



Parish of Baulkham Hills St Michael's Church

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 3rd September 2023

Dear Parishioners,

A Happy Father's Day to all Dads

FR JESSIE BACK - BUT STILL NO WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY MASSES AT OLOL TILL OCTOBER 11

Welcome back, Fr Jessie! Now, it's my turn - I will be leaving on my "Quo Vadis Domine" pilgrimage to the Holy Land And Rome on Tuesday 5th September, returning in early October.

There will be no **Wednesday or Thursday Masses** at Our Lady of Lourdes October 11. Friday and weekend Masses will continue as usual.

During my time away, Fr Bob Anderson and Fr Philip Alesin will be helping out on Fridays and weekends respectively.

DENNIS CHEUNG

We are very saddened to report the death of Dennis Cheung, husband of our secretary Betty, who died after a relatively short illness on Thursday.

Dennis' funeral will be on Tuesday 5th September at 11am at St Monica's Church, cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta. The Mass will be in Cantonese and English.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Congratulations to those 250 children who made their first reconciliation during the week at St Michael's and Our Lady of Lourdes.

THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

We now begin to prepare for the Sacrament of First Communion, which program starts after the school holidays.

Those children who will be 8½ or older by mid-November 2023 are eligible to receive the Sacrament of First Communion. For those children who made the Sacrament of Reconciliation last year or earlier and have not yet made their first communion parents are asked to register via the QR code or [this Google Form link](#).



Those who have just recently completed the sacrament of reconciliation are automatically registered if they meet the age requirement. But please advise if you do not wish to proceed at this stage.

The Parents Information evenings will be at St Michael's on Monday 18 September and Tuesday 19 September at 7.30pm in the Church and on Monday 18 September at Our Lady of Lourdes School Learning area at 7.30pm. I understand that some of these are pupil-free days, but please attend.

BISHOPS' FATHERS DAY APPEAL

Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support.

This will take place this weekend of 2-3 September, and supports retired clergy of the Diocese, such as Fr Bob Anderson and Fr Kevin Walsh, who have been supplying while Fr Jessie is on leave.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal via the QR code or via the website link <https://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal>



MASS LINK FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

The Mass link for this Saturday at 6pm for the **Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A** and available on YOUTUBE after that is <https://youtube.com/live/tLx5gcBseFU>. 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.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR PAPAL, CIVIL AND DIOCESAN AWARDS

From today until Thursday 7 September 2023, you can nominate an outstanding individual who has contributed to the Catholic Church and society for a Papal Honours Award, Civil Award or Diocesan Award. Please visit parracatholic.org/awards. The Awards Ceremony will be held in November.

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 ZVONIMIR – BLEIBURG: Massacre of the Croatian people 1945

Fr Zvonimir's latest book covers the history of his beloved Croatia, focussing on the suffering of the Croatian people, and their neighbours at the end of WWII. The book priced \$50 is available direct from Fr Zvonimir via email zvonimir@john23rd.org.au.

PIETY STALL- ST MICHAEL'S

Clearance Sale next Sunday 10th September after 8am & 10am masses.

POPE FRANCIS AND THE PASSION FOR EVANGELISATION

Today, the Pope continued his cycle of catechesis on The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer, focusing on the theme: "To pray and serve with joy: Kateri Tekakwitha, first saint of North America."

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we have been reflecting on the spread of the Gospel through the witness of men and women of every time and place. Today we consider Saint Káteri Tekakwitha, the first native American saint of North America. The daughter of a Mohawk chief and an Algonquin mother, Kateri was scarred by smallpox at an early age; her sufferings drew her to a great love of the cross and a close identification with Christ in his redemptive love for humanity. Persecuted for her faith, she found refuge in a Jesuit mission. Her deep piety and prayer, marked by devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary and acts of penance, was accompanied by charitable concern for the elderly and the sick, and for the instruction of children in the faith. A year before she died, Kateri sealed her complete dedication to the Lord by taking a solemn vow of perpetual virginity. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha's example shows us the power of the Gospel to bear rich fruit in a holiness expressed in quiet, everyday actions that nonetheless have the power to transform our world.

THE DECEASED

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

Recently deceased: Dennis Cheung (the husband of our secretary Betty)

Anniversaries:

Marie Bastian, Richard Rivas, Michael Ryan, Elias Sabat, Hamid Bazouna, Virginia Lu, Maxwell McArthur, Joseph Cape, Concetta Pitarelli, Raffaello Spano, Francesco Pintabona, Carmela Pintabona, Evelyn Menon, Shiranee Agnes Lokuge, Henry Hyacinth Costa, Cirilo Parra, Andrew James

Fr Wim

SUPPORT DONATIONS

Thank you for 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 details to us pls



*God, bless our fathers and
all fathers in the world.
Guide them to be good role models
and loving to all their children.
Help them to be a father, like You are.
Give them grace and patience to
handle situations in a loving way.
Amen*

DIocese of Parramatta Synod Novena WEEK 4 - Sep 3

REFLECTION

We must continue along this path. The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission. It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.

What the Lord is asking of us is already in some sense present in the very word "synod". Journeying together - laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome - is an easy concept to put into words, but not so easy to put into practice.

*ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS Paul VI
Audience Hall Saturday, 17 October 2015*

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.



Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you

First Reading

Jer 20.7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 12.1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!



Gospel

Mt 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Communion Antiphon

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Next Sunday:

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezek 33.7-9; Rom 13.8-10; Mt 18.15-20

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

BY BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

Today's Gospel strikes a sombre note. Jesus, whose true identity Simon Peter has just acknowledged ('You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'), goes on to make the first of three announcements concerning his destiny to suffer and die.

The Lectionary provides a way into this paradox by introducing as **First Reading** a passage from the prophet Jeremiah, 20:7-9. It is this prophet's painful destiny to have to prophesy the coming of 'violence and ruin' to a people who, understandably, wanted a more positive message. Jeremiah's attempt to resist his prophetic duty by simply remaining silent led to an anguish within him that was even more painful – 'a fire burning in my heart'.

The Lord has led him into a relationship and a vocation from which there is no escape. Hence his striking complaint, 'You have seduced me, Lord'. There is no more poignant portrayal of the prophetic vocation than this. Virtually by definition, a prophet's role is to unmask the subterfuge and excuses through which people and indeed whole societies seek to hide painful truth from themselves.

The anguish and tension experienced by Jeremiah is apparent also in the **Gospel**, Matthew 16:21-27. Peter has just given expression to his God-given insight concerning the identity of Jesus and received in response blessing and appointment to a leading role in the church that Jesus will build. But when Jesus goes on to announce that, Son of God though he may be, he is destined to go to Jerusalem to suffer and die, Peter, who had so conspicuously got it right, equally conspicuously stumbles at the truth now being revealed: the more closely as '(beloved) Son' Jesus is related to God, the more closely he must be aligned with the divine will to enter into the pain and suffering of the world, to be the Son of Man who came 'not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (20:28).

There is tension, then, between the understanding of Jesus and that of Peter and the other disciples. But, like Jeremiah, Jesus himself is not immune from feeling that tension. Peter's remonstrance is not harsh but subtle, 'God forbid, Lord. This sort of thing is not for you' – that is, not for 'the Son of the living God!'.

The suggestion is a real temptation, an echo of the third temptation (4:8-9) when Satan had tried to lure Jesus away from his God-given path by proposing an easy route to lordship of the world. Jesus in fact turns on Peter here in terms very similar to those with which on that earlier occasion (4:10) he had dismissed Satan: 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me.' Ironically, the

'Rock' has become a 'stumbling block'; the recipient of divine revelation is now setting (his) mind not on divine things but on human things. The strength of Jesus' response suggests that the temptation still lingers. It will emerge more powerfully still when, in the garden of Gethsemane, he stands immediately before an extremity of suffering (26:36-46).

Once again, then, we see combined in Peter insight and leadership, on the one hand, and capacity for failure, on the other. His understandable human desire to preserve the Master from suffering actually aligns him with the demonic in a way that would thwart the entire mission. It is no kindness to Jesus – or to the world that he has come to save – to deflect him from the path the Father has set before him.

So, speaking more generally to all the disciples, Jesus goes on to lay down the conditions for any who want to follow him: it means taking up one's own cross and losing one's life in order to find it. This is the path that Jesus must take and the path that all who would seek association with him must also be prepared to embrace. The fact that the so recently exalted Peter had so much difficulty with it and even that Jesus had difficulty with it should be for us all a source of comfort. Christian discipleship is not Stoic indifference.

Both Peter's remonstrance and Jeremiah's complaint will often find echo in our hearts in the daily struggle to go with Jesus along the costly prophetic way.

St Paul's appeal in the **Second Reading**, Romans 12:1-2, is quite close to this. Our 'bodies' in Pauline usage refers not simply to our physical bodies but to our whole pattern of bodily life, everything we do or say. To 'offer (our) bodies' in this sense as a 'living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God' entails a similar preparedness to discern and follow what is not the way of the world but the way of God.

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Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus turned and said to Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do...Those who wish to come after me must deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow me." Matthew 16: 21-27

I'd like to suggest that today's readings offer us two clear messages. One is about how developing a trusting relationship with the God who loved us into life can free us to pray not only with openness and honesty but from the depths of our being. Jeremiah gives us a wonderful illustration of that kind of prayer in today's first reading. Today's gospel-reading combines with the second reading from *Romans* to stress that **living with integrity** (not dying) is indispensable for anyone who claims to be a disciple of Jesus. But it's only when we live with integrity that we discover that there is a fairly heavy price to pay.

At first sight, it looks as though the words we hear from Jeremiah were a lament that God had hood-winked him into becoming a prophet. The essential meaning of the word "prophet" is that it was/is the designation given to a person who was courageous enough to speak the truth despite the consequences. There was a long line of prophets in the history of Israel and the Bible records how they were punished for their honesty and integrity by their own people who refused to hear the message God had appointed them to deliver. Jeremiah acknowledged that he had been so captivated by the story of God's love for the people of Israel that it became a fire within him, so intense that he could not extinguish it. He found God's actions and words so attractive that he came to identify himself with God's mission to the people of Israel. Earlier in his writings he had stated how intense was the impact on him of God's message. But, in the same breath, he had pleaded with God to protect him because he, too, had met with the same kind of rejection as had been directed at God: "You know where I am, God! Remember what I'm doing here! Take my side against my detractors. Don't stand back while they ruin me. Just look at the abuse I'm taking! When your words showed up, I ate them, swallowed them whole. What a feast!! What delight I took in being yours, O God!...But why now this chronic pain, this ever-worsening wound and no healing in sight? You're nothing God, but a mirage, a lovely oasis in the distance - and then nothing! (Jeremiah 15: 15-18) "

Was there ever a prayer like that? Perhaps Job had a relationship with God to equal Jeremiah's. Could you and I pray like that? Or do we think that to express the depth of our feelings might somehow alienate us from God? Maybe we have to remind ourselves that God is big enough to cope with anything. Jeremiah was humble enough to share God's response: "Take back those words, Jeremiah, and I'll take you back. Then you'll stand tall before me. Use words truly and well. Don't stoop to cheap whining. Then, but only then, you'll speak for me. Let your words change *them*. Don't change your words to suit them." (Jeremiah 15: 19-20) To be able to act as God's prophet, he had to swallow God's word. In return, God's word swallowed him. Even though he was tempted not to speak God's message or even speak God's name, God's attraction was irresistible. Those who could see nothing but a list of woes emanating from Jeremiah's mouth invented the word *jeremiad* to encompass his complaint. It is still to be found in our dictionaries. Yet his prayer expressed his honesty to the core and his faith remained unshakeable. To walk in the footsteps of Jesus is to journey into a relationship with the God he came to know, and to experience the kind of rejection meted out to him for taking up the mission God entrusted to him - the same mission he, in turn, has

entrusted to us. Centuries later, Teresa of Avila, faced with the mission of refounding and reforming the Carmelite Sisters, echoed the sentiments of Jeremiah. After a day of frustration when she had failed to get a convent of sisters to embrace her programme of reform, she was caught on her way home in torrential rain. She lost her footing on a slope and fell face down into the mud. As she got to her feet, she said to God: "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them." In 1970, Pope Paul VI proclaimed St Teresa of Avila as the first female Doctor of the Church.

While Jesus did not resort to whinging and whining to God, he came to much the same conclusion as Jeremiah: that to accept God's mission of proclaiming to the world the message of God's love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness would lead to rejection, opposition and persecution. That's why, in today's gospel-reading we hear of him telling his disciples of his intention to go to Jerusalem where he sensed further rejection, and the threat of violence and death awaited him. For him, to act with integrity meant being true to the vocation God had given him. That involved speaking the truth even to people whose comfort and closed minds he knew he would disturb. Indirectly, he was telling his disciples that to walk in his footsteps and to keep his mission alive would be a risky business.

The message of Jesus and the Gospel will always be a challenge to abusive power. While Jesus was not intentionally embarking on a suicidal mission, he was not prepared to devalue or compromise the power of God's message to the world. To dodge what he saw was his responsibility would have been to put self-interest first. That would mean compromising his integrity. Still, when he was eventually falsely condemned and crucified, he, like Jeremiah, felt that the God he represented had forgotten him: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Peter's advice to Jesus not to take an unnecessary risk made good sense, and Jesus' response seemed overly harsh. However, his equating Peter with Satan was, in Matthew's mind, triggered by a flashback to the temptations Jesus had experienced in the wilderness prior to embarking on his vocation and his launching into public ministry. With those three temptations, Satan had tried to convince Jesus not to pursue the vocation he had discerned God was inviting him to take up. Jesus finally dismissed his tempter with these words: "Be off, Satan! For scripture says: *You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone*" (Matthew 4, 10) Jesus must have heard Peter's advice as an attempt to sway him from what he had discerned was his true vocation. It touched into his memory of his struggle with temptation in the wilderness. Moreover, he took the opportunity to stress that he was stepping into his role of leader and making sure he was true to himself, his vocation and his God. If the disciples were really intent on following him, they would have to commit themselves to doing likewise. For Jesus action spoke louder than words.

The message for us, of course is that we have been invited to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, to reflect with integrity something of the love, mercy and compassion of God and to challenge in word and action power that disregards and abuses our sisters and brothers. That will inevitably bring us into conflict and be a cause of pain, humiliation and rejection. Are we prepared to take the risk of pursuing such a course? If so, to take that course will bring us a cross of some kind every single day.

POPE FRANCIS AND THE PASSION FOR EVANGELISATION

Today, the Pope continued his cycle of catechesis on *The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer*, focusing on the theme: "To pray and serve with joy: Kateri Tekakwitha, first saint of North America.

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

(Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.15-18).

Catechesis of the Holy Father

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Now, continuing our catechesis on the theme of apostolic zeal and passion for proclaiming the Gospel, we look today at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, the first native North American woman to be canonized.

Born around the year 1656 in a village in upstate New York, she was the daughter of an unbaptized Mohawk chief and an Algonquin Christian mother, who taught Kateri to pray and sing hymns to God. Many of us were also first introduced to the Lord in family settings, especially by our mothers and grandmothers.

This is how evangelization begins and, indeed, we must not forget that the faith is always transmitted in this dialect by mothers, by grandmothers. Faith should be transmitted in dialect, and we received it in dialect from mothers and grandmothers. Evangelism often begins this way: with simple, small gestures, such as parents helping their children learn to talk to God in prayer and telling them about His great and merciful love. And the foundation of faith for Kateri, and often for us as well, was laid in this way. She received it from her mother in dialect, the dialect of the faith.

When Kateri was four years old, a severe smallpox epidemic struck her people. Both of her parents and her younger brother died, and Kateri herself was left with scars on her face and vision problems. From then on, Kateri had to face many difficulties: the physical ones from the effects of smallpox, certainly, but also the misunderstandings, persecutions, and even death threats she suffered following her Baptism on Easter Sunday 1676.

All this gave Kateri a great love for the Cross, the definitive sign of the love of Christ, who gave Himself to the end for us. Indeed, witnessing to the Gospel is not only about what is pleasing; we must also know how to bear our daily crosses with patience, trust, and hope.

Patience in the face of difficulties, of crosses: patience is a great Christian virtue. He who does not have patience is not a good Christian. Patience to tolerate: to tolerate others, who are sometimes annoying or cause difficulties. Kateri Tekakwitha's life shows us that every challenge can be overcome if we open our hearts to Jesus, Who grants us the grace we need. Patience and a heart open to Jesus – this is a recipe for living well.

After being baptized, Kateri was forced to take refuge among the Mohawks in the Jesuit mission near the city of Montreal.

There she attended Mass every morning, devoted time to adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, prayed the Rosary, and lived a life of penance. These spiritual practices of hers impressed everyone at the Mission; they recognized in Kateri a holiness that was appealing because it stemmed from her deep love for God. This is proper to holiness: to attract. God calls us through attraction; He calls us with this desire to be close to us and one feels this divine attraction.

At the same time, she taught the children of the Mission to pray; and through the constant fulfilment of her responsibilities, including caring for the sick and elderly, she offered an example of humble and loving service to God and neighbour. The faith is always expressed service. The faith is not about putting on make-up, putting make-up on the soul; no, it is to serve.

Although she was encouraged to marry, Kateri preferred to dedicate her life to Christ. Unable to enter the consecrated life, she made a vow of perpetual virginity on March 25, 1679. This choice of hers reveals another aspect of apostolic zeal that she had: total surrender to the Lord. Of course, not everyone is called to make the same vow as Kateri, but every Christian is called to give themselves daily with an undivided heart to the vocation and mission entrusted to them by God, serving God and one's neighbour in a spirit of charity.

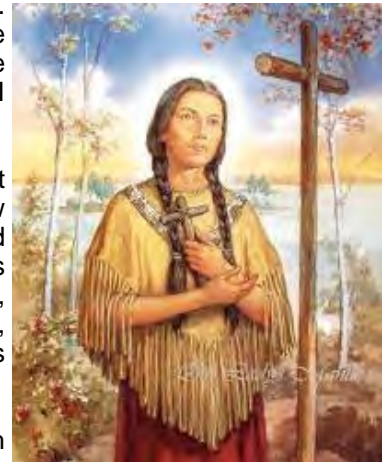
Dear brothers and sisters, Kateri's life is further proof that apostolic zeal implies both union with Jesus, nourished by prayer and the sacraments, and the desire to spread the beauty of the Christian message through fidelity to one's particular vocation. Kateri's last words are very beautiful. Before she died, she said, "Jesus, I love you."

May we too, like Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, draw strength from the Lord and learn to do ordinary things in extraordinary ways, growing daily in faith, charity, and zealous witness for Christ.

Let us not forget: Each one of us is called to holiness, to everyday holiness, to the holiness of the common Christian life. Each one of us has this calling: we go forward along this path. The Lord will not fail us.

After his catechesis, Pope Francis made the following appeal.

The day after tomorrow, September 1, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, inaugurating the Season of Creation, which will last until October 4, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. On that date I plan to publish an Exhortation, a second *Laudato si*. Let us join our Christian brothers and sisters in the commitment to care for Creation as a sacred gift from the Creator. It is necessary to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, striving to end the senseless war on our common home, which is a terrible world war. I urge all of you to work and pray for it to abound with life once again.



Baptism

Congratulations to

- Ari Kai Jablonski
- Charlie Arthur Jackson



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

Friday—8 September

Feast—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



STAY FOR A CUPPA!

Our next morning tea hosted by the Alpha team will be **SUNDAY 10th September** 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

Can I help too? Yes, you can! ☑

Click [here](#) OR email Emma Baker at alphateam2153@gmail.com

DADS AT THE SHRINE

Dads at the Shrine is a monthly hour of adoration held at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, next held **Wednesday 13 September**. The hour begins with a brief reflection before a period of personal silent prayer. Confessions are available. The evening finishes with a simple cup of tea. All dads are welcome. No RSVP is necessary. Any questions, contact Bernard, 0416 106



MARY MACKILLOP AUSTRALIAN PILGRIMAGE 17/10 - 28/10/2023

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on

17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For itinerary and application form please contacted

DIOCESAN FOOD DRIVES

Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. All parishes and schools are encouraged to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at parracatholic.org/fooddrive or emailing james.atanasious@parracatholic.org



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration will take place at St Michael's Church every first Friday of the month from 7:30 to 8:30pm.

All are welcome!

The next event is on **Friday 6 October**

ARISE WOMEN'S RETREAT: 16 SEPTEMBER

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a day of reflection, inspiration and encounter with Christ at this year's Arise Women's Retreat: 'Arise - Talitha Koum - Little girl, I say ARISE' on Saturday 16 September from 8.30am to 8.30pm. The retreat will include Mass, meditation, talks, praise and worship, creative expression, spiritual direction and healing Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. All meals are included. For bookings and more information, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1078404>



SEASON OF CREATION:

1 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical celebration and this year's theme is, 'Let Justice and Peace Flow'. It starts on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. In his message for this year's World Day of Prayer for Creation, Pope Francis reminds us that the next chapter in the Church's synodal journey will begin at the conclusion of the Season of Creation. He hopes that this synodal journey will foster deeper communion enriched by greater dialogue. To learn more, please contact our Peace, Justice and Ecology team via met@parracatholic.org

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?

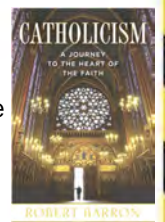
Kairos Prison Ministry is hosting an information session on Saturday 16th September at 2.30pm-4.30pm at Blacktown Uniting Church, 59 Bungarribee Road, Blacktown. Come and hear how you can join other Christians in dramatically changing lives. RSVP to kidillwyniasec@kairos.org.au or phone Yvonne on 0419 284 128.

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Meeting in the Crying Room at St Michael's Church after 9.15am Mass.

The Program is "Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith" by Bishop Robert Barron

Contact: Barbara Stenning 0466 608 400
Anne Sullivan 0424 961 739





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 Ryoo

Mass Times	LECTORS 03 SEPTEMBER 2023	LECTORS 10 SEPTEMBER 2023
Saturday 5.30 pm	R. Gosper, R. Robb, M. Boldt, M. D'Souza	G. Dequena, P. Eustace, F. Ritky
Sunday 8.00 am	D. Ison, M. Palmer-Burton, V. Vella	M. Cameron, C. Worthington, G. Machado
Sunday 10.00 am	S. Butler, T. Dwyer, T. Reodique	J. van Gend, M. Reefman
Sunday 6.00 pm	S. Stagnitta, R. Santos, D. Mascarenhas	M. Moloney, M. Moloney
Mass Times	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 03 SEPTEMBER 2023	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 10 SEPTEMBER 2023
Saturday 5.30 pm	G. Rodrigues, A. Mascari, L. Karam,	K. McElduff, R. Gosper, A. Mascari, W. Ng
Sunday 8.00 am	B. Boguradzki, A. Lockwood, S. Espiritu, B. Smith	T. Barnes, M.Cameron, P & M Zammit, R. McGuinness
Sunday 10.00 am	J. Banayos, M. Ignacz, C. Malinis	D. Warren, C Malinis, S. Malinis, C Vella
Sunday 6.00 pm	J. Macey, R. Macey, S. Haskins, L. Dela Cruz	N. Redden, R. Santos, R. Borg
ROSTERS:	WEEK BEGINNING 03.09.23	WEEK BEGINNING 10.09.23
COUNTERS	Counters 03.09.23 : Team 1 : T. Checchia	Counters 10.09.23 : Team 2: K. McElduff
FLOWER MINISTRY	Saturday 09.09.23 : D. Maglalang, N. Fernando	Saturday 16.09.23 : M. Mifsud, L. Laksana
PROJECTOR	Weekend 09/10 September 2023 - Masses: Sat 5:30pm: M. D'Souza Sun 8am: D. Grech 10am: M. Ezy 6pm: Y/T. Menezes	



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

Recently deceased:

Dennis Cheung (husband of Betty),
Remegio Cagaanan

Anniversaries:

Marie Bastian, Richard Rivas, Michael Ryan, Elias Sabat, Hamid Bazouna, Virginia Lu, Maxwell McArthur, Joseph Cape, Concetta Pitarelli, Raffaello Spano, Francesco Pintabona, Carmela Pintabona, Evelyn Menon, Shiranee Agnes Lokuge, Henry Hyacinth Costa, Cirilo Parra, Andrew James

Sick:

Greg Hopwood, Tony Maroun, Garry Eldersley, Trent Styles, Katherine Izzo, Tony Biddle, Judith Chie, Joey & Noah, Nicholas Tadros, Mimi Yeung, Baby Carter McGhie, Cathy Vella, Judy Poon, Kong Su Chong, 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