of silence, each of you repeat these words, in your own heart: “Do not be afraid!”

Dear young people, I would like to look into the eyes of each of you and say: Do not be afraid. I will tell you something else, also very beautiful: it is no longer I, but Jesus himself who is now looking at you. He knows each of your hearts, each of your lives; he knows your joys, your sorrows, your successes and failures. He knows your heart. Today, he says to you, here in Lisbon, at this World Youth Day: “Have no fear, take heart, do not be afraid!”.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading

 1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

(R) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading

 Rom 9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

Alleluia!



Gospel

Mt 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Communion Antiphon

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

Next Sunday:

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 56:1, 6-7; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

BY BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

The First Reading and the Gospel today both describe a memorable experience of God following violent manifestations of nature.

The **First Reading**, 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13, describes the experience of the prophet Elijah when, following his harassment at the hands of Queen Jezebel, he has made a long journey to 'Horeb, the mount of God'. 'Horeb' is an alternative name for Sinai, the place where, generations before, the Israelites had had an experience of God foundational for their existence as a people. On that occasion, while Moses communed with God up on the mountain, the people remained below, witnessing from afar a terrifying manifestation of the divine presence in thunder and lightning, thick cloud and trumpet blast (Exodus 19).

In Elijah's case things go differently. As before, there is a mighty wind, an earthquake, and 'fire' (lightning). But the Lord is not 'in' any of these. Instead, after the fire comes 'a sound of sheer silence' (so NSRV; the Hebrew original reads literally: 'a voice of thin silence'). Covering his face (lest he look upon the Lord and die), Elijah goes out to the entrance of the cave, where he is addressed by God and given a new mission.

This is one of the great moments of revelation in the Old Testament. What lifts Elijah out of his depression and renews his vocation is a totally new sense of God. The Lord once manifest in terrifying upheavals of nature is now known in something as subtle and gentle as 'sheer silence,' a silence that somehow has a 'voice'. The Judaeo-Christian mystical tradition has its foundation here.

The **Gospel**, Matthew 14:22-33, follows on directly from the miraculous provision of food for the multitude, as described in last week's Gospel. Jesus sends his disciples off to cross the lake by boat while he disperses the crowd and goes up the mountain alone to pray. The disciples struggling to make headway in a boat out on the lake are symbolic of the later Church in a situation in which it so often finds itself. In biblical thought wind and water out of control are stock images of chaos and destruction. The scene of the disciples battling a head-wind and heavy seas while Jesus remains apart on the mountain evokes a sense of the Church struggling against forces that threaten to engulf it, keenly sensing all the while the physical absence of its Lord.

Eventually, of course, Jesus joins the disciples, walking on the sea – in biblical imagery a prerogative of God (Ps 77:19; Job 9:8; Isa 43:16). The phrase with which he identifies himself, 'It is I', evokes the self-identification of God to Moses at the Burning Bush (Exod 3:13-15). The

presence of Jesus ('Emmanuel' [Matt 1:23 and 28:20]) is at one and the same time the saving presence of God.

What prompts Peter's bid to come to Jesus across the sea? Love, boldness, bravado? Perhaps all three – but also a measure of faith. Faith in Jesus enables Peter, for a time at least, to tread underfoot the watery forces of destruction. But his faith, like that of all disciples in Matthew's Gospel, is prone to doubt. Jesus' gentle word of remonstrance, after he has rescued Peter, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?', addresses all members of the Church. Peter 'models' the mixture of boldness and fear, strength and weakness, characteristic of us all. We can make our own his cry for rescue ('Lord, save me') and feel as he felt the Lord's strong hand of rescue reaching out to raise us from the deep.

Members of the Church, especially perhaps at the present time, can take great comfort from this scene. The Gospel recognises that there will be times of stress and danger when faith will be sorely tested and sometimes fail. But this does not mean that 'Emmanuel' is not with us, swift and sure to rescue, when, like Peter, we cry 'Lord, save us'.

As Jesus and Peter get into the boat, the wind subsides and the disciples 'worship' him saying, 'Truly, you are the Son of God'. Like Elijah at Horeb, they have come to a new awareness of God's saving presence among them. The Gospel suggests that such new awareness can be the outcome of crises in which the Church experiences weakness, failure, and faltering of faith.

The **Second Reading**, Romans 9:1-5, has no connection with all this but gives important testimony to Paul's sense of the ancient *and abiding privileges* of the Jewish people. The last sentence may be one of the rare places in the New Testament when Jesus is described as 'God' (see John 1:1, 18; 20:28; Titus 2:13). More likely, however, Paul is concluding the list with a traditional doxology.

From LiturgyHelp



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

At once, Jesus called out to them, saying: "Courage, it is I! Do not be afraid." It was Peter who answered: "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water." "Come" said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking toward Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. "Lord! Save me!", he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. "Man of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And as they got into the boat the wind dropped." Matthew 14: 22-33



We human beings spend a lot of each day telling stories, reading stories and listening to stories. We are story-telling beings. Most of the stories we tell, read and hear are about human behaviour whether those stories are conveyed to us through the voices of

other people or through print or electronic media. We also know that the motive that drives all human behaviour is every bit as important as the behaviour itself, if not more important. Most of the stories we read and hear every week in our churches are about human behaviour.

So, all this week I have found myself puzzling over what it was that motivated Peter to call out to what he thought was the ghost of Jesus, and then to get out of the boat in response to the invitation to come that he recognised as coming from the voice of Jesus heard amid the howling wind. But it was the force of the same howling wind that sapped his confidence, leading him to begin sinking beneath the waves. And what was it that motivated Jesus to ask, as he held out a rescuing hand: "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Jesus was not in the habit of big-noting himself or even drawing attention to himself or the miracles he performed. So, he surely wasn't saying to Peter: "Why did you doubt me?" And when he rescued Peter from drowning, he put him right back into the boat out of which Peter had stepped. That prompted me to ask if Jesus was challenging Peter to reflect on why he had left behind the companions whom Jesus had told him he was destined to lead. After all, doesn't the best kind of leadership involve having trust and confidence in the people we are privileged to lead?

I wonder, then, if, in the act of rescuing Peter and putting him back into the boat, Jesus was giving him an object lesson that leading his companions was about sticking with them in difficult times as well as in .good; and that approaching leadership as a collaborative venture meant being present to encourage and support them and welcome their contributions. By extension, does that not mean that those called to leadership in the community we now call the people of God have a responsibility to acknowledge that all the people in the pews have something to contribute and that their contributions need to be recognised and their voices heard?

However, I want to suggest that this gospel-reading is not quite as simple as it seems. In a moment of rash over-confidence, Peter might have been drawing attention to himself and saying to his companions: "Look at me. I can do extraordinary things." But when over-confidence intrudes, things can become messy. We can end up attributing successful ventures to ourselves rather than to God who has inspired us to act in the first place. There is also the reality in the lives of most of us that faith in God is not a one-shot, life-

lasting experience. At some time or another, every follower of Jesus experiences doubt. We wonder, at times, if we have been hood-winked into embarking on a journey to nowhere. It is then that we have to remind ourselves that it is only through struggling with doubt that our faith in God becomes strengthened. Doubt is natural. But we also must remember that, when we falter and doubt, the rescuing hand of Jesus is held out to us. We have to find the courage to reach out to take hold of it. We even delude ourselves into thinking that, when we reach out to grasp Jesus, we are doing something virtuous. In reality, it is Jesus who takes the initiative of reaching out to grasp us.

As we grapple with this gospel-reading, it is worth remembering that, in the Book of Psalms, there are numerous examples of drowning being used as a symbol of our need for God. Matthew, teacher and scribe that he was, would have been very familiar with the psalms. Moreover, in relating this dramatic story of Jesus coming to the rescue of his friends in the storm on the lake, he can still add a touch of humour by playing on the meaning of Peter's name and role. Peter the "Rock" stepping out of the boat in a fit of bravado quickly becomes petrified with fear and begins to sink like a stone. Like Matthew, we have all learned to chuckle in retrospect about the rashness we have at times displayed in grave and risky situations from which we have emerged unscathed.

In all of this, there is a message for us, and context is, once more, a great help for discovering that message. Today's story of the storm on the lake follows fast upon three significant events. Jesus had just been rejected by the people of his hometown and was then confronted with the news of the Baptist's execution. He must have felt discouraged and very likely afraid for his own safety, in light of the fact that Herod thought he was John the Baptist reincarnated. Despite all that, Jesus continued on his mission of reaching out to the poor and needy. Evidence of that was his care and concern expressed in feeding a crowd of "five thousand men, not counting the women and children". Before doing that, he had clearly stated to his disciples that feeding the needy was also part of their ministry: "There is no need for them (the crowd) to go: give them something to eat yourselves" (Matthew 14: 16). Immediately after that, he put the disciples in a boat to row themselves across the lake, while he went off by himself to pray. It was then that the storm broke, prompting him to go to their assistance.

Today's gospel-reading, then is a story about what is needed for discipleship. It's clear that Jesus was telling Peter and the other disciples that over-confidence is a hindrance not a help. But trust in God is absolutely essential, as is a readiness to call on God for help when the going gets tough. To call on God for help is a demonstration of both faith and humility, as is the readiness to recognise and accept that God also comes to our help through our companions and associates. But we will be confronted inevitably by storms and challenges. All of us who dare to be disciples of Jesus to a world in need are challenged to hear Jesus' words: "Give them something to eat yourselves". That world is drowning under the waves of consumerism, crippling poverty, terrorism, gun violence, domestic abuse, exploitation of the weak and vulnerable. Somehow, we together have to find the courage to witness to that world through our practical expressions of care and compassion that God's love will eventually dispel the chaos, dissolve the injustice and bring a promise of hope, peace and security. We are God's instruments of grace in that world.

Julian McDonald cfc.AO

Baptism

Congratulations to

- Alyssa Alberto
- Mateo McCann



who were baptised at St. Michael's Church last week

We pray that their faith may be an important and integral part of their life.

Our Week

Monday 14 August

Memorial - St Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Tuesday 15 August

Solemnity - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday 15 August Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady A Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Times:

St Michael's:

9.15 am

12 noon (incl. school)

7.30pm

Our Lady of Lourdes:

9.30am (incl. school)

7.30pm



ANNUAL WALK ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

On Tuesday 15 August there will be Mass at 11.30am at the Shrine of the Holy Innocents followed at 1pm sharp with a 14km walk to Parramatta Cathedral. There will be two stops along the way for refreshments: 2.30pm at St. Michael's, Baulkham Hills; and 4.30pm at St. Monica's, North Parramatta. Arrival at the Cathedral for prayer and readings will be at approximately 6pm. Banners and statues are welcome. You may join the Walk at any point or time of the day. Please register your interest with the parish office for catering purposes (9629-2595).



WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

You're warmly invited to save The Date for the family-friendly event.

Word Day of Migrants & Refugees.

WHEN: 16 September 2023

Time: 2pm to 5:30pm

WHERE: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills

For more information, please contact met@parracatholic.org



STAY FOR A CUPPA!

Our morning tea hosted by the Alpha team will be **THIS SUNDAY 13th August** after 10am mass.

We'd love you to stay and have a chat, while the kids play on the grass outside. Morning tea will be served at the side entrance of the church.

No cost involved. No need to RSVP.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Can I help too? Yes, you can! 😊

Click [here](#) OR email Emma Baker at

alphateam2153@gmail.com

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE

RAFFLE TICKETS FUNDRAISING -

WEEKEND 12/13 AUGUST 2023



Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) volunteers will be selling raffle tickets and memorabilia items this weekend. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 15 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 for a book of 10 tickets.



KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY FOR WOMEN

This support group is for women who have family members serving a prison sentence. Live-in weekends are held twice a year at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. This is a safe space where women can meet and share with others their challenges. The next weekend will be held November 10 - 12, 2023.

Are you interested in bringing the Gospel message to prisoners and their families?

Kairos Prison Ministry is hosting an information session on Saturday 16th September at 2.30pm-4.30pm at Blacktown Uniting Church, 59 Bungarribee Road, Blacktown. Come and hear how you can join other Christians in dramatically changing lives.

RSVP to kidillwyniasec@kairos.org.au or phone Yvonne on 0419 284 128.

NINE-WEEK NOVENA FOR THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena will begin the week of Sunday 13 August and conclude the week of Sunday 8 October in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>



PEACE, JUSTICE AND ECOLOGY SHARING

You are invited to a "Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharing". These sharings are quarterly online gatherings for everyone who is interested in Social Justice, Care for Creation or Global Peace. They are an opportunity to connect, meet like-minded people, and learn more about this area. The zoom meeting will be held 9 August, 6:30-8:00pm. Please RSVP to met@parracatholic.org to receive the link.



Parish of Baulkham Hills



PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest Father Wim Hoekstra
 Assistant Priest Father Jessie Balorio
 Assistant Deacons Deacon Roque Dias
 Youth Ministry Kimberley Almeida

St Michael's Parish Centre (02) 9639 0598
 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm
 Office Administrator Monica O'Callaghan
 Assistant Secretary Betty Cheung

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre (02) 9639 8385
 Mon/Tues 1.30pm - 4.30pm; Wed-Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm
 Secretary Louise Ryall

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

1 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153
 PO Box 702, Baulkham Hills 1755
 Email: admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au
 Homepage: www.parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

1 Canyon Rd, Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153
 Email: olol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au
 Homepage: www.parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au

CURRENT LITURGY SCHEDULE

ST MICHAEL'S WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm
 Sunday: 8.00am, 10.00am and 6.00pm
 Mon - Fri: 9.15am Sat: 9.00am

ROSARY: Mon - Fri 8.50am, Sat 8.45am

ADORATION OF BLESSED EUCHARIST

Tuesday 9.45am - 10.45am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.30am - 10.30am, 4.45 - 5.15pm

OUR LADY OF LOURDES WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm
 Sunday: 9.30am, 11.30am (Korean)
 Fri: 9.30am (No Wed or Thu Masses until further notice)

ADORATION OF BLESSED EUCHARIST

Friday 8.50am prior to 9.30am Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.00 - 5.30pm

BAPTISMS and MARRIAGES (by appointment only)

Please contact the appropriate Parish Office

KOREAN CHAPLAINCY

1 Canyon Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
 Chaplain Fr. Pio Yong Ho Jang
 Secretary Rita Ryou

Mass Times	LECTORS THIS WEEK 13 AUGUST 2023	LECTORS NEXT WEEK 20 AUGUST 2023
Saturday 5.30 pm	G. Dequena, P. Eustace, F. Ritky	E. Riches, P. Sladen, C. Vella
Sunday 8.00 am	M. Cameron, C. Worthington, G. Machado	A. Mendes, N. D'Lima, J. Kerr
Sunday 10.00 am	J. Van Gend, M. Reefman, N. Dahlberg	C. Burton, A. Mantaring, S. Mantaring
Sunday 6.00 pm	M. Moloney, M. Moloney	N. Redden, G. Tamayo, R. Borg
Mass Times	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 13 AUGUST 2023	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 20 AUGUST 2023
Saturday 5.30 pm	K. McElduff, E. Riches, R. Gosper, L. Karam, W. Ng	G. Rodrigues, A. Mascari, R. Gosper
Sunday 8.00 am	M. Atkins, R. Waite, R. McGuinness	C. Palmer-Burton, M. Palmer-Burton, M. Cameron, B. Smith
Sunday 10.00 am	N. Redden, C. Malinis, D. Warren	D. Warren, M. Ignacz, S. Malinis, C. Vella
Sunday 6.00 pm	P. Finnerty, S. Stagnitta, E. Lee	N. Redden, A. Hay, S. Stagnitta
ROSTERS:	WEEK BEGINNING 13.08.23	WEEK BEGINNING 20.08.23
COUNTERS	Counters 13.08.23 : Team 6 : K. Cope	Counters 20.08.23 : Team 7 : P. Kocsis
FLOWER MINISTRY	Saturday 19.08.23 : M. Mifsud, L. Laksana	Saturday 26.08.23 : M. Medvidovic, R. O'Donnell
PROJECTOR	Weekend 19th/20th August 2023 - Masses: Sat 5:30pm: S. Yao Sun 8am: R. Baker 10am: G. Wongso 6pm: A. Saker	



In your mercy, please remember those for whom prayers have been asked

Recently deceased:

August Melinz, Illuminada Gibson, Elie Maroun

Anniversaries:

Helen Rose, Moss Tanous

Sick:

Tony Maroun, Garry Eldersley, Trent Styles, Katherine Izzo, Fr Tony Biddle, Judith Chie, Joey & Noah, Nicholas Tadros, Mimi Yeung, Baby Carter McGhie, Cathy Vella, Kong Su Chong, Judy Poon, Jamal Kairouz, Ocean Dumlao, Bridgette & Gabriella Boldt, Debra Price, Mary Burns, Marie Bolton, Cynthia Gomes, Salma Lattouf, Jane Gibson, Frank Jacobs, Jacinta Hollins, Joe Maroun, Florgina Henry, Richard Miranda, Joseph MacDermid, Catherine Hemmings, Baby William Merhi, Rev Dr. Richard Waugh QSM