

Catholic Parish of St Patrick Guildford

Est. 1933

Fr. Peter Blayney - Parish Priest

Sr. Helen Cunningham OP

Pastoral Associate

Parish Office: 32 Calliope Street
Guildford NSW 2161

Parish Office Telephone: 9632.2672

Email:

admin@guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au

Website:

www.guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au

Manning Foundation: 0497 973 311



**To Live, Love and Act
Like Jesus**

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am to 3:00pm

Friday: 8:30am to 2:00pm

Closed daily: 12:30pm to 1:00pm

St. Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Mr. Steven Jones

Phone: 8728.7300

Email:

stpatsguildford@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website:

www.stpatsguildford.catholic.edu.au

**4 & 5 September 2021
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B**

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am

Weekday Masses:

Wednesday: 9:15am

Thursday: 9:15am

Friday: 9:15am

Confessions:

By appointment only.

Please call the Parish Office on phone:
9632.2672



Baptisms: Please contact the Parish Office by telephone to arrange a Baptism. Baptisms are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 11:15am, or during any Sunday Mass, to be negotiated with the Parish Priest. Baptism preparation will be explained when you contact the Parish Office. **Booklets need to be obtained from the Parish Office prior to the preparation.**



Mass Intentions



Recently Deceased:

James Saad, Dorothy Smith, Pastor Peter Chan (Fellowship of Christ Church, Toongabbie), Jack Harb, Lena Spiteri, Marie Hodsdon

Anniversaries:

Clare McMahan

Deceased:

Mary Jane Axiak, Holy Souls in Purgatory



PARISH PRAYER

Loving God we thank you for being with us always. Open our hearts to hear your voice.

Help us, Lord, to make this Parish a place of mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, respected, forgiven and encouraged.

In your love and wisdom, help and guide all of us to be good ambassadors for Christ, both in service to others and in proclaiming the Gospel.

Send your Holy Spirit among us Lord so that we may be filled with your grace and peace as we go about our lives in this world.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen



LITURGY OF THE WORD

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- YEAR B



1ST READING: ISAIAH 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 145:7-10

Response: Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R.**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

2ND READING: JAMES 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St. James

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 ACCLAMATION: MATTHEW 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: MARK 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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



Courage!
Do not be afraid.
He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and
the dumb speak.

PARISH NOTICES

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: Father's Day, in the United States, is a holiday (third Sunday in June) to honour fathers. Credit for originating the holiday is generally given to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, whose father, a Civil War veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth. She is said to have had the idea in 1909 while listening to a sermon on Mother's Day, which at the time was becoming established as a holiday. Local religious leaders supported the idea, and the first Father's Day was celebrated on 19 June, 1910, the month of the birthday of Dodd's father. In 1924 U.S. President Calvin Coolidge gave his support to the observance, and in 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson issued a proclamation that recognised the day. It became a national holiday in 1972, when President Richard Nixon signed legislation designating the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. Although it was originally largely a religious holiday, Father's Day has been commercialised with the sending of greeting cards and the giving of gifts. Some observe the custom of wearing a red rose to indicate that one's father is living or a white rose to indicate that he is deceased. Other males — for example, grandfathers or uncles who have assumed parenting roles — are often also honoured on the day. Some Roman Catholics have continued to observe the feast day of St. Joseph, on 19 March, as a tribute to fathers. [Encyclopaedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Fathers-Day>]. It is believed that the Father's Day celebration in Australia began during the 1930s and was designated the first Sunday in September. Happy Fathers Day to the Dads out there!

~ Fr. Peter Blayney

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS' DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT AND THOSE CLERGY WHO ARE IN ILL-HEALTH

This Father's Day, please spare a thought for our humble priests who have cared for our faith community's spiritual nourishment and wellbeing for all their lives. With your generosity, the Clergy Support Foundation helps our priests with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement. Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call 8838.3482.

PARISH NOTICES

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE AUSTRALIA has launched a campaign encouraging Catholics to embrace the Church's Season of Creation next month by taking photos of their actions for the environment and publishing them online. The campaign is inspired by the Church's *Laudato Si'* action goals and in support of the Australian Catholic bishops' latest Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. It will see community members take a photo of their actions for the environment — gardens growing, treading gently with resources, being in nature, a place they love — and share on Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag, #care4ourcommonhome. Catholic Earthcare will stream the actions being undertaken across schools, parishes and families via its website, to show the collective efforts of the community this Season of Creation, 1 September to 4 October. "Our Catholic Earthcare Australia programs are growing," said Sue Martin, Catholic Earthcare Australia Co-Ordinator. "Catholic Earthcare schools, youth and parishes and families program are all now active and support our purpose to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The #act4ourcommonhome campaign is a way for the Catholic community to come together as a collective. All of our small actions together will be a powerful response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," she said. Catholic Earthcare is a program of Caritas Australia. Details: #act4ourcommonhome [Cath News, 19.8.21]

DIOCESAN NOTICES

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK (5-11 SEPTEMBER) – HIGHLIGHTS: National Child Protection Week 2021 is themed "Every Child in Every Community Needs a Fair Go". It is aimed at raising awareness of the 'big picture' community supports that are needed for children to thrive. Parishes, as an important local social connection, play a part in this too.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY – 12 SEPTEMBER: Previously known as Child Protection Sunday, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference approved the change of name late last year to better reflect the Church's policies and protocols to protect and support children and adults at risk. The day seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people, especially children and other people who are at risk. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.

SIGN THE PETITION TO WELCOME 20,000 REFUGEES FLEEING AFGHANISTAN: In a sign of unity, major Australian church denominations and Christian organisations have come together to urge the Prime Minister to provide a special intake of an additional 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan and support the ongoing wellbeing of all Afghan refugees and their families. For more information and to sign the petition go to www.unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta.



PASTORAL LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA ON OUR RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Dear brothers and sisters

Many of you will be shocked, as I am, by how quickly and easily the Taliban has seized control of Afghanistan. The daily scenes from Kabul airport that we have seen over the past weeks have been heartbreaking. How much more shocked and scared must the Afghan population be, as well as their relatives and friends who are now living here in Australia.

I ask you all to keep the Afghan people in your prayers, especially now as international forces have withdrawn from the country. Please include those in our community who have come from Afghanistan. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace has published a resource for communal prayer in your households: Prayer of Solidarity for the People of Afghanistan.

Many Afghans are still trying to flee from the Taliban. Especially ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians, and those who worked together with the Australian and international military forces are at risk of targeted persecution. Women fear losing their human rights. The Australian Federal Government has so far committed to allocating 3,000 places within the existing refugee program for people fleeing Afghanistan.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, the President of our Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, recently wrote to the Prime Minister. Based on estimates from key humanitarian organisations and pledges from other countries, Archbishop Coleridge proposed that the Federal Government should make at least another 17,000 places available.

This proposal is being supported by many humanitarian and community organisations, including Catholic organisations, and by a broad ecumenical alliance of Christian churches in Australia.

I invite and encourage you all to add your voice to this important call. Under the theme "Christians United for Afghanistan" you can do this by signing the call at unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta.

I have already added my signature on behalf of the Diocese of Parramatta. Parishes can sign within the category "Church". Catholic schools, agencies and our Diocesan councils are invited to sign as an "Organisation", and every faithful can sign as an "Individual".

Beyond a special intake of refugees from Afghanistan and Afghan refugee camps in neighbouring countries, "Christians United for Afghanistan" calls on the Federal Government to "Welcome. Protect. Reunite. Support."

This includes granting permanent protection to all people from Afghanistan who are already in Australia on temporary protection visas or are currently awaiting application outcomes. It also includes enabling these refugees to bring their families from Afghanistan to Australia and reunite in safety, as well as additional emergency and long-term support for humanitarian aid through reputable organisations working in the region.

Our partners at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) are supporting this ecumenical initiative and will help to engage the Catholic community across Australia.

As Christians, we believe that God bestows an indestructible dignity on every human being. However, we know that humans can erode this dignity. That is what I fear the Taliban are doing when they persecute those who do not share their beliefs and oppress the women and minorities they live alongside.

So, when it is within our national power to protect dignity, we are prompted by our faith to speak out. As Pope Francis said in 2017 when speaking of people seeking asylum: "Defending their inalienable rights, ensuring their fundamental freedoms and respecting their dignity are duties from which no one can be exempted."

It is our collective duty as a society to foster and uphold the unity of the family, and in the context of Afghanistan this includes enabling access to family reunion for refugees and members of the diaspora.

Australia has a long tradition of generously resettling refugees and displaced persons who flee their home countries due to war, conflict and violence. We need to honour this legacy by showing the Afghan people fleeing oppression and violence our compassion and solidarity. I believe that this is the true identity of the country I have made my home.

I was a refugee once and fled by boat in the wake of the end of a protracted war in which Australia had been involved. I hope to see the same level of bipartisan support for Afghan refugees now as there was for Vietnamese refugees then.

While the Government has a critical role to play in supporting Afghans in Australia and in their homeland, faith-based and community groups declaring they are ready to help people relocating to Australia is a big piece of the puzzle.

If you have friends, colleagues or neighbours with an Afghan background, please be there for them in this traumatic time. I ask you to open your hearts to newly arriving refugees, and to support our Catholic agencies in providing support to them as well as humanitarian aid in the region.

Also include the members of our Australian Defence Force in your prayers who served in Afghanistan in the past 20 years.

Thank you for your prayer and solidarity with our Afghan sisters and brothers in this difficult time.

In Christ

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

Given at Parramatta on 1 September 2021