



OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA , TERRIGAL

*“ May we Love one Another,
so that all experience a Sense of Belonging*



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B

03 September 2021

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm: 145:7-10 **R** Praise the Lord, my soul !

Second Reading : James :1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



(To pray together or write your own prayers'

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

LEADER With ears open to hear God's word and tongues freed to speak with love, let us pray for God's blessing on the whole of creation.

READER

For fathers and all who play a fatherly role in children's lives, that they will find fulfilment and joy in their vocation of parenthood. Let us pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

READER

For the people of Australia, that the rising challenges of division, inequality and angry resentment will be overcome by a spirit of kindness and community. Let us pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

READER

For the Jewish community, that the observance of New Year (Rosh Hashana on 7 September) will deepen their covenant love for the living God. Let us pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

READER

For all who are suffering physical, mental or financial distress from the COVID pandemic, that their plight will spur the whole community to unite in their support. Let us pray to the Lord.
All: Lord hear our prayer.

READER

For the children of Australia, that National Child Protection Week (5-11 September) will confirm the effective implementation of child safety systems and protocols. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

READER

For all who bring joy, hope and beauty into our lives, that they themselves will be blessed in their gracious gift-giving. Let us pray to the Lord.
All: Lord hear our prayer.

READER

For the recently deceased and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will become a wholly new creation in Christ. Let us pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

PRESIDER Holy God and Father of Jesus, you have made us your daughters and sons in Christ. Keep us true to your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All:** Amen.

THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN CLOSED
UNTIL THE END OF COVID Restrictions.

Stay strong!

GOD IS WITH US !

*Casting all your care upon Him;
for He cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:7

SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT

Catch-up Program at Terrigal Parish

**Enrolling Year 4 and over for the
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(or Confession) has begun.**

A COVID SAFE PROGRAM

ITS NOT TOO LATE !

**We currently have four students
enrolled and working with their
parents at home with the booklet.**

This Catch-up Program has been organised for primary school (Year 4 and over), high school students and adults who have missed out on making any of the sacraments.

Reconciliation Program

1st STEP : Enrol NOW

The Enrolment form is included in the bulletin, or download it from parish website.

2nd STEP : Email Form

Scan completed enrolment form to parish email address—starsea@bigpond.net.au or arrange to drop it into the Parish Office .

3rd STEP : Collect Activity Book

The Parish will contact you to arrange collection of the book and welcome you or your child into the program.

Any enquiries to Janette 0421416555

Formation will be through the resource book and personal or group communication via phone or zoom.

We will work together !

Vaccination



A message from the Bishop

As the COVID-19 Delta variant continues to spread across the State, with increasing health and mortality consequences, I reiterate the importance of vaccination as a means to protect ourselves and our communities. It is a fact that the virus is spreading largely among the unvaccinated population. Being fully vaccinated is a crucial step in combatting the effects of the virus as well as keeping us safe and the broader community safe. Broad-scale vaccination is critical to enable us to return to some semblance of community normality.

While there is an anti-vaccination movement spreading misinformation via social media, information from health authorities, public health orders and the Premier's vaccination rate targets of 70% by the end of October, are in essence, what will relieve us of further extended lockdowns. An important message is that all vaccines that are recognised as clinically safe and effective, may be taken in good conscience. Pope Francis [recently urged Catholics to get vaccinated](#) and I myself, have been fully vaccinated since mid-July.

I strongly encourage you to consider being vaccinated and arrange to do so, as soon as possible in consultation appropriately with your GP as to which vaccine is best for you. While many people are trying to arrange appointments unsuccessfully, the message is to book an appointment now for when you can, even if it is several months away. The Australian Department of Health has developed a number of resources to help explain the vaccination plan. <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>.

Let us do our part for the common good and work together through vaccination as a proactive way out of lockdown life and back to greater socialising and mission within our communities and beyond.

And from the Vicar General

Our vaccination is especially important given that the opening of our churches may now depend on the percentage of the population who are fully vaccinated. It may also be that, along with other social venues, full vaccination be a condition for admission to places of public worship come the end of October and during November. It could be quite problematic if our own churches could not open when other places of public worship were because the clergy of the parish had not been fully vaccinated.

Message from Pope Francis Aug 18 2021

Pope Francis delivered a call to action for the world: Get vaccinated.

"Being vaccinated is an act of love," he said in a public service announcement released Wednesday. "To ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love."

The pontiff and six other church officials from North, Central and South America called getting inoculated a moral obligation.

"Thanks to God and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from Covid-19," Francis said. "They grant us the hope of ending the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we work together."

Celebrating Sunday in a time of lockdown

For Christians Sunday is special. It is our 'weekly easter' when we take time to celebrate the resurrection and renew our belief in the salvation won for us by Christ. Traditionally, we Catholics celebrate by attending Sunday Mass. With COVID restrictions we can't gather to do this, but it is still the Day of the Lord. Below are a few ideas of how we can celebrate Sunday in a time of lockdown.

A diary date with the Lord

We plan many things in life: work, holidays, study. So, why not put some thought into the way you spend next Sunday? Bring your plans to prayer and see how the Lord leads you.

Take a break

Rest in God's love. Leave the housework, the homework, or the office catch-up for another day. Don't look at your emails. Give your mind a rest. Stop worrying. Place a major anxiety in God's hands.

Smell the roses

Take a deep breath. Take a moment to notice the gifts of creation. Go for a walk in the sunshine. Close your eyes and let the sun shine on your face. Feel the breeze. Plant a seedling. Listen to the rain.

Enjoy God's people

Write or phone a dear friend you haven't seen for a long while. Romance your husband / wife. Enjoy a simple treat with your family: have some ice cream, take a leisurely walk together, have a picnic in the back yard. Make family mealtimes special – they will deepen your sense of the eucharist.

Have some fun

Make pancakes for breakfast and involve the youngest chef of your household. Rumble the kids. Dance with your three year old. Ask a teenager to educate you in an aspect of youth culture. Share some laughs.

Add a touch of prayer

Light a candle together on Sundays. Google a shrine or place of pilgrimage and say a prayer together. Pray together around a 'sacred space' at home. If you are grieving a sorrow, bring your tears to the foot of the cross. Give thanks for a blessing you have received.

Celebrate the saints

Look on the picture of a loved one who has died. Tell your family the gifts you observe in them. Phone a family member who is absent and say 'I love you'. Recall the faith of your ancestors. Read about an inspiring saint. Pray with Mary – gaze upon a Marian icon, pray a decade of the rosary.

Celebrate the Word

Read the Sunday readings. Reflect on the message. If you were the homilist, what would you say? Share it with someone. Pray the Prayers of the Faithful. Write your own prayers.

Celebrating Sunday in a time of lockdown continued

Eucharist

Remember your First Holy Communion; or a special time when you received communion. Give thanks. Allow yourself to miss receiving communion today.

Mass

Watch "Mass for You at Home". Live-stream Mass from our cathedral. Use the internet to attend a 'virtual' Mass anywhere in the world.

Feed your Faith

It's the Day of the Lord, so give the Lord some thought. Read an inspiring article that turns your mind to God. Play some Christian music. Write in your prayer journal.

Expand your circle of love

Check on an elderly neighbour. Ring someone who lives alone. Ask a work-mate if he / she is OK?

Keep on trying

Sometimes our well-intended plans will not work. It's OK! Don't give up! It takes creativity to celebrate Sunday without Mass; and persistence to keep Sundays holy. Even the 'trying' helps to orientate our lives towards God. Our family will *know* that we are trying. Whatever happens, planned or otherwise, approach it in a spirit of faith and love.

Adapted by Fr Vince from

[Church Below the Rooftops: Ten Ways to Celebrate the Day of the Lord](#)

by Teresa Pirola

***Vox Episcopi* - The Voice of the Bishop**

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, Over the past few weeks, I have heard and seen some of the struggles and worries that are being shouldered in our community of the Church. I have been asked why I don't speak out more and defend the Church, especially with reference to the closure of our church buildings.

Click [here](#) to read the full message.





**Gabriel from
Mary Mac's
Says thank
you !**

**We are still making a difference in Covid times for
Mary Macs at Woy Woy.**

**Thank you to our parishioners
and Georges Fruit Barn for their generosity.**



Divine Renovation Australasia is planning a National Conference on 19-21 November 2021. Titled 'Called to Discipleship', it will be held in-person at the Campbelltown Catholic Club (Covid permitting).



This bi-annual conference gathers people from parishes and dioceses around Australia who are enthusiastic about parish renewal. This year's Conference will offer keynotes from Fr James Mallon and Dr Ralph Martin, talks from Deacon Peter Pellican and Alpha, workshops focusing on a range of topics, times of prayer and adoration, opportunities for networking, and Holy Mass.

Please save the date and spread the word to others who may be interested.

If anyone is considering attending and would be able to assist with some of the organisational aspects, please contact Pina Bernard on—pina.bernard@bbcatholic.org.au or 0432 682 239.

Happy Father's Day

Blessings on our parish Father's and Grandfathers, Spiritual Fathers and those who have a fatherly role.



"The father who knows how to correct without humiliating is the one who knows how to protect without sparing himself."

- Pope Francis



ALPHA INFORMATION ZOOM SESSION

Alpha in a Catholic Context Australia are holding an online session for anyone who would like to explore what Alpha is, and ways it can be helpful in your parish community. During this lockdown time, Alpha has been successfully run online and has offered a warm space of connection within parish communities and a way to extend a welcome to others.

Event: Explore Alpha in a Catholic Context



Evangelisation Broken Bay has launched a new program of online events called Bay Connect. The program provides an online program

of regular activities to converse, reflect and connect spiritually online during this challenging time.

The program commenced last Monday, and will continue:

• **THE CHOSEN MONDAY**

Mondays @ 7:30-8:45pm via Zoom - Join us as we go through the first season of *The Chosen*, viewing one episode every Monday, breaking open some themes and coming to know Jesus in a fresh new way.

• **TUESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS**

Tuesdays @ 7:00-7:30pm via Instagram Live (@cybbaus) - A place for the community to come together for prayer and to praise God from the setting of your home. All youth, young adults, singles and families, parishioners and clergy are invited.

• **HUMPDAY HANGOUT WITH BR BERNARD**

Wednesdays @ 7:00-7:30pm via Zoom - Our jolly friar Br. Bernard Mary will host the session with time for prayer, 'Banger' of the week, casual chat and an entertaining selection of activities.

(Janette here, Br Bernard, is gentle and inspiring to listen too).

• **FORMATION FRIDAYS**

Fridays @ 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom - An opportunity to get some simple Catholic formation on various aspects of the faith, from the basics to the hot topics, featuring a different guest speaker each week, followed by some time for questions/discussion.

To find out more and register online, visit the Bay Connect page on the Diocese of Broken Bay website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/covid-19-updates/prayer-resources/bay-connect>

Fair by the Sea

Unfortunately, due to our ongoing Covid restrictions, the decision has been made that it is no longer possible to plan and hold Fair by the Sea in October (or even November) this year. **So, we have decided to cancel the event for 2021. We will continue to explore the opportunity for an online raffle later in the year.**

We thank you for your efforts and involvement to date and wish you and your families a safe passage through the remainder of the year. Please remember that our community is ready and willing to help anybody that is in difficulty.

You are never alone.

Matt, for the Planning Group



HOPE OUT OF HORROR

In the wake of the tremendous difficulties currently being faced by those in Afghanistan and by Afghans currently in Australia on temporary visas, **SJAB (Social Justice Around the Bay), St. Vincent de Paul, Northern Sydney / Central Coast Regional Social Justice Committee and Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS)** are holding a Webinar titled:

Migrant and Refugee Sunday on 26 September, 2021.

Hope Out of Horror – Seeking Refuge in Australia

Thursday, 23 September, 7.00pm – 8.00pm

This is a chance to hear the stories of those seeking Refuge and Asylum in Australia and to join a cry to Canberra to:

1. Offer Permanent Protection to all Refugees
2. Enable access to Family Reunions for Refugees
3. Offer a Safety Net, including Medical and Financial Assistance to those in need of refuge

REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT IS ESSENTIAL

To register click on the link below:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/stories-of-hope-and-courage-seeking-refugee-in-australia-tickets-166888717647>

The Parenting Children Course

As part of the Bay Connect series of on-line events, the Life, Marriage and Family team will be running The Parenting Children Course. The Parenting Children Course is for parents of young children seeking connection and support during lockdown while learning new skills. It's fun, hopeful and designed to inspire confidence in your abilities as a parent. To find out more watch this short [video](#) Starts **21 September 2021 at 7.30pm via zoom**. Click [HERE](#) for more information and registration details.

Date: From Wednesday 1 September
Time: 11.00am-12.00pm AEST
[Register Here](#)

“Never be afraid
of loving the
Blessed Virgin
too much. You
can never love
her more than
Jesus did.”

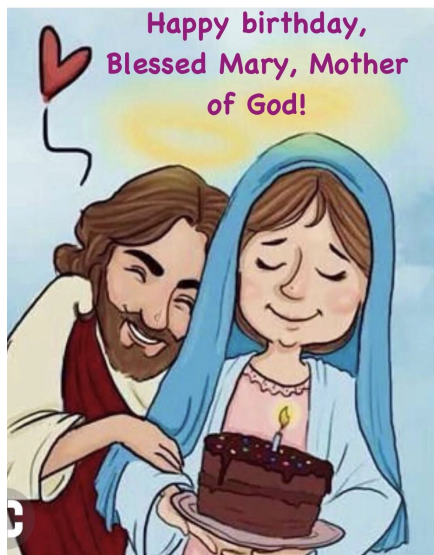
-Saint Maximilian
Kolbe



CatholicGallery.org

Don't forget our Heavenly Mother's Birthday.
September 8th

A Rosary may be your gift, or maybe a cake to share with the family in Mary's honour.



**While churches are still closed
Live streaming and TV Masses
are available.**

With the NSW Government extending the Sydney lockdown, our churches in Broken Bay remain closed. Some parishes are live streaming Mass. Please [click here](#) for all the details.

Mass For You At Home

“Mass for you at Home” is broadcast on Channel 10 at 6.00am Sunday, and is available to watch on [YouTube](#).

The Mass is also available on YouTube from 7.00am on Sunday https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC56U6_XgoR3bJBqClxLLp4Q

COVID-19 Updates on the Intranet

The latest COVID-19 updates on restrictions and the Diocese of Broken Bay's response can now be found at: <https://intranet.bbcatholic.org.au/resources/covid-19-update-for-parishes>

When it is time to go back to School, consider joining us. Enquiries to Cheryl Ryan, Primary Catechist Coordinator 0403 123 220 or bondi-two@bigpond.com or

Graham and Maria Sproats
mariasproats@yahoo.com.au or

Elias Bastoli Catechist, 0459 220 408 or
stolibas@bigpond.com



It takes a big
heart
to help shape
little
minds.



September is Safeguarding Month

This year's theme is ***Participation of Children and Young People in Catholic Communities***. To celebrate Safeguarding Month you are welcome to participate in the following events ([click here to download invitation](#)):

WEEK 1: 1-4 September

□ Like Diocesan social media posts that show how Children and Young People participate in our Catholic communities

WEEK 2: 5-11 September

□ Celebrate *National Children Protection Week* (NAPCAN) by visiting their national webpage - www.napcan.org.au/ and learn about the theme: Every child, in every community, needs a fair go.

□ **Wednesday 8 September** – Online Launch of new resource for adults of Broken Bay – *Participation of Children and Young People in Catholic Communities: A guide to Supporting & Engaging, Listening and Communicating with Children and Young People*. Access the e-resource here - www.bbcatholic.org.au/safeguarding-month-2021.

□ **Thursday 9 September @ 7.00pm, Liturgy of Lament** – an opportunity to gather and pray to God in acknowledging the suffering caused to our most vulnerable and to give public expression to our sorrow. The liturgy will be broadcast. Click here to view: www.bbcatholic.org.au/safeguarding-month-2021

□ **Thursday 9 September @ 12.30pm – 1.30pm** – Free webinar facilitated by NAPCAN - *eSafety's guide to online sexual harassment and image-based abuse*. The webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people aged 13-18. To register click here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8331659724914836752/>

WEEK 3: 12-18 September

□ **Sunday 12 September**, the Catholic Church in Australia marks *Safeguarding Sunday* – join Bishop Anthony Randazzo in celebrating Mass at 9.30am via livestream from OLOR Cathedral. Click here to view: www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf17i14XB9TsVBrLvQ

□ *Prayers* – Remember in your prayers this week the wellbeing and safety of Children and Young People especially those who are particularly vulnerable due to covid-19. Prayer resources are available from our webpage: www.bbcatholic.org.au/safeguarding-month-2021

WEEK 4: 19-25 September

□ **Wednesday 22 September @11.00am to 12.30pm**, via zoom – *Ministering to a Church in Trauma* presentation by Rev Dr David Ranson, Vicar General. To register and receive your zoom link click here: <https://bbcatholic.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJItce2qpjovHtWs7Vymz9XkWVhlVTlq22Px>

Safeguarding continued

WEEK 5: 26-30 September

□ The Diocesan Office for Safeguarding places a special devotion to *Mary Undoer of Knots*. Her feast day is celebrated Tuesday 28 September. You are invited to pray the Mary Undoer of Knots Novena. A wonderful prayer resource can be accessed here: www.praymorenovenas.com/mary-undoer-knots-novena



August 'Pastoral Works Broken Bay' Appeal

At this time, due to COVID-19, we are not able to have our usual August appeal for Pastoral Works Broken Bay. However, we sincerely appreciate any support that might be afforded – no matter how big or how small. The ministries the fund supports continue to operate and provide vital services. Donations can be made:

- through the “donate now” button on our new parish website
- at www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks
- directly to the Terrigal Parish Account BSB: 062784 A/C: 100001660
or leave in an envelope in the slot in the door of the Parish Office.

THANK YOU

New collection envelopes for Pastoral Works BB Appeal will be available when parishes reopen.

IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC AND TOUGH TIMES: **CatholicCare support IS available**



STOP EUTHENASIA IN NSW

https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/protect_life_nsw



Thank you for sending your picture of your sacred space, prayer space or religious corner....A visible sign of our Faith. Hope we can add a lot more to our wall this week. We pray for you when we look at the different families and people represented. Just email yours to the parish email !



Currently outside our church,
join our prayer wall.





Today we honour Fatherhood.

Fathers, Grand Fathers, Step Fathers, God Father's, Spiritual Fathers (our priests), and those who care for us in a fatherly role and guide us.

Blessings to these men in your life.



In this time of Isolation, we need to stay connected with family and friends. Be creative this Father's Day, I know of one family talking about putting on fake moustaches and funny hats to face time their father and grandfather this Sunday. Remember the elderly Dads on their own, (they don't have to be yours) ring them just to say hi ! Communicate too with a prayer of gratitude for our deceased fathers and grandfathers.

A child's prayer for Father's Day

Thank you dear Jesus,
for my father who loves me,
for my grandfather who cares for me,
And for my Heavenly Father who always watches over me and my father and my grandfather.

Amen



We pray for :

Recently Deceased

Fr Paul Purcell	Anthony Wallace	Ken White	Sue Rolls
Anne Cuthbert	Donald Holmes	Ben Donaldson	
Marcia Harris	Christopher Richards	Karen Scali	
Ivan Kopecky	Frank Sprakel	Grace O'Flynn	

Anniversaries & Remembrance

Leon Maher Jacquai Maher Richard Bell Frank Hanlon
Joseph Baildon , all deceased Fathers and Grandfathers.

Anne Smith and deceased members of her family

Sick

Noel Nacua	John Goodwin	Sue Southwell
Noleen Sherwood	Daphne Beasley	Jenny Imbruglia
Sandra Tagliabue	John Schipp	Deanna Browning

Prayer APP for each day !

Download the free BREAD4TODAY app from the App Store or Google Play, and take a moment to reflect each day.

Parish Finances

Thank you to the many parishioners who have been contributing online to the parish account during the lockdown.

Please note the **NEW CORRECT ACCOUNT NUMBER**

Terrigal Parish Working Account

BSB: 062784

A/C: 100001660 1(four Zeros)1660

Add *Donation* and *Your Name* as a reference.

You can also have an amount debited from your credit or debit card each month. Please contact the parish office on 4367 4610 to make the necessary arrangements.

This is a good opportunity to swap the Planned Giving Envelopes for the credit or debit card monthly system. Payments are taken out on the 3rd week of the month. You keep the same planned Giving number, but they are not recorded, as they are not tax deductible.

If you need a tax receipt for your business or privately you may want to choose making a monthly credit card donation to Pastoral Works Broken Bay (previously known as CWF). This still helps our parish as it comes off our quota.

Spiritual Corner: Feasts and saints of the week: **(Our extended family in Heaven).**

Monday 6 St Donation

Tuesday 7 St Regina was a martyr at Autun, France. Legend has her being the daughter of a pagan, Clement, who was tortured and beheaded during the second century when she refused to marry the proconsul Olybrius.



Wednesday 8 September Our Lady's Birthday Why Catholic's celebrate Mary's birthday? This is because their birthdays are **so intimately associated with Jesus' birth**. St. John the Baptist, was born to announce the coming of our Lord, while our Lady was born to bear God in Her womb and give birth to Him. If John the Baptizer was born to market the Good News, Mary was born to deliver the Good News!

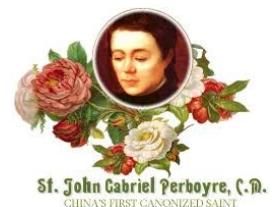
Thursday 9 St Peter Claver Peter Claver was a Spanish Jesuit priest and missionary born in Verdú who, due to his life and work, became the patron saint of slaves, the patron saint of the Republic of Colombia, and the ministry to African Americans.



Friday 10 St Finian Finnian (sometimes called Finbarr "the white head", a reference to his fair hair), was a Christian missionary in medieval Ireland.

Saturday 11 St Jean Gabriel was born in Puech, France, 1802, to a pious family of eight children. . Accompanying his younger brother Louis while he was entering the seminary, Jean-Gabriel was ordained at age 23 and taught theology at the seminary before being appointed rector, and later master of novices in Paris - on account of the sanctity his superiors saw in him. I discovered his calling and entered the Congregation of the Mission, founded by St. Vincent de Paul, at the age of 16. His younger brother, Louis, died on his way to preach in China and Jean-Gabriel asked to carry out the mission that had been entrusted to his brother. He arrived on the island of Macao in 1835 and set out for the mainland later that year. He carried out his evangelical labors and his missions bore much fruit in the short time he spent there.

On September 11, 1839 Jean-Gabriel became one of the first victims of the persecutions against Christians, dying in a manner which had a striking resemblance to the passion of our Lord. He was betrayed for a sum of silver, stripped of his garments and dragged from tribunal to tribunal, beaten and tortured continuously until he was sentenced to death with seven criminals. He was crucified and died on a cross. Canonized on June 2, 1996 by Pope John Paul II, St. Jean Gabriel Perboyre was the first saint of China.



We pray to St Jean Gabriel for his intercession for good relations with China.

We learn so much from the saints. Why not google and find out more about the saints mentioned—something extra to do for our faith building in our "isolation"!

Plenary Council 2021



Synodality

No! Don't stop reading – this concerns you.

Pope Francis has determined that this will be the hallmark of his pontificate and it is now underway. Over the years to come it will change much of the church as we know it now. It is already happening though like most reforms in the Catholic Church it moves slowly.

„Many of you will recall that prior to the Vatican Council the Church on earth was called the Church Militant. It was seen like an army – the clergy as the officers, the Pope as commander-in-chief and the laity as the foot soldiers – committed “to pray and obey.”

The Vatican Council changed this. It renamed the Church as the People of God. Just like the Jews, as God's people, were led as one by Moses in the desert so the Catholics, led by the Pope moved as one. To become a Jew male circumcision was practised. To become a Catholic both males and females were baptised.

The term Synodality comes from two Greek words meaning “a common road”. The Jewish people were on a journey seeking the Promised Land, which lay across the river Jordan. Catholics too are on a common journey, in our case, seeking Heaven.

At the time there was a lot of confusion as to why the church was renamed because nothing seemed to flow from it. Now 60 years later Pope Francis has taken the concept forward. He aims to reformulate the Church so that there is ongoing consultation between clerics and laypeople that leads to a consensus – the “sensus fidelium” or, in English, the sense of the faithful. It is a dialogue designed to ensure that the laity fully participate in the life of the church. It does not mean elections or majority votes like in parliament and in most Protestant denominations. The Pope, as Vicar of Christ on earth, retains the supreme and complete authority. “I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:19). What it does mean is an end to the church's top-down leadership. This may take a long while to permeate through the church but permeate it will. Through baptism the Holy Spirit is with every Catholic and guides the faithful as much as He guides the bishops.

“Synodality means ending the church's age-old tradition of top-down leadership and holding open discussions at all levels to decide the future. Autocratic clerics would have to be more cooperative and laypeople would assume more responsibility.”

In late May, the Pope outlined a two-year consultation period on Synodality itself starting at the level of dioceses proceeding to the national and regional levels culminating with a **worldwide Synod** at the Vatican in October 2023. In each case, clerics and laypeople will draw up resolutions on what they want the church to do and pass them up to the next level.

Critics have pointed out that the risk of holding the worldwide Synod is that it may create expectations which the Church is incapable of fulfilling.

The Pope has certainly posed a huge challenge for himself and for the Church. Catholics in Africa may have very different ideas to Catholics in the United States and especially to Catholics in countries like Germany. How this is balanced out and how he determines what is the “sense of the faithful” is certainly not going to be easy. Top-down leadership has its advantages but as the massive and ongoing decline in church membership shows it also has huge disadvantages.

The Pope's determination to hold the Synod coupled with his ongoing elevation of Third World Bishops to the College of Cardinals will ensure this reform continues even if at 85 he is not here to complete it.

Chris Hartcher

You can keep up with all the latest news, access the working document and sign up to the Plenary Council Newsletter by heading to the National website: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Social Justice Statement 2021

Commentary by *Bernie Introna*,
for the Terrigal Social Justice Group

CRY OF THE EARTH; CRY OF THE POOR

This is a beautiful, optimistic and practical effort on the part of our bishops to help us in this time of climate *crisis* in the world. The statement draws on scripture throughout and is encouraging us to find a deeper relationship with each other and with the wondrous planet on which we live.

Specifically it asks us to relate more closely with our indigenous brothers and sisters, by listening to them and learning from their accumulated wisdom on respect for God's creation. This is a listening with the heart.

The statement looks at human activities resulting in an increase of environmental disasters, and encourages us to find solutions in a changing lifestyle. It notes that this climate *crisis* is affecting to a greater degree the marginalised and people of underdeveloped countries of the world.

The statement offers a number of ways to reduce the effects of the climate *crisis*. A simple example is planting more trees, especially in the overheated concrete and asphalt cities of our world. This solution has already been developed in some parts of the world.

The statement is partly inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si" (Praised Be You) and calls us to a conversion of heart and mind. We have been entrusted with the wondrous world of God's creation, which we are asked to nurture and love. Pope Francis urges us to "use" and not "abuse" the gift of our natural world.

The statement recognises the need to for the Church to come together in dialogue with the world. It also recognises that our liturgies reinforce the focus on caring for creation.

The Church has introduced a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1st September and continuing until the 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of Ecology.

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending".



PRAY, PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

PEOPLE OF AFGANISTAN



<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-08/pope-francis-fasting-prayer-afghanistan-andrea-riccardi.html>

Take care of God's
creation. But above all,
take care of people in need.

Pope Francis

The Grace of Saint Joseph

Pope Francis 31/08/2021

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter betrothed to Mary. He was a "just man", ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law and through four dreams. After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since "there was no place for them" elsewhere.



He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds and the Magi, who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples. Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

In the Temple, forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon's prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother. To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt. After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple.

After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.

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