

HORNSBY CATHEDRAL PARISH

Letter from Fr Peter de Souza
11 October 2020



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

My dear Parishioners,

In the Parable of the Wedding Garment: Mt 22:1-14, we are invited and challenged to accept the invitation, that is being offered to us, an invitation to be open to God's grace, and respond to the invitation that is offered to us: may the lessons that are offered to us through the parable be a source of intimacy with the Lord on our journey in faith.



The first lesson taught by the parable is that God invites everyone, but each of us needs to give God's invitation priority over every other good and important thing in life.

The second lesson for all of us is that it's not enough just to show up. We must be properly "dressed up." In his Letter to the Colossians, Paul directs his converts, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col 3:12-14).

The third lesson, the invitation to the ordinary people from the byways tells us that God's invitation to each one of us is purely an act of grace and not something that we deserve by our good works, and finally Christians are invited to the endless joy of the Heavenly

Banquet woven with acts of Faith, Love, Hope, kindness, compassion, humility, patience, meekness, Truth.

With prayerful wishes,
Fr Peter de Souza

Invitation for new members for Parish Missionary Council (PMC) We are looking for new members for the PMC. Our first discernment evening is on Wednesday, 4 November 2020. If you're interested, please call the parish office 8379 1700 or email cathedral@bbcatholic.org.au by 29 October 2020.

A warm Welcome from our Community To Deacon Roger del Monte, our wishes of prayerful support and blessings on his journey as he prepares himself for Priesthood. We pray that the good Lord will continue to support him and his Ministry within our Community.

Celebrating 60th Wedding Anniversary Bill and Faye Smitheram, two of our dear parishioners celebrated their wedding anniversary last Thursday. Congratulations on your 60 years of love for each other. God bless you with many more wonderful years together.

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary: May I request all families within the community to say at least one decade of the Rosary as a family together. As Patrick Peyton popularised the phrases "The family that prays together stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace."

Sacrament of Penance: Is available on request, and also on Saturdays from 9 to 9.30am at the Cathedral.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October:

The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of Baptism, the laity, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick, those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur during this time. May I request you to keep all those who are struck with the virus, those tested positive and those in isolation in your special prayers.

Month of November: We remember our faithful departed with gratitude.

Given the situation we are in, the Memorial Mass will be held on **1 November 2020 at 9.30am**. Invitation will be sent out to those who have lost loved ones during the year, and will be prayed over at the Mass. Our usual practice of writing names of deceased family and friends on our November list will not happen in the Church due to various reasons relating to COVID-19. In lieu of this, please email the names to cathedral@bbcatholic.org.au or drop a note in the Parish mailbox. We will do our best to include them in the Book of Remembrance.

Peter's Pence Collection The annual appeal is usually taken up all over the world around the time of the feast day of St Peter and St Paul (29 June). This year, due to COVID-19, His Holiness Pope Francis has asked that the annual appeal take place on 4 October, which is the Feast of St Francis Assisi. We will undertake collection this weekend 10th & 11th October 2020 at the church courtyard.

My Gratitude to those Parishioners who have come forward to clean up after our Masses during this time. Thank you for your untiring service to our parish community. We still need many hands to continue the good work, please feel free to support us. May I also mention all those who donated cleaning products, your thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated.

Seeking COVID-19 Safe Hygiene Marshals: Parishioners interested in helping-out as COVID Marshalls for our various Masses during the weekend, please contact the Parish office. Your help is a great gift to our community.

QR CODES: Both our Churches have their respective codes, if we enter in one we will have to do the needful, when we enter the other church, we have to repeat the same entry for the next one, please note the same.

10th Anniversary of Mary MacKillop's Canonisation

The date of 17 October 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The Sisters of St Joseph invites us to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of our first Saint. The theme for this celebration is "Take Fresh Courage", a quote written by Mary MacKillop on 21 May 1877. Details of the celebrations and resources can be found at <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary/>

St Vincent de Paul Conference Waitara – Christmas Hampers It is almost time again to start thinking about the Christmas Hampers. We would like to know if you are interested in helping us this year by providing hampers for our families. All safety methods would be in place such as social distancing. If you are interested, please contact **John Courtney 9487 3780** or **Shirley Kelynack 0401 041 443** or Shirleymyra@optusnet.com.au. We will understand if you are not able to help as it is a very difficult time for all.