Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



PYMBLE CATHOLIC PARISH

SACRED HEART & OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

Building a Christ-centred community of Love and Mercy Pymble Parish is under the Pastoral care of the Salvatorian Fathers



BUT I SAY TO YOU, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU,

Matthew 5:44

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of Love, we need you now. Teach us to love those we have learned to hate. Teach us to pray for our enemies To love you even in those we despise. God of Peace, we need you now. Teach us how to reconcile. Teach us to speak when we are silenced. Teach us to give up power when our power renders others powerless, or mute. God of Joy, we need you now! Receive our burdens, they are many. Lift our spirits, they are weighed down. God of life, we need you now, Grant us grace where shame restricts us, Grant us life where pain takes hold, Grant us wisdom where we would settle for easy answers, Grant us love, rooted in the eternal, the living, in you!

God bless us as we gather, in the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Baptisms at Pymble Parish

Please contact the Parish office on 9144 2702 or via email on office@pymblecatholicparish.org.au for Baptism enquiries.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER **INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY**

the centre, may increasingly become

towards those most in need.

communities of faith, fraternity and welcome

For Parishes





Prayer for the Intercession of **Blessed Francis Jordan**

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, you called Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan to be your apostle, to make God known and loved by all people everywhere, using all the means your love inspires. You filled him with universal apostolic zeal, with a deep trust in God's loving providence, with a profound spirit of prayer, with a sincere devotion to Mary, Mother of the Saviour, and with the courage to follow you, even into the mystery of the Cross.

Our upcoming Baptism Formation Class will be held on:

Monday, 27 March 2023 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Church

Bookings are essential.

A warm welcome to all our **Parishioners** who are celebrating the Eucharist with us this weekend.



Grant also to me the grace to proclaim the Gospel in this spirit, and make me an effective apostle in today's world.

Through the intercession of Blessed Francis Jordan, I pray to you for my special needs (include your personal intention). I make this prayer through you, my Saviour, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

www.sds.org.au

www.pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Parish Team

Pastoral care

Salvatorian Fathers

Parish Priest: Fr. Ireneusz Czech SDS

Email: fr.irek@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Youtube: youtube.com/@IreneuszCzech

Podbean: <u>https://pawelc8.podbean.com/</u> Assistant Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tran SDS

Email: fr.paul@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary: Daniela Foote

Email: daniela@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Assistant Secretary: Claudia Chen

Email: claudia@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Melanie Benbow

Email: melanie@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

CCD Coordinator: Michele Brack

Email: michele@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Parish Mass Times

Sacred Heart 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble NSW 2073

Weekdays: Tuesday to Friday 9:00am Rosary: Tuesday to Friday after morning Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday after morning Mass

Weekend:

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 5:30pm Sunday: 7:45am, 9:30am and 6:00pm

Reconciliation: Friday 8:45am, Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 5:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 64 Kendall St, West Pymble, NSW, 2073

Weekdays: Tuesday: 12pm During School Term as advertised in the Parish weekly calendar section

Weekend: Saturday (Vigil Mass): 9:00am and 5:00pm Sunday: 9:00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am

Contact details

Youtube QR code:



Podbean QR code:



PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

SACRED HEART

Principal: Mary Hor **Telephone:** (02) 94408056 www.shpdbb.catholic.edu.au

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

Principal: Jodi Jefferson **Telephone:** (02) 7256 2101 www.olpsdbb.catholic.edu.au





Address: 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble, NSW 2073

Postal address: PO BOX 231 Turramurra NSW 2074

Telephone: (02) 9144 2702

Email: office@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Website: www.pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Office hours: Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 4pm &

Friday 8:30am to 1pm

For information about Baptisms and Weddings please contact Daniela in the Parish Office. For information about the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist, please contact Melanie at melanie@pymblecatholicparish.org.au Family Mass is an opportunity for our community to come together, celebrate the Eucharist and listen to the Gospel. This joyful celebration will be followed by morning tea. Come and enjoy Mass and the good company of our beautiful community.

Year 6 Sacred Heart families.

Year 6 students are invited to volunteer for a reading, prayer of the faithful, offertory, Gospel procession, alter serving or as a welcome usher.

To participate, please email Linda Bowe at boweadamlinda@gmail.com by February 16. Participating students are asked to arrive at Church by 9am for a rehearsal. Readings are provided to students 1 week in advance of Mass.

Family Mass Student Choir - A fun way for students of all ages to participate in Mass, all students are welcome to join in the choir. Choir is conducted by Pymble Parish member Gemma Au-Yeung, and accompanied by pianist Ana Ortiz. Please arrive at Church by 8:30am for rehearsat.



Sunday, 19 February	Thursday, 23 February
7:45am Mass at Sacred Heart	Collect of St Polycarp, bishop, martyr (Optional)
9:00am Mass at OLPS	9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart
9:30am Mass at Sacred Heart (Children's Liturgy)	6:00pm Serra Mass and Meeting
6:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart	Friday, 24 February
	9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart with Adoration and Litany to the Sacre
Tuesday, 21 February	Heart of Jesus
St Peter Damian, bishop, doctor (Optional)	7:00pm Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart Church
9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart	
7:30pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Saturday, 25 February
Wedneedey, 22 February	9:00am Mass at OLPS followed by Stations of the Cross 5:00pm Mass at OLPS
Wednesday, 22 February	5:30pm Mass at Sacred Heart
Ash Wednesday 9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart	
12:00pm Mass at OLPS	Sunday, 26 February
7:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart	First Sunday of Lent
r.oophi Mass at Sacled Healt	7:45am Mass at Sacred Heart
Thursday, 23 February	9:00am Mass at OLPS
Collect of St Polycarp, bishop, martyr (Optional)	9:30am Mass at Sacred Heart
9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart	2:00pm Rite of Election at OLOR Waitara
	6:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart

The Rosary is recited after all weekday Masses.

Parish Prayer Zone

Praying for others gets our focus off ourselves and onto the needs of those around us. As we "carry each other's burdens," we "will fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Praying for each other makes us stronger and helps us to grow our faith and Christian love.

Recently Deceased:

Alessandro Lazzaroni, Lachlan Hodge, Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal George Pell, Patricia (Trish) McGrath, Francesco Allen Lazzaroni

Death Anniversaries:

Trenna Scanlan, Claire Rickard, Melba Sequeira, Franklin Gonsalves, Mary-ellen Philomena Lyons, Orfeo Calacoci.

Prayers for the sick:

Sarinder Tamana

Weekly prayer intention:

This week we pray for bishops around the world, that first and last they will be disciples of Jesus and bearers of good news. Amen.

If you would like the names of your relatives to be included in the prayer list (anniversary of deaths, recently deceased, illnesses, wedding celebration or anniversaries, birthdays, etc.) please contact the Parish Office by midday each Wednesday. Remember that due to privacy policy, names of the sick can only be put on the bulletin with permission of the immediate family. This list will be updated every month and we would appreciate if we are advised of any updates. Thank you.



disabled very seriously. We work to ensure that no one is taken advantage of within our Parish.

If you have any concern about the treatment of a child, young person or anyone within our parish environment, please approach myself directly or Daniela Foote within the parish office on 02 9144 2702.

Alternatively, you may wish to contact Ana Cosi, Safeguarding Manager (Chancery & Churches) on 02 8379 1651.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Ireneusz Czech SDS





Children's Liturgy at Pymble Parish Term 1

We invite families who attend the Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart and OLPS for their children to join the Children's Liturgy of the word.

Sacred Heart	OLPS
Sunday 9:30am Mass	Sunday 9am Mass
19 February 5 March 12 March 19 March	Every Sunday during School term

The Light is ON For you

The Light is On Lenten Program

The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.

Pope Francis, (The Joy of the Gospel, 114)

Pope Francis has said that Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to "make his dwelling" among us (John 14:23). Pope Francis reminds us that the Lenten practices of fasting, alms giving and prayer make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity, sharing with Jesus in the salvation of the world.

Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all. Galatians 6:9-10

Lenten Booklet

The Lenten Booklet invites prayerful reflection on the Sunday Gospel during Lent. It can be used individually or within a group. For each of the six weeks of Lent, the booklet includes a reading of the Gospel text; a reflection on the text; and a personal experience related to the text. The materials and reflections have been prepared by the Broken Bay community, including Plenary Council members who have drawn on their experiences of the Council in their writing.

The printed booklet is available in our churches and via the Parish Website.

Prayer and Renewal During Lent

In Pymble Parish, we provide the opportunities below for prayer and renewal during Lent.

Sacred Heart Pymble

7pm on Fridays of Lent:

• Stations of the Cross

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour West Pymble

After 9am Mass on Saturdays of Lent:

• Stations of the Cross

Our doors are open and the light is on

Lent is a time to turn to God and to experience God's mercy. The Light is On is primarily about the Sacrament of Penance with an invitation for all to experience God's forgiveness and to be set free from what burdens them. It is an opportunity to renew and restore their relationship with Jesus and the Church.

You are welcome.

Join us during Lent for quiet prayer and reflection as we prepare to celebrate new life and hope at Easter starting with the Stations of the Cross.



Dear Parishioners,

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II states:

109. The Lenten season has a twofold character:

- 1) it recalls baptism or prepares for it;
- 2) it stresses a penitential spirit.

By these means especially, Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. In the liturgy itself and in the liturgycentred instructions, these baptismal and penitential themes should be more pronounced.

110. During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual but also external and social...

In any event, let the paschal fast be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat

On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

- Prayer. For example, extra Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.
- Self-Denial. For example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing our self -denial in Australia.
- Helping Others. For example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or over-burdened; or in other ways.

All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain (Canon 1252).

The Season of Lent is a time of penance. During this season the faithful are exhorted to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves.



February 22, 2023 Sacred Heart Church 9am & 7pm OLPS Church

12pm



Project Compassion Sunday 18 & 19 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and *For All Future Generations*.



With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

As St Pope John Paul II said, "The future starts today, not tomorrow."

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <u>caritas.org.au/project-compassion</u>, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Catechist Sunday in Pymble

On Sunday, February 19, we acknowledge the incredible work and

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday, 22 February 2023 and Trinity Sunday, 4 June 2023 unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year.

The wonderful gift of the Lord's merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament.

All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

Let us have a great Lent!

dedication of volunteer catechists. Pymble Catholic Parish is blessed enough to have 7 hardworking catechists teaching across five local government schools including Turramurra High School. Most of them teach combined classes through the day at different schools on the same day such is their dedication.

We publicly thank our catechists who have answered the call from God, and by His grace they have developed a love and dedication in teaching some of the children who are starved of catechesis. AMDG



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SERRA VOCATIONS MASS AND DINNER MEETING

Father Aldrin Valdehueza Assistant Priest of Epping & Carlingford Parish and Serra Chaplain will be celebrating Mass for Serra at Sacred Heart Church Pymble on Thursday 23 February 2023.

The evening commences with Mass at 6.00 PM followed by a light meal and a short meeting.

Following the meeting Father Aldrin will speak to us about our Lenten

Everyone is welcome. Please "come and see".

Please remember to pray every day for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, the consecrated life, ecclesial women, all seminarians and novices and for the perseverance of existing vocations.

Please telephone: Terry Scanlan on 0438 887 295 or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com if you would like to attend.

Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

WEB: www.palms.org.au



Palms Australia





A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

YOUR LEGACY After providing for family members in your Will, have you ever considered leaving a Gif directly to your local Parish? This is called a Legacy, Bequest of Gift in Will.

Contact: sdsau.wyd2023@gmail.com

please use the QR code or

email contact.





Over the years, many people who have left a special connection to their Faith have left part of their estate to the Parish. Like a gift to a charity. a gift in your Will to the Church ensures other members of our community receive the spiritual care and guidance that has been so important to you and your family.

YOUR PARISH

Many parishes are in need of funding to restore buildings, improve facilities and expand on services for the community. The pastoral outreach that has been important to you will continue for our children, our grandchildren and future generations to of Catholics.

If you would like more information on Gifts in Wills, please contact Fr. Ireneusz.

Email: Fr.ireneusz@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Sacramental Program 2023



<u>Confirmation (candidates must be aged 8 or older)</u>

 Parent & Candidate Information Meeting: 	Wednesday 26 April at 6.30pm at Sacred Heart
 Preparation Program: 	over 4-weeks in April and May with home-based or parish-facilitated group
 Presentation Mass: 	Saturday 29 April or Sunday 30 th of April, any mass, either church
Practice:	Thursday 18 May at 4pm OR 5pm at Sacred Heart
• Service:	21 May at Sacred Heart 11.30am OR 1.30pm

Reconciliation (candidates must be aged 9 or older and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation)



First Eucharist:

- Parent & Candidate Information Meeting:
- Preparation Program:
- 🖞 Presentation Mass:
- Go to confession at least one more time
 prior to First Communion:
- Communion Practice:
 - Service:

Wednesday 24 May at 6.30pm Sacred Heart (combined with First Reconciliation) over 4-weeks in July and August (Term 3) with nominated group Saturday 5 August or Sunday 6 August, any mass, either church

9.30am Saturday at OLPS OR 8.30am Friday, 5pm Saturday, 5.30pm Sunday at SH Tuesday 8 August at 4pm at OLPS OR Thursday 17 August at 4pm at SH Sunday 10 August at 11am at OLPS OR Sunday 20 August at 11.30am at SH

For more information please visit our website <u>https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pymble/sacraments/sacramental-program</u> or contact **Melanie (Sacramental Coordinator)** at sacraments@pymblecatholicparish.org.au



Hey Sacred Heart, It's Me!



Hey sacred Heart! It's me Emmanuelle Dahdah (an old parishioner), and this year I am volunteering for Yotuh Mission Team. YMT is an non-profit organisation set on helping high school students encounter Jesus and I would love you to help me on my mission! I am in need of 10 sponsors to each give \$10 a week (i.e \$520 for the year) to help cover the financial cost of mission. One off donations are so welcome as well! So if you would like to sponsor, please go to www.ymt.com.au/investinhope, or text me on 0426 349 323 to discuss other options. If you can't donate your prayers are even better! All my love! God be with you!

ACYF is Back!



The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is coming back! And we are counting down to this event which will be held in Melbourne in 2024! An event that provides the opportunity for thousands of young people to gather and share their love for Jesus, together!

The festival is held over a few days, providing young Catholics from across the country an opportunity for encounter, formation, discussion, connection and evangelisation. Further details will be provided as information is released this year!

EMMANUELLE DAHDAH



'Come & See' Seminary Open Day

Attention young men over 18! Come join us at the Seminary Open Day on Sunday 19 February to learn more about the priesthood and seminary formation. Enjoy prayer, conversations with seminarians and priests, talks and a guided tour plus brunch.

Travel between the communities will be by private bus. Lunch, Dinner & a snack pack will be provided.

Marian Community of Reconciliation (Fraternas)

Little Sisters of the PoorMissionaries of Charity

Missionaries of God's Love

Women aged 18-35 are welcome but registrations are necessary! Register here: <u>https://forms.gle/ZZjKmGAKqo5ivLGt9</u>



Please RSVP by Tuesday 28 February 2023. Call the Vocations office on 0418 522 449 for more info.

RSVP by Wednesday 15 February: Call the Broken Bay Vocations Office today on <u>0418 522 449</u> or follow the link below.

Online Registration Form: <u>https://forms.gle/rhYT6ZupMj47RL7G7</u> Facebook Event Page: <u>https://fb.me/e/2wLQWxpF1</u>

*All inquiries are kept confidential.



Bennies Girl

OPEN DAY Sunday 5 March 10am-2pm

Bookings online www.msb.nsw.edu.au

Direct Private Bus Service now stopping at:

South Turramurra | West Pymble | Pymble | Turramurra | Warrawee Wahroonga | Hornsby | Thornleigh



Mount St Benedict College

449C Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills

www.msb.nsw.edu.au

Navigating Online Friendships

Free online safety webinar for parents and carers

C eSafety

OP 7 SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2023 10AM - 1PM

DISCOVER MERCY CATHOLIC COLLEGE RCYCHATSWOOD.NSW.EDU.AU

Mercy Catholic College is part of the Catholic Schools Broken Bay system. It is built on the rich tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. We are an inclusive community that offers girls from Year 7 – 12 an authentic, professional Catholic education, delivered with care and compassion.

Located in the heart of Chatswood the College is a short walk to Chatswood Interchange where there are connecting buses, trains and the Metro.

The College is committed to creating a safe and supportive learning environment for students, staff and families. We have integrated and structured Pastoral Care and Wellbeing programmes overseen by specialised staff who all work closely with students and families to support learning and flourishing.



Register Now

- Recognising that student needs are o curriculum and pedagogy is dynamic responsive to accommodate differen learning styles.
- Offering a comprehensive range of elective in addition to mandatory studies from Yea 7, leading to the award of the Higher Scho Certificate credential in Year 12.
- 8
- Interested in the development of the whole person, we offer opportunities for students to participate in over 30 programs including a variety of Sport, Creative Arts and special interest clubs.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Broken Bay

Inspiring hearts and minds to know Christ, to love learning, to use their talents to be the very best they can be.

If your child is currently enrolled in any CSBB Primary School you are eligible for priority enrolment.

The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council are delighted to announce a combined Liturgy and Music Conference.



28 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 BRISBANE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Timothy P. O'Malley Ph.D. is academic director of the Notre Dame Centre for Liturgy and director of education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life. He teaches and researches at the University of Notre Dame in liturgical-sacramental theology and is the author of ten books including

works on liturgical formation and the doctrine of real presence. Prof O'Malley speaks at



Sarah Hart is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today. Her songs of faith, spirit of joy, and love for teaching and leading workshops have touched the lives of thousands. Based in Nashville, Tennessee, she has recorded 12 full-length

collections with a signature blend of folk, pop and rock which delight listeners of every age Sarah is also a Grammy Nominee and BMI Winner and a



This 30-minute webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people in secondary school. It will cover:

- how to support young people to have safe and respectful relationships online
- what to do when something happens at school and ends up on social media or private messaging apps
- how to report to social media platforms and eSafety.

Thursday 23 February 7.30pm

To register please go to https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/2317136520471063820

terences and events throughout the US d Europe and is a consultant to various committees of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Rev Dr Tom Elich earned a Doctorate of Theology in Paris, specialising in medieval liturey and sacraments. Since then, he has been director of Liturgy Brisbane. For a decade, he was national secretary for liturgy with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. In the 1990s, he took part in the work of ICEL, and then

liturgy at the Brisbane College of Theology and at ACU. He is a long-time member of the international Societas Liturgica, the Australian Academy of Liturgy, and the National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council. He recently finished almost fifteen years as parish priest at Bulimba in Brisbane.

Mark Award Winner for TV/Film Music Writing. Her music has been recorded by many artists including Amy Grant. Celtic Women. Matt Maher and The Newsboys.



Dr Maeve Heaney was bern in Dublin , Ireland, and is a consecrated missionary of an institute of consecrated life called the Verburn Dei Community. A theologian, musician and composer, Maeve completed a Licentiate and Doctorate in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian

University in Rome where she taught for two years. She lectures in Systematic Theology at ACU and works in the area of formation at Holy Spirit Provincial Seminary. One of her strongest interests is bringing together, in theological thought and praxis, the realms of music, theology and spirituality at the service of lived faith and outreach to future generations.

+6 Keynote Presentations + 50+ Workshops + Conference Mass + Panel Discussion * Regional & Interest Group "Yarning Circles" * Conference Dinner * Trade & Resource Exhibits

An absolute MUST for all liturgists, musicians, clergy, cantors, choristers, lay liturgical ministers, composers, teachers, conductors, liturgy teams, campus ministers and all who love liturgy and musi



REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN: https://mysteryandmission.com.au For all enquiries contact liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au





Liturgy of the Word **Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time**

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading

Lv 19: 1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

- My soul, give thanks to the Lord, 1. all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
- It is he who forgives all your guilt, 2. who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
- 3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
- As far as the east is from the west 4. so far does she remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 3: 16-23

scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 5: 38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Gospel Reflection

Law of grace and love

Jesus knew the moral law and its intention better than any jurist or legal expert could imagine. He quoted from the oldest recorded law in the world: If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe (Exodus 21:23-25). Such a law today seems cruel, but it was meant to limit vengeance as a first step towards mercy. This law was not normally taken literally but served as a guide for a judge in a law court for assessing punishment and penalty.

the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD. If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done". Let him give his cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.

Jesus does something quite remarkable and unheard of. He transforms the law of mercy with grace, forbearance, and loving-kindness. Jesus also makes clear that there is no room for retaliation. We must not only avoid returning evil for evil, but we must seek the good of those who wish us ill. Do you accept insults, as Jesus did, with no resentment or malice? When you are compelled by others to do more than you think you deserve, do you insist on your rights, or do you respond with grace and cheerfulness?

Grace of the Holy Spirit

What makes a disciple of Jesus Christ different from everyone else? What makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is grace treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated - with lovingkindness and mercy. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. The Lord Jesus suffered insult, abuse, injustice, and death on a cross for our sake. Scripture tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin and guilt. Since God has been merciful towards us through the offering of his Son, Jesus Christ, we in turn are called to be merciful towards our neighbour, even those who cause us grief and harm.

Perfect - made whole

Was Jesus exaggerating when he said we must be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect? Jesus' command seems to parallel two passages from the Old Testament Scriptures. The first is where God instructed Abraham to "be perfect/blameless" before God. The original meaning of "perfect" in Hebrew and the Aramaic dialect which Jesus spoke is "completeness" or "wholeness" - "not lacking

Year A

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As

The Old Testament is full of references to the command that we must be merciful: You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against in what is essential."

Freedom and power to love as God loves God knows our sinfulness and weaknesses better than we do - and he assures us of his love, mercy, and help. That is why he freely gives us his power, strength, and gifts so that we may not lack anything we need to do his will and to live as his sons and daughters. Do you want to grow in your love for God and for your neighbour? Ask the Holy Spirit to purify and transform you in the image of the Father that you may know and live in the joy and freedom of the Gospel.

© 2023 DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS AND MEDITATIONS

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Pymble Parish Roster 25/26 February 2023							
Sacred Heart (Pymble)	Saturday 5.30pm	Sunday 7.45am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 6.oopm			
Acolytes	J Walton	C De Sousa	R Samson	A Wahab			
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	L Ng W Ng	S Marwan			
Music	M Lulan	Quiet Mass	A Castillo	YOUTH			
Projector	J Witcombe	C Greedy	M Ortiz	J Duffy			
Readers	M Collins	L Treacy	Family Mass	Youth			
Altar Society	25 February: Lyn / Maria						
Counters	26 February: A Mazzei / J Li / T Scanlan						
OLPS (West Pymble)	Satur 5.00	•	Sunday 9.00am				
Acolytes	J Pea	ase	A Mazzei				
Altar Servers	J Barr	iden	L & Z Dunsford				
Readers	l Ferna	ndez	C Delaney				
Music and Projector	E & A (Chan	K & P Rodrigues				
Altar Cloth	25 February: P Ryan						

Children's Corner

CROSSWORD Love your enemies

Mt 5:38-48

Across

- 3: those who are against you
- 5: the side of your face
- 6: to communicate with God
- 7: God is _ _ _ _
- 9: incorrect
- 11: a gift for good deeds
- 12: "an eye for an eye, a ____ _ for a "

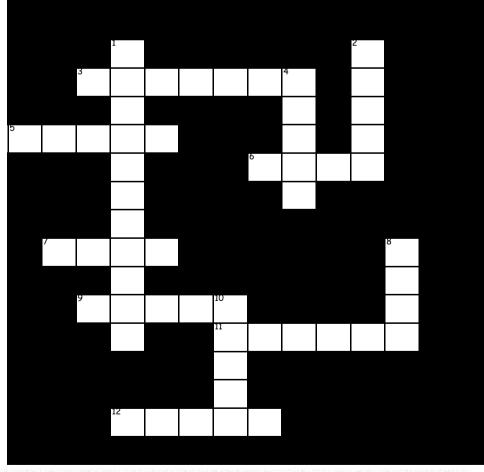
Down

- 1: people who do not believe
- 2: what we use to buy things

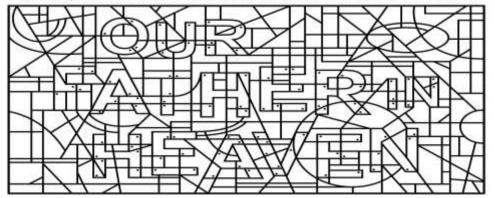
Complete the Text Maze:

"Forgive others and God will forgive you."

START							
F	E	Ρ	I	т	Y	н	A
0	E	Ν	E	Μ	1	E	S
R	G	1	S	R	М	κ	Ρ
S	E	۷	Ρ	1	L	В	R
R	0	V	R	S	A	Ν	A
E	т	н	E	u	G	D	1
w	Q	R	Y	D	0	В	S
A	T	E	1	W	C	1	E
R	0	R	L	0	т	L	Y
D	G	т	L	F	G	1	Ν
S	R	L	0	0	R	V	1
R	М	F	0	J	T	E	т
L	A	S	х	۷	κ	Y	0
J	u	D	G	E	E	z	u



Color in the shapes with a dot to reveal who we are behaving like when we show love for those who are unkind to us.



*CAN YOU FIND THE SIX HIDDEN WORDS FROM THIS WEEKS GOSPEL READING? FINISH

How can we love our enemies? Tick the best answers in the boxes below.

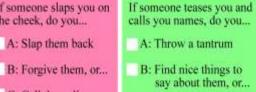


the cheek, do you...

A: Slap them back

C: Call the police





C: Ask God to punish

them



your favorite toy, do you...

A: Tell them to go away

B: Let them play with it, but only for 5

C: Let them have it for as long as they like

minutes, or ...



If someone is cruel and mistreats you, do you...

A: Ask God to bless them

B: Tell everyone how bad that person is, OF...

C: Get even with them

11

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