

PARISH BULLETIN,  
31ST JANUARY 2021, 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**WYONG CATHOLIC PARISH**  
**ST CECILIA'S CHURCH & ST JOHN FISHER MASS CTR**  
Under the Pastoral Care of the  
**Society of Our Lady of The Most Holy Trinity (SOLT)**

**VISION** *The Wyong Catholic Parish is a welcoming, caring dynamic community*

**MISSION STATEMENT** *We will live and proclaim the message of the Gospel :  
Engage, Participate, Reach out and Transform*

### MASS TIMES

**Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times**

**St Cecilia's Church 23 Byron St Wyong**

Sat Vigil 5.00pm Sun 7.30am & 9.30am

**St John Fisher Mass Centre Hicks Lane Tumbi Umbi**

Sat Vigil 5.00 pm Sun: 8.30am & 5pm

**Weekday Mass**

**St Cecilia's** : Mon-Sat: 8.00am

**St John Fisher:**

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8:00am Tue & Fri: 9.15am

**Reconciliation/Confession**

**St Cecilia's** Saturday morning after the 8am Mass & Saturday at 4.30pm

**St John Fisher** Saturday at 4.30pm



### REFLECTION 31st January 2021

*Reproduced from God's Word 2021: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield*

In the synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus encounters a man possessed by an unclean spirit. What was this unclean spirit? Of course, we can only speculate. Perhaps it was a spirit of injustice which meant that he was not paying his workers fairly. Perhaps it was the love of money. Perhaps it was the desire to be given the place of honour at table, to be considered better than others and superior to them. When we hear references to someone possessed by an unclean spirit, we should not conjure up graphic images of demonic possession as portrayed in horror movies. The devil is too smart of that and will usually masquerade as something good, even virtuous, while hiding deeper motives. The man may have been a respected member of the synagogue. Put simply, that man possessed by an unclean spirit could be you or me.

For a long time, this man could go comfortably to the synagogue and go home without feeling in any way disturbed about his life or actions. But when Jesus entered the synagogue and spoke with authority – the authority of God – the veil spirit in the man became deeply disturbed and threatened. Powerless against the Holy One of God, with a loud cry he came out of the man. It must have been a shocking but liberating experience for that poor man.

One of the greatest plays of the devil is to help us feel comfortable in our ways, to assure that we are very good, and everything is OK even when this is not the case. May the Lord visit us, as he visited the synagogue in Capernaum, and disturb anything within us that is not of God. May he drive out any forces of evil that may be finding a home within us, whether as individuals or as a Church community.

## CALLING ALL LENTEN AND EASTER VOLUNTEERS



Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

We are looking for helpers to assist Fr Raul and Fr Alex in organising these celebrations.

If you would like to help make these celebrations special and can spare some time, please speak to Fr Raul or Fr Alex after Mass this weekend.

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE?

Are you or anyone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home?

Have you been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic?

Statistics show that most people respond to a personal invitation.

So this is that *personal invitation* and a challenge to all of you who might know someone who fits the categories above, invite that person.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA] is the faith-stirring process by which adults seek a deeper knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ and decide whether to commit themselves to the Catholic faith.

If you are: *Interested in becoming Catholic*

*Never baptised or*

*Baptised in another Christian denomination*

Come and join us. For further information, please contact the Parish Office 43 521011, Jo 0424 763 734 or speak to Fr Raul or Fr Alex after Mass.



*Birthdays  
and  
Anniversaries*

*Best Wishes*

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Garry Greentree 3/2/1949

Mary-Louise McDarmont

10/2/1940

*Warmest Congratulations*

### ANNIVERSARIES

Pat and Gerard Byrne

30/1/1960

Sue & Len Miller

28/2/1970

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

### HUMAN FRATERNITY

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

## MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL – DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

The Marriage Tribunal in the Diocese of Broken Bay is a service of the Diocese to assist with the pastoral care of:

- divorced persons seeking to remarry in the Catholic Church;
- divorced and remarried persons seeking to have their marriage recognised in the Catholic Church;
- divorced persons seeking clarification of their standing in the Catholic Church for peace of conscience or for reassurance in developing relationships in the future.

### Marriage Tribunal Contact Details

Diocesan Director: Fr Julian Wellspring JV

Administrative Assistant: Mrs Alda Mendezona

Phone: 9307 8309

Email: [tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au)

Postal address: Level 7 Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

The Marriage Tribunal will reopen on Monday, 4 January 2021



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## SUNDAY MASS 31ST JANUARY 2021 THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

R. If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

### Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

### Gospel Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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## EMERGENCY PRIEST CONTACT

Fr Raul ph: 0450 115 099

Fr Alex ph: 0432 947 245

## PARISH OFFICE 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon to Thurs 9.30am to 2.30pm &

Fri 9.30am to 12pm

## PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest **Fr Raul Balute, SOLT ph:0450 115 099**

email: [frraul\\_solt@yahoo.com](mailto:frraul_solt@yahoo.com)

Assistant Priest **Fr Alex Barnedo, SOLT ph:0432 947 245**

Parish Coordinator **Jo Helm ph: 0424 763 734** (Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri)

email: [jo.helm@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:jo.helm@bbcatholic.org.au)

Parish Secretary **Helen Bath ph:4352 1011** (Wed & Thurs)

### PARISH EMAIL:

[wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

### PARISH WEBSITE:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/wyong/>

### FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish](https://www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish)

## Anointing of the Sick **First Friday of the Month and will recommence Feb 2021**

**St Cecilia's** During 8.00am

&11.30am Mass and

**St John Fisher** During 9.15am Mass

### Eucharistic Adoration

**St Cecilia's** Daily 7am-8am

**St John Fisher** 1st Fri 8.15 - 9.15am

### Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sat St Cecilia's & Wed St John Fisher (after the 8am mass)

### Devotion to the Divine Mercy

**St Cecilia's** Fri after the 8am Mass

**St John Fisher** Fri after the 9:15am Mass

Fr Raul/Fr Alex and the Legion of Mary visit **Berkley Vale Nursing home** 3rd Wednesday of the Month

### Prayer groups

**St Cecilia's** Rosary Group 2pm Tues

**St Cecilia's** Legion of Mary 8am Wed

### Meetings

**St Cecilia's** Choir practice every Tues night 7 to 8pm

**Catechist Meeting** 3rd Feb 10am

**Liturgy Meeting**

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

9th Feb 6pm

PPC Secretary; Kerry Bugden

ph 4388 2938

**Social Justice Meeting**

25th Feb 1.15pm

**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS**

**PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE**

## KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.*

**SICK:** Len Miller, Victor Gibbs, Harriet Powell, Danae Roe, Peter Ford, Harry Hall, Michael Briggs, Christine Heffernan, Jennese Thompson, Leeann Hazelton, Catherine Amey, Bernadette Kiely, Steve Durnford, Ann Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Angela Watts, William Martin, Terence (Ted) Dafter, Finn McConnon, Margaret Hobbs, Christine, John Baxter, Joey Moloney, Noel Muir, Jacqui Stacey, John Bof (Jnr), Josie Campbell, Frank Costa, Elsie Smith.  
**RECENTLY DECEASED:** John Taylor, Cathryn Sharkey, Archbishop Philip Wilson.

**ANNIVERSARY JANUARY:** Sophie Roe, Peter White, Patricia Unger, Bill Martin, Tony Kerr, Armida Bito-on, Kevin Booth,

**ANNIVERSARY FEBRUARY:** Bill Cullinan, John Kiernan, Rosie Attard, Natividad Dieta, Rita Muscat,

The fruit of **SILENCE** is prayer,  
The fruit of **PRAYER** is faith,  
The fruit of **FAITH** is love,  
The fruit of **LOVE** is service,  
The fruit of **SERVICE** is **PEACE**.

*Mother Teresa*

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## Vox Populi - The Voice of the People

This week we hear from Rachel Vala, Parish Formation and Resources Coordinator in the Catholic Youth Broken Bay team. She was formerly Youth Coordinator at Pennant Hills Parish. She is graduating from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Theology and Theatre Studies this year. Rachel loves Jesus. I mean she really loves Jesus.

The high price of mercy,

Freely given By Rachel Vala

I've had my fair share of encounters with God's infinite love and mercy. The Father has been abundantly gracious to me and generous in scattering moments of grace in my life, particularly in times of hardship and difficulty. But it seems that just when I think I've finished learning about this mercy and love I am once again, humbly, plunged into the depths of it where God tenderly reveals more of His heart to me.

A few weeks ago, I attended a retreat with the Missionaries of God's Love who were, unironically, teaching us about God's love. The Kerygma. So simple... Or so I thought? "I know about God's mercy; I frequently visit the Sacrament of Reconciliation!", I told my small group. But the more we expanded on the idea of reconciliation, the more I became aware that my own sacrifices, my own atonements for sin, were largely my attempts to 'make right' my relationship with God. I had forgotten that nothing can 'make right' my relationship with God but God alone. Our sin causes a debt too huge for us to ever be able to pay off ourselves.

This week we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. This event we read about in Scripture and meditate upon in the Rosary is so theologically rich, full of wisdom and symbolism, it cannot but remind me of God's goodness. The Holy Family went, according to the Law of Moses, to present Jesus in the Temple. Unable to afford a sacrificial lamb, they presented instead the sacrifice of the poor, two turtle doves. Mind you, Jesus is God in the flesh and Mary was conceived without original sin – surely these purifying sacrifices were not necessary for them? How stirring, then, is their obedience to the Law, as people of Israel. Simeon, a man of God and filled with the Holy Spirit, saw the Holy Family and, moved in awe, was compelled to prophecy about the child Jesus' hold on salvation history.

The weight of this reality, that God provides salvation, was firmly pressed against my pride on my retreat. While atonement, fasting, attempts at self-mastery and sorrow for our sins are good and necessary things, no amount of self-chastisement or fasting can justify me in the presence of God. No turtle doves, no amount of 'following the law' can buy me pardon. Mercy is an expensive gift, but it's freely given.

Simeon cried, "My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared for all nations. A light to enlighten the pagans and give glory to Israel, Your people." Praise God! And praise Him for unceasingly stripping me of my blindness so that my eyes may see His salvation, too. His incalculable mercy has been given to everyone. "For my eyes have seen His salvation which He has prepared for ALL nations." I must note that it's not just for the righteous (or those who try to be). No number of turtle doves or lambs are to convince God for mercy. Jesus alone is the perfect sacrifice, the true Lamb of God who was slain, and His sacrifice is sufficient for all and forever.

"Now master you can let your servant go in peace, just as You promised." Yes... How Simeon's words resonate with me and echo in my heart. What a relief that God is enough for me and that He is who He is. May we find rest in His peace and walk in the light of His mercy.

Rachel Vala is the Parish Formation and Resources Coordinator in the Catholic Youth Broken Bay team was formerly Youth Coordinator at Pennant Hills Parish. She is graduating from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Theology and Theatre Studies this year. Rachel loves Jesus. I mean she really loves Jesus.