

Catholic Parish of St Patrick Guildford

Rev. Fr. Peter Blayney - Parish Priest
Rev. Fr. Treesen Silva - Sri Lankan
Chaplain and Assistant 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

Est. 1933



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

10 & 11 February 2024
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am and 10:00am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 9:15am
Wednesday: 9:15am
Thursday: 9:15am
Friday: 9:15am

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday: 4:30pm to 5:15pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: After the 9:15am Mass, for one hour,
concluding with Benediction



Baptisms: Please contact the Parish Office by telephone (9632.2672) 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.



Mass Intentions



Recently Deceased:

Yvonne Potter, Karen Cartwright, Pinar Cabadag, Dana Arachchige, Maureen Murray, Ann DeCourcy

Anniversaries:

Melia Mansour, Ernest Frederick Badcock, Enrico (Ric) DiCarlo, Felix Gonsalves, Matthew Joseph Lane, Piet Lie, Walfarida Tan, Lie Song Cut, Lidumina Lie, Keith McCormick, Lawrence Frois, Nunzia D'Elia

Deceased:

Elias Greige, Mary Jane Axiak, Rima & Bassima Hanna & Family, Peter, Janette & Eid Majed & Family, Elias Jamil & Family, Felix Gonsalves, Nayef El-Khoury, Jreige & Laila Jlalaty, 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

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B



1ST READING: LEVITICUS 13:1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 31:1-2, 5, 11

Response: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **R.**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **R.**

2ND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 - 11:1

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: MARK 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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



**“If you want to,
you can cure me.”
“Of course I want to;
be cured!”**

***What healing do I want from
Jesus?***

PARISH NOTICES

ASH WEDNESDAY - 14 FEBRUARY: Mass will be celebrated at 9:15am in the morning and 7:00pm at night. St. Patrick's School will join us for the 9:15am Mass. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 60. The law of abstinence binds those who are over 14.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT: Will be held every Friday night at 6:30pm throughout Lent commencing Friday, 16 February and concluding on Friday, 22 March.

PROJECT COMPASSION THROUGHOUT LENT: Available at the back of the church are money boxes, which are to be returned at the end of Lent, and Lenten Sharepack's which contain envelopes for your weekly donation. These envelopes can be placed on any collection plate throughout the six weeks of Lent. Caritas Australia thanks you for your generosity.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL for Sante Zoppellaro will be held at St. Patrick's Church, Guildford on Thursday, 15 February 2024 at 11:00am.

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH JOURNEY WITH ST. PATRICK'S MEN'S GROUP! Unveil the richness of Catholic masculinity at the St. Patrick's Men's Group. Initiated in mid-2023, our monthly gatherings have fostered personal growth and spiritual exploration. Now, we would like to extend our invitation to all men parish-wide, join us for a profound experience during our first meeting of 2024 on Tuesday, 13 February at 6:30pm and begin your Lenten journey in brotherhood. Contact Antonio on 0424 629 366 if you have any questions. All ages 16+ welcome.

TAP & GO" DONATION POINT: The opportunity is now available for parishioners and visitors to donate to St. Patrick's Parish using a credit or debit card. The majority of parishes in the Diocese now have this facility. Following advice from both the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee to install this donation point, it is available for use at the weekend Masses. The donation is pre-programmed for \$5.00 per tap of the card over the tap symbol. If you wish to donate more than \$5.00, tap again. It takes a few seconds to record your donation. The Diocese's encouragement to use this facility is a response to the trend where most people carry little, if any, cash these days. The donation point does not take the place of the First and Second collections or the weekly envelope offerings. St. Patrick's is very grateful for your donations, however you wish to make them.
~ Fr. Peter Blayney

MASS INTENTIONS: To prevent confusion and assumptions, could parishioners clearly identify if a Mass intention, for publication in the Bulletin, is either **Recently Deceased, Anniversary or Deceased.** It would also be helpful if names were printed clearly on the envelope. Printed envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Thank you for your co-operation.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

BISHOP VINCENT PRESENTS A CONVERSATION WITH MONSIGNOR TOMAS HALIK - 12 FEBRUARY: Diocese of Parramatta invites you to a conversation with Czech priest and theologian Monsignor Tomas Halik on Monday, 12 February at 6:00pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Join the waitlist now or register for the livestream by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/>.

YOUTH MASS 'ROUND THE DIOCESE - 25 FEBRUARY: Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, on Sunday, 25 February for 6:00pm Mass. For more information, please contact Laura on laura@stbernadette.org.au.

CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK: FORMATION FOR MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR - 9 MARCH: The Office for Worship presents 'Celebrating Holy Week' – a workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar presented by Chris Ohlsen. It will be held on Saturday, 9 March from 9:30am to 3:00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To register or for more information, please contact lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or call 8838.3456 by 5 March 2024.

CATHOLIC CARE MAMRE SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP: Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering a free supported playgroup which operates on Thursdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm during school terms at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Road, Orchard Hills. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Supported Playgroup on 8843.2506.

LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY

- ◆ Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (CCL 97, 1251-52).
- ◆ Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Other celebrations in Lent (e.g. marriage) must take account of the spirit of penance: musical instruments are only used to sustain singing, and floral decorations are very simple.
- ◆ Catholics are obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year, in Australia between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS XXXII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

11 February 2024

“It is not good that man should be alone”. Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships

“It is not good that man should be alone” (cf. *Gen 2:18*). From the beginning, God, who is love, created us for communion and endowed us with an innate capacity to enter into relationship with others. Our lives, reflecting in the image of the Trinity, are meant to attain fulfilment through a network of relationships, friendships and love, both given and received. We were created to be together, not alone. Precisely because this project of communion is so deeply rooted in the human heart, we see the experience of abandonment and solitude as something frightening, painful and even inhuman. This is all the more the case at times of vulnerability, uncertainty and insecurity, caused often by the onset of a serious illness.

In this regard, I think of all those who found themselves terribly alone during the Covid-19 pandemic: the patients who could not receive visitors, but also the many nurses, physicians and support personnel overwhelmed by work and enclosed in isolation wards. Naturally, we cannot fail to recall all those persons who had to face the hour of their death alone, assisted by healthcare personnel, but far from their own families.

I share too in the pain, suffering and isolation felt by those who, because of war and its tragic consequences, are left without support and assistance. War is the most terrible of social diseases, and it takes its greatest toll on those who are most vulnerable.

At the same time, it needs to be said that even in countries that enjoy peace and greater resources, old age and sickness are frequently experienced in solitude and, at times, even in abandonment. This grim reality is mainly a consequence of the culture of individualism that exalts productivity at all costs, cultivates the myth of efficiency, and proves indifferent, even callous, when individuals no longer have the strength needed to keep pace. It then becomes a throwaway culture, in which “persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor or disabled, ‘not yet useful’ – like the unborn, or ‘no longer needed’ – like the elderly” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 18). Sadly, this way of thinking also guides certain political decisions that are not focused on the dignity of the human person and his or her needs, and do not always promote the strategies and resources needed to ensure that every human being enjoys the fundamental right to health and access to healthcare. The abandonment of the vulnerable and their isolation is favoured also by the reduction of healthcare merely to a provision of services, without these being accompanied by a “therapeutic covenant” between physicians, patients and family members.

We do well to listen once more to the words of the Bible: “It is not good for man to be alone!” God spoke those words at the beginning of creation and thus revealed to us the profound meaning of his project for humanity, but at the same time, the mortal wound of sin, which creeps in by generating suspicions, fractures, divisions and consequently isolation. Sin attacks persons and all their relationships: with God, with themselves, with others, with creation. Such isolation causes us to miss the meaning of our lives; it takes away the joy of love and makes us experience an oppressive sense of being alone at all the crucial passages of life.

Brothers and sisters, the first form of care needed in any illness is compassionate and loving closeness. To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others – family members, friends, healthcare workers – , with creation and with themselves. Can this be done? Yes, it can be done and all of us are called to ensure that it happens. Let us look to the icon of the Good Samaritan (cf. *Lk 10:25-37*), to his ability to slow down and draw near to another person, to the tender love with which he cares for the wounds of a suffering brother.

Let us remember this central truth in life: we came into the world because someone welcomed us; we were made for love; and we are called to communion and fraternity. This aspect of our lives is what sustains us, above all at times of illness and vulnerability. It is also the first therapy that we must all adopt in order to heal the diseases of the society in which we live.

To those of you who experience illness, whether temporary or chronic, I would say this: Do not be ashamed of your longing for closeness and tenderness! Do not conceal it, and never think that you are a burden on others. The condition of the sick urges all of us to step back from the hectic pace of our lives in order to rediscover ourselves.

At this time of epochal change, we Christians in particular are called to adopt the compassion-filled gaze of Jesus. Let us care for those who suffer and are alone, perhaps marginalized and cast aside. With the love for one another that Christ the Lord bestows on us in prayer, especially in the Eucharist, let us tend the wounds of solitude and isolation. In this way, we will co-operate in combating the culture of individualism, indifference and waste, and enable the growth of a culture of tenderness and compassion.

The sick, the vulnerable and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. May we never forget this! And let us commend ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Health of the Sick, that she may intercede for us and help us to be artisans of closeness and fraternal relationships.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 January 2024

FRANCIS