



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

[St Valentine of Rome](#) is the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, engaged couples and happy marriages. He was martyred for performing marriages for young lover in secret. The love connection appeared more than a thousand years after his death. English audiences embraced the idea and used Feb 13 as an excuse to pen verses and sent cards with love poetry, chocolates, wines and roses. **Happy Valentine's Day!**

Sunday Reflection

by Br Aditya Sugiarto

The first reading from the Book of Leviticus (Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46) this Sunday at first glance, might make us think that God of the Old Testament is a mean, nasty, and puritanical God. For it is written, "As long as the disease lasts, he must be unclean; and therefore, he must live apart: he must live outside the camp". Every so often the temptation for us when reading sacred scriptures, we tend to ignore the context of the passage. Consequently, this approach is not helpful in our attempt to figure out the intended meaning of the text. Monsignor Joseph Prior, a scripture scholar might be able to shed some light on this seemingly contentious first reading. He says,

"...we might be tempted to think it is harsh even cruel to have someone go around calling themselves "unclean." To understand the passage and why it was a good law, we must think about life several thousand years ago, when there were no medical doctors or hospitals. The law is designed to protect the community from contagious disease."¹

1 Prior, Joseph. "In Cleansing a Leper, Jesus Reveals His Power to Heal Souls." Catholic Philly. Accessed on 10 Feb. 21 from <https://catholicphilly.com/2018/02/catholic-spirituality/in-cleansing-a-leper-jesus-reveals-his-power-to-heal-souls/>

Speaking of contagious disease and its implications, I am certain that all of us could relate one way or another with the situation in the first reading, as we, as a nation are still trying to get all our acts together in combating Covid19. Words like segregation, separation, lockdown, quarantine, and border closures are recurring themes of recent as they have become the new normal. During this difficult time, we would do well to be more sensitive and considerate towards one another. St Paul exhorts us in the second reading (1 Cor 10:31-11:1) to "...never be offensive to anyone" and to be "helpful to everyone at all times". Many people are affected by the pandemic. Some may have lost their jobs. Some are missing their stranded family member/s. Some of us may even know people who have lost their loved ones to the disease. I suppose we could all contribute in our own ways to alleviate the sufferings of our brothers and sisters. Lent is coming soon, so let us not all get too ambitious and lofty with our Lenten sacrifices. Start embracing the immediate little daily crosses we encounter joyfully, because even a small contribution and little sacrifices like regularly sanitizing our hands, social distancing or wearing masks at appropriate places could go a long way in helping the community, especially the more vulnerable, to minimise the impact of the pandemic.

Lastly, it is good to pray the pandemic away. We have been doing that as a community here at every single Mass. However, I hope that the Gospel (Mark 1:40-45) today makes us realize that there is in fact, a far greater message than this from Jesus. This is why Our Lord did not want the cured man to broadcast publicly his miraculous healing. Jesus is aware that there is a certain social expectation of who the Messiah is and what he would/should do for the Jewish people of his time. Jesus did not want to be seen as the political or military messiah who would cure the temporal problems of the Jews in uprooting the Roman control of the area or merely as a miracle worker, healing the sick and raising the dead. Oftentimes, the temptation for us today in our prayers is to make Jesus like "a genie in the bottle", where we expect him to work miracles to suit our needs and wants. There is nothing wrong with asking for temporal needs. But the Gospel reminds us that Jesus came to give us something better. He who is God, wants to give Himself to us. He wants to give us true freedom. To conclude, let us reflect more on how God has been working in our lives during this time of crisis. I hope that we would all find the Treasure amidst the mud, clouds, and calamity of this turbulent time. Once we are able to transcend beyond our temporal needs and wants, surely, we would begin to see that our deepest desire finds its rest in the real treasure; in Emmanuel (God with us).

Ash Wednesday Masses 17 February 2021

OLOR Cathedral:

7:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

8:00 p.m.

Queen of Peace Church:

8:45 a.m.

McQuoin Park Chapel:

11:00 a.m. **for Residents only**



Vox Populi – The Voice of the People

Gutta cavat lapidem, non vi sed saepe cadendo.
“A gap in a stone is made not by force but by a steady drip”

By Deacon Roberto Corpuz

Yvonne and I have been married for 38 years now and have been blessed with two sons, one married (and wife is expecting) and the other, newly engaged. We moved to Australia over a quarter of a century ago and I have been ordained as a permanent Deacon for almost 13 years now. For

many years, Yvonne was based overseas and was on the road most of the time because of her regional or global roles. Caring for our two sons was primarily my role and I considered it a blessing to do so.

Early on in our marriage, we realised that conjugal prayer is an important part of our life. Hence, we agreed that whenever she was away from home, regardless of where each one of us was physically located, we would say a prayer for each other at midday, Sydney time. Such is our deep belief in Jesus’ promise that “when two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in their midst.”

Back on home soil for the past two years, Yvonne still maintained a hectic travel schedule. It was only with the onset of travel restrictions that her overseas trips grinded to a halt. Now, we say our conjugal prayers together.

With the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic over a year ago, another burning prayer “issue” challenged us as family. A first cousin who was based in America contracted the disease and was intubated for three weeks. The prospects were grim, and death was at her doorstep. (Thankfully, she is now slowly recovering). My sister, a retired nurse who is based in New York, mobilised our extended family and friends who live in different countries to embark on a rhythm of daily communal prayer to intercede for her and all those affected by the pandemic around the world.

We formed a Zoom “Prayer Warriors” group and agreed on the “best” time for our virtual linkup, given that we are in at least five different time zones across three different continents. On weekdays, we alternate the recitation of the Holy Rosary with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. On Sundays (USA time), I lead the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word. We are now over 330 consecutive days of prayer, as we started this on 23 March 2020.

It has been so nourishing for this global family prayer warriors’ group. We have about 20 screens open in Zoom daily. The attendees’ age ranges from 2 months to 96 years old. What has been so heart-warming is the enthusiasm that the children have showed before, during and after prayers. Many of them have not met personally as they are from different countries or other states or cities even if living in the same country. As the months progressed, they got to know each other better, calling each one by name - not only the other children but also the adults.

A very remarkable story is our grandnephew (Jason), who is nine years old and living in California with his parents and my first cousin (Jason’s grandma). Jason has mild autism. Since March 2020, he would join his grandma in prayer a few times. He has since learned how to pray the rosary with the aid of the actual rosary beads and even assists in leading it (with his grandma) and occasionally leads a Marian song. Another grandniece (Ella) is 3 years old and she joins her siblings (6 and 8) in leading the singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

This family prayer group that Yvonne and I continue to nurture and guide, nourishes us likewise. The constancy of the daily prayer time binds our family and friends together. This prayer time has become part and parcel of our daily life a global community of faith

Meet our New Assistant Priest
Reverend Manoj Manuel



My Journey to Broken Bay

By Fr Manoj Manuel

Dear Parishioners,

First of all, I would like to thank Bishop Anthony Randazzo for welcoming me to the Diocese of Broken Bay and for giving me the permission and appointment to minister here. I thank Fr David Ranson the Vicar General, Fr Peter de Souza, the Dean of the Cathedral, and all the Priests of our diocese for the warm welcome. I thank you dear Parishioners for the encouragement and support you extended to me in these few days I am here at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Hornsby and Queen of Peace Church, Normanhurst.

I was born into a family of 5 children, 4 boys and 1 girl. Being the youngest, I enjoyed the care of the rest of family. When I was 5 years old, tragedy struck our home. My father returned back to God. Life was hard for my mother and eldest brother, and naturally for the rest of the family.

We could get good education in the Parish schools. That was a great blessing from God. It was my mother and my class teacher Sr Lisy (a nun) who guided me to God's call to become a priest. I joined the seminary to become a missionary priest in an unknown land far away from my homeland. It was a tearful departure from my mother and family. I joined Good Shepherd Seminary in Nagaland in the year 1991.

I completed formation to the Priesthood and was ordained on 5th January 2005. From then on, I have worked in Parishes and schools in Nagaland, till I flew to Australia on the 21st of April 2018. Nagaland is one of the Indian states in the North-East of India. It shares international border with Myanmar (Burma). It is also close to China. The mission in different Parishes and schools were very challenging, mainly because of the resistance to Catholic faith by the majority who belonged to another Christian denomination. The challenge also was from the unrest from militants fighting for freedom and the underdevelopment and poverty. The last place I worked at was an orphanage and school where we cared for the children who needed our help most.

During my stay in Australia, I worked in Warren, Nyngan, Narromine, Trangie and Peak Hill Parishes of Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese. I worked under the great leadership of Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green and learnt a lot about the practice of Catholic faith in that beautiful diocese and in Australia as a whole.

I look forward to work in the Diocese of Broken Bay. During my first appointment as Assistant Priest, I will give my best to fulfil God's call to be His priest and minister for God and God's people in our parish.

I seek your prayers, support and encouragement. I assure you of my prayers and remembrance at every Eucharistic celebration.

God bless you.

Fr Manoj Manuel

Our Lenten Program for 2021

Thursdays of Lent February 25 and March 11, 18, 25

The Boundless Young Adults Group will be leading us to a reflection on

[Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega](#)

Fridays of Lent February 19, 26 and March 5, 12, 26

Stations of the Cross from 7:00 p.m. at OLOR Cathedral.

While the stations are on, Priests will be available for Reconciliation.

Boundless (Young Adults Community)

We will gather and discuss the meaning of Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent.

When : Monday 15 February 2021

Time : 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Nulty Room (Our Lady of the Rosary)

For updates and more, follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/hornsbyparishyouth

Serra Vocations Mass and Dinner Meeting

WHEN : 18 February 2021 (Thursday)

TIME : Mass at 6:00 p.m. followed by Dinner

WHERE : Sacred Heart Church

2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble

May I ask you to pray for those who are sick, those who are struck with the virus, those tested positive, those in isolation, and those vaccinated for COVID-19 in your special prayers.

We remember those who died recently – Paul Hutchinson, Sr Dorothy Costigan CSB, Arthur Fogarty

Anniversaries – Darren Egelhoff, Nancy Richards, Noel Christensen

Online Parish Giving

In light of the extraordinary circumstances we are experiencing due to pandemic, please know that ONLINE Parish Giving is available. To donate, please click on the button below.

1st Collection is used for the support of the Bishop and priests of the Diocese.

2nd Collection is used to meet Parish running costs, maintenance of Church, Presbytery, offices, other buildings and grounds. It is also used to pay for all our Ministries' expenses and staff salaries and superannuation.

[Click here to Donate to our Parish](#)

MASS SCHEDULE

from 27 January 2021 until further notice

03 January 2021 - Public Health Orders, NSW regarding places of worship: Everyone attending the service are required to sign in using QR Code, and face masks are mandatory in the church.

Weekday Mass Schedule

OLOR Cathedral:

Mon to Sat 7:00 a.m.

(Please note, from 10 Feb 2021,

no more Wednesday 9:30 a.m.

Mass at the Cathedral.)

Queen of Peace Church:

Tue, Thu, Fri 8:45 a.m.

Sat 7:30 a.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule

OLOR Cathedral:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil

Sunday 9:30 a.m.,

11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

(From 21 February 2021, the

Sunday Mass at MQP resume.

Please note: There will be no

more 11 a.m. Mass at the

Cathedral.)

Filipino Mass 3:30 p.m.

(Every 2nd Sunday of each month.)

Queen of Peace Church:

Saturday 5.30 p.m. Vigil

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Tap / Click
to Watch the Mass

McQuoin Park Chapel Mass for Residents only

Wednesdays at 11 a.m. (beginning 10 February 2021)

Sacrament of Penance / Reconciliation

Available only at the Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Courtyard Saturdays from 9 to 9:30 a.m.

Private Prayer Our Cathedral Chapel is open for private prayer. It is necessary for everyone who enters the chapel to check in using QR Code for every visit. Failure to do so will mean we need to close the Chapel.

If a Priest is needed in a matter of emergency, after hours or on the weekend, please call **0458 351 843**.

Joe and Marie de Souza celebrated 62 years of great love.

Your marriage blesses our community. Congratulations to an amazing journey together! God bless.

Congratulations to our Crafts Group on their 10th year Anniversary last 10 February. Thank you for your ministry.

Position Vacant – Parish Secretary, Frenchs Forest

For further details, see the Diocesan website:

www.bbcatholic.org.au/people/positions-vacant

Applications close: Monday, 8 March.